

The LaPorte County Internet Crimes Against Children Unit (ICAC) was formed by Prosecuting Attorney John Espar in 2015. The mission of the LaPorte County ICAC Unit is the prevention, investigation and prosecution of persons who seek to sexually exploit children using technology and the Internet. The LaPorte County ICAC Unit engages in reactive and proactive investigations, targeting offenders who are actively involved in the commission of technology assisted crimes such as :

- ◆ Online child sexual solicitation
- ◆ Online production of dissemination of child pornography
- ◆ Online sexual extortion ("sextortion")
- ◆ Offenses related to the trafficking of minors

The LaPorte County ICAC Unit is an affiliate agency of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, under the command of the Indiana State Police. All ICAC Task Forces and Units operate under the US Department of Justice and Internet Crimes Against Children Program, combining federal, state and local law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of technology facilitated crimes against children.

In addition to the investigation and prosecution of crimes against children, the LaPorte County Internet Crimes Against Children Unit seeks to raise public awareness of the dangers posed to children online through community outreach, education and guidance to children, parents and others, concerned with child safety.

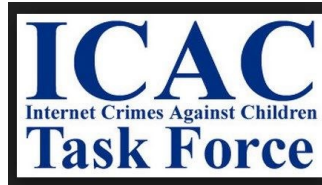
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For cyber safety tips and updates, like us on Facebook!
<http://www.facebook.com/LaPorteCountyICAC>

ICAC Youth Educators

www.icacyouthed.isp.IN.gov



LEARN THE SIGNS TO END TRAFFICKING

Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline **1-888-373-7888**
or Text "INFO" or "HELP" to **233733**

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN
CYBER TIPLINE
www.cybertipline.com
1-800-843-5678

What is Human Trafficking?

LaPorte County
Internet Crimes Against Children Unit



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Human Trafficking Is...

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that occurs throughout the United States and globally.

A common misconception about human trafficking is that it happens throughout Europe and Russia, but not the United States. This assumption is inaccurate.

According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, approximately 53% of trafficking victims are trafficked for sex, while 40% are trafficked for forced labor. The other 7% are victims of organ trafficking, domestic servitude, benefit fraud, street crimes, and armed combat.



Facts

- ♦ Human trafficking is the fastest growing and tied as the second largest criminal industry worldwide, generating 150.2 billion dollars each year
- ♦ 83% of sex trafficking victims are United States citizens
- ♦ Between 14,000—18,000 victims are trafficked into the United States annually
- ♦ “178 trafficked youth were identified and served by one Indiana service provider in 2016 alone, with victims first trafficked as young as age 7.”
- **The 2016 Indiana State Report on Human Trafficking**
- ♦ National Estimates indicate that **75% of minor victims were sold online** at some point in their trafficking situation.

The Grooming Process

- ♦ Traffickers connect with their victims through social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Kik, Yik-Yak, and others.
- ♦ Traffickers often target youth who post about being sad or depressed. They will attempt to convince them that they can make them feel better.
- ♦ The trafficker will pretend to care about the victim, complimenting them on how beautiful, smart or handsome they are. They may offer modeling or dancing jobs.
- ♦ Once a sense of love and trust is established, the trafficker will attempt to convince the victim to move in with them, bribing them with a place to stay, hotels and excursions, free meals, and so on.
- ♦ Once the victim accepts the invitation, they are exploited through sex trafficking.

Recognize the Signs!

Below is a list of potential indicators of human trafficking

Common Work and Living Conditions:

- ♦ Is not free to come and go as he/she wishes
- ♦ Is under 18 and providing commercial sex acts
- ♦ Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager

Poor Mental Health and Abnormal Behavior

- ♦ Is fearful, anxious, depressed, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- ♦ Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- ♦ Avoids eye contact

Poor Physical Health

- ♦ Lacks health care
- ♦ Appears malnourished
- ♦ Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

Lack of Control

- ♦ Has few or no personal possessions
- ♦ Is not in control of his/her own finances
- ♦ Is not in control of his/her own identification documents

Other

- ♦ Inability to clarify where he/she lives
- ♦ Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or what city he/she is in
- ♦ Number inconsistencies in his/her story

