



Signs of Human Trafficking

In the course of normal operations, law enforcement can be instrumental in weeding out enclaves of human slavery. Be on the lookout for:

- People without the ability to provide identifying documents. They don't carry cell phones or phone cards.
- Living quarters shared by immigrants of the same origin and ethnicity, especially when they speak little or no English.
- Homes whose interior rooms are numbered, as in a hotel.
- Interior rooms that lock from the outside instead of the inside.
- Boarded windows when there is no threat of a hurricane.
- Electronic surveillance and/or the presence of persons acting like guards in residences where it doesn't seem like they are vulnerable to burglary.
- Finding identifying documents like passports, IDs and birth certificates for all of the members of a household locked away or in the possession of a single member of a household.
- Mattresses discarded for trash pickup. The average resident doesn't buy more than one new mattress at a time.
- People who remain silent as a second, domineering party speaks for him or her.
- Workers engaging in "dumpster-diving," looking for food to eat.
- A supply of seemingly harmless objects such as marbles, plastic tokens or playing cards.



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often as 30, 40 or 50 times in a "shift." But in these situations, Latina females are expected to service Latino workers in fifteen minute intervals. In a house, barracks or temporary encampment, the men pay discounted prices they can afford—about \$30 per 15-minute visit—and exchange the money for tokens. The women receive nothing but tokens, so they never even get to touch any money for essentially being raped in assembly line encounters.

If you search a location and find odd objects such as poker chips, playing cards, beads or marbles, this is a red flag for prostitution. Look for pornographic materials—these magazines are used to 'prime' johns for intercourse. Also look for supplies of cleaning products, body lubricants, egg timers and small batteries. You may have uncovered a situation even more heinous than the typical brothel. It may seem incredulous that victims report being forced to have sex

Specific Questions

If you suspect a problem, the IAHTI (International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators) recommends you ask the following questions:

- Are you working to pay off a smuggling debt?
- Do you get to keep all the money you earn?
- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you or your family been threatened?
- What are your working conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep, or go to the bathroom?
- Are there locks on your doors or windows so you cannot get out?
- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?