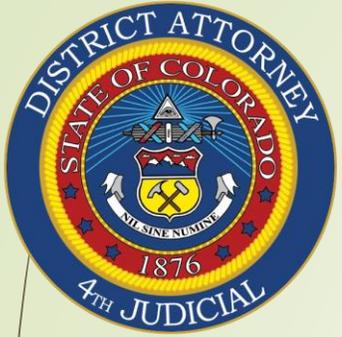


# Take a Stand Against Exploitation to Confront Human Trafficking





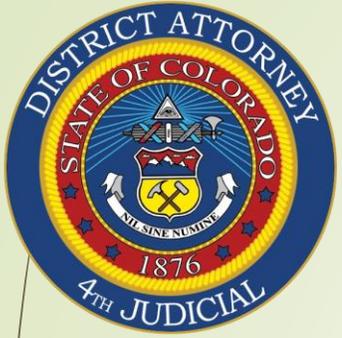
## Disclaimer:

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This presentation will touch on sensitive topics and discussions and may include material that is offensive

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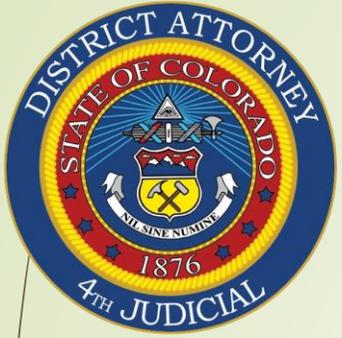
The use of such material is not meant to be gratuitous, but rather to highlight the shocking reality of human trafficking.



# Created in the image of God

God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

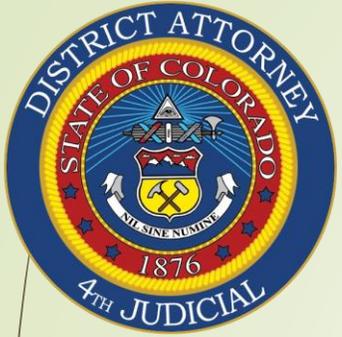
Gen. 1:27



# Human Dignity

The human body shares in the dignity of “the image of God”: it is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul, and it is the whole human person that is intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the spirit.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd ed. (USCC, 2000), § 364*

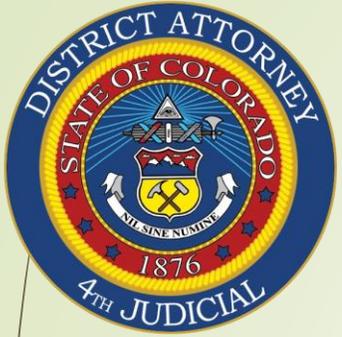


# Prostitution

*Prostitution* does injury to the dignity of the person who engages in it, reducing the person to an instrument of sexual pleasure.

Prostitution is a social scourge. It usually involves women, but also men, children, and adolescents (The latter two cases involved the added sin of scandal.).

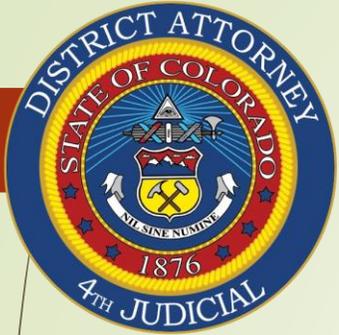
CCC, 2355



# Slavery (involuntary servitude)

The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason – selfish or ideological, commercial, or totalitarian – lead to the *enslavement of human beings*, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit.

