

## R.S. 14:46.2

Louisiana specifically outlaws human trafficking for sexual and labor purposes, through Revised Statute 14:46.2.

In Louisiana, it is illegal for someone "to knowingly recruit, harbor, transport, provide, solicit, receive, isolate, obtain or maintain the use of another person through fraud, force, or coercion to provide services or labor."

The punishment for human trafficking varies based on circumstances, including the age of the victim and whether the victim is exploited for commercial sexual or labor purposes. In all cases, the trafficker's personal property that is used in the commission of the crime, including the proceeds, shall be seized and impounded, and upon conviction, is to be sold at auction.

A person who traffics a victim under age 21 specifically for commercial sexual purposes faces a fine of up to \$50,000 and a prison sentence of 15 years to 50 years in prison.

A person who traffics a victim under age 18 can face a fine up to \$25,000 and can be imprisoned between five and 25 years, five years of which shall be without benefit of parole, probation or suspension of sentence.

Human trafficking of adult victims for sexual purposes carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$15,000 upon conviction.

Human trafficking generally carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison and no more than a \$10,000 fine upon conviction.

## Resources:

### National Human Trafficking Hotline

24-hour, toll-free national resource  
1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 7111)

### Covenant House New Orleans

24-hour hotline and emergency services for trafficking victims • (504) 584-1111

### Crimestoppers

24-hour operator available  
(504) 822-1111 or 1-877-903-STOP

### U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement

Homeland Security Investigations Tip Line  
1-866-DHS-2-ICE (1-866-347-2423)



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[www.jpda.us](http://www.jpda.us)

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# Human Trafficking



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## What is human trafficking?

**Human trafficking** is the modern-day form of slavery. It involves the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain. Millions of men, women and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States, annually.

Second only to drug trafficking when it comes to profiting from transnational crime, human trafficking generates billions of dollars a year. It is a hidden crime as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers or fear of law enforcement.

Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to lure their victims into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that most may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help.

**Sex trafficking** is the exploitation of an adult or a child who engages in commercial sexual activity for financial gain. Sex trafficking charges may be brought in cases where adult victims are deprived of their liberty. Victims of sex trafficking often are forced to engage in prostitution, exotic dancing or pornography. Any sexually exploited child may be a sex trafficking victim even where there is no force or coercion. Any minor who is induced, caused or persuaded to engage in commercial sexual activity is a victim of human sex trafficking.

**Labor trafficking** is the exploitation of a person for labor or for services through force, fraud or coercion. Labor trafficking victims often are forced into domestic servitude, agricultural work, restaurant work or sweatshop factory work.

## Human trafficking facts

- Human trafficking victims cannot consent to be enslaved. They want to escape. But they cannot.
- About 80 percent of human trafficking victims are sexually exploited, while the balance involves labor exploitation.
- The average age of a child entering the sex trade in the United States is 12 to 14 years old, and many of them are runaway girls who were sexually abused.
- About 15,500 foreign nationals are trafficked in the United States each year.
- Traffickers maintain control over their victims using debt, withholding legal documents, threatening deportation or to harm their family, providing them with illegal narcotics and physical or sexual abuse.
- Many trafficking victims are dependent on their abusers. They often are forced, tricked or coerced to work in a variety of jobs or in the sex industry.



## Identifying Victims

Victims of human trafficking, whether for sexual or labor exploitation, can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Identifying these victims can be difficult, as they are often isolated from family and friends. If you suspect someone is a victim, contact law enforcement. You might look for some common traits:

- Is this person disconnected from family or friends?
- If the victim is a child, has he or she stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden behavioral change?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, is fearful, timid or submissive?
- Does the suspected victim defer to a person with whom he or she is often with? Does that person appear controlling?
- Is the suspected victim living in unsuitable conditions?
- Is the person a chronic runaway or a child subjected to sexual abuse or living in an unstable home environment, such as one in which a parent abuses drugs? Are the victims who are socially at-risk?