

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

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BusinessSafe Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human trafficking, compelling or coercing a person to provide labor, services, or to engage in commercial sex acts, is a serious crime and requires community awareness to identify and combat. The two most prevalent forms of human trafficking are labor trafficking and sex trafficking. In 2021, Florida was ranked third in the nation for the number of human trafficking cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling - Human trafficking and human smuggling are separate crimes. Human trafficking is a crime against a person, whereas human smuggling is illicitly bringing someone across a border. In some instances, human smuggling can lead to human trafficking. A common tactic for traffickers is to assist an individual in being smuggled into the United States, then use a variety of tactics to compel that individual into forced labor or sexual servitude to repay debts for being smuggled into the country.

[Human trafficking suit spreads to 5 states](#)

[Human smuggling, forced labor among allegations in south Georgia federal indictment](#)

Labor Trafficking and Sex Trafficking - Labor trafficking is when individuals are forced to perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. The most prevalent locations where labor trafficking takes place are in domestic work (childcare, cleaning services, etc.), the agriculture sector, the construction sector, and traveling sales crews. Sex trafficking occurs when a trafficker exploits an individual with force, deception, or coercion to make them perform commercial sex work. The most prevalent locations for sex trafficking are illicit massage and spa businesses, hotels or motels, and private residences or brothels.

[24-year-old woman accused of trafficking minors out of Florida hotel](#)

[Carnival owner accused of human trafficking while set up at Ogden mall](#)



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Targeting - Traffickers often target potential victims that are vulnerable to exploitation, such as those who are homeless, have a drug addiction, live in poverty, have developmental issues, are undocumented immigrants, or runaways. However, traffickers can target anyone by attempting to use the person's vulnerabilities as a way of controlling potential victims and forcing them into forced labor or commercial sex.

[West Palm Beach man convicted of human trafficking sentenced to 10 years in prison](#)

[Four Defendants Sentenced in Connection with Trafficking 13-year-old Minor Victim](#)

[Attorney General's office rescues teen, charges 4 with human trafficking](#)

Ways to Help Combat Human Trafficking

- Understand the indicators of human trafficking and recognize that the signs may vary depending on if the individual is a victim of sex or labor trafficking.
 - The Department of Homeland Security has information on human trafficking through their [Blue Campaign Human Trafficking Indicators](#).
 - The Florida Office of the Attorney General offers resources to help understand the signs of human trafficking, training opportunities, and how to report suspected human trafficking on their [website](#).
- Learn about what human trafficking looks like in your industry and ways your organization can help victims of human trafficking.
 - The National Human Trafficking Hotline offers information and [resources for businesses](#) to help recognize and mitigate human trafficking.
- Report known or suspected human trafficking to one of the entities listed below:
 - If you feel the situation is an emergency, call 911
 - Local police department or sheriff's office
 - Florida Abuse Hotline: 1-800-962-2873
 - National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or text info to BeFree (233733)



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