CCC, 2414

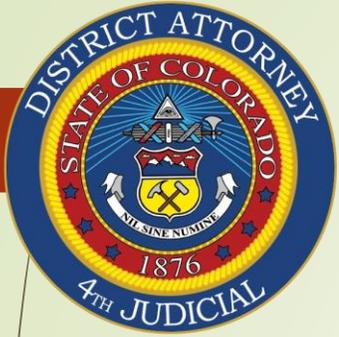


# Statutory Declaration

## Human Trafficking:

- Constitutes a serious problem in Colorado and the nation
- Is abhorrent to a civilized society
- Often involves minors who are forced into involuntary servitude and sexual activity
- Takes many forms but includes physical abuse, threats of harm, or fear of consequences to control victims
- Creates cycle of violence that impacts victims, families, and communities

Colorado Revised Statutes § 18-3-501(1)(a)-(e)



# Statutory Provisions

Human Trafficking for Involuntary Servitude: CRS § 18-3-503 – class 2 or 3 felony

Human Trafficking for Sexual Servitude: CRS § 18-3-504 – class 2 or 3 felony

Prostitution: CRS § 18-7-201 – class 3 misdemeanor

Human Trafficking Affirmative Defense: CRS § 18-7-201.3

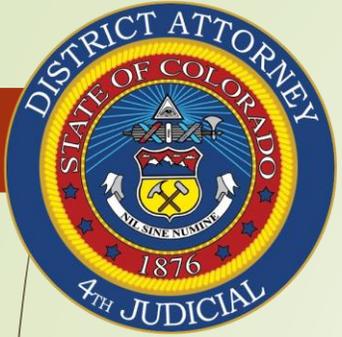
Soliciting for Prostitution: CRS § 18-7-202 – class 3 misdemeanor

Pandering: CRS § 18-7-203 – class 3 misdemeanor or class 5 felony

Keeping Place of Prostitution: CRS § 18-7-204 – class 2 misdemeanor

Patronizing a Prostitute: CRS § 18-7-205 – class 1 misdemeanor

Pimping: CRS § 18-7-206: class 3 felony



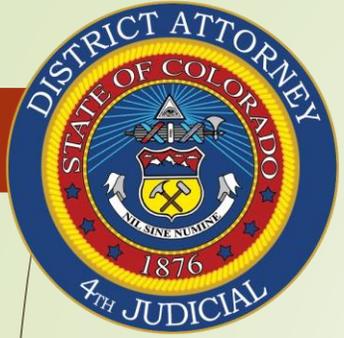
# Smuggling

vs.

# Trafficking

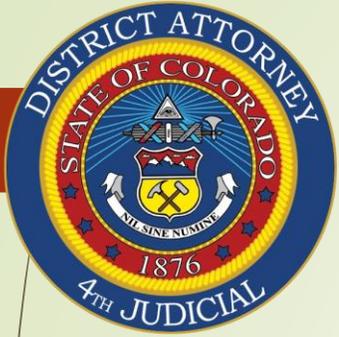
- Illegal border crossing
- Crime across borders
- Transportation based
- Can be both voluntary and involuntary

- Coerced commercial sex or labor
- Crimes against a person and society
- Exploitation based
- Involuntary



Can You See Me





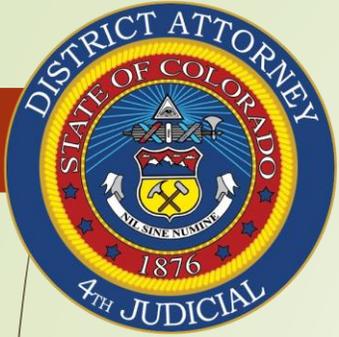
# Trafficking: Sex and Labor

## Sex Trafficking

- Commercial Sex
  - Sex act for money
  - Sex act for thing of value
- By Coercion
- Juveniles

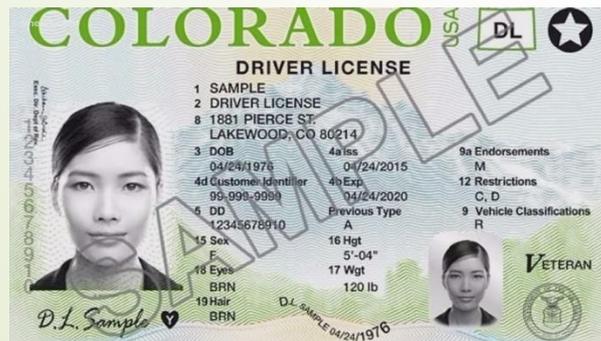
## Labor Trafficking

- To perform labor or services
- By Coercion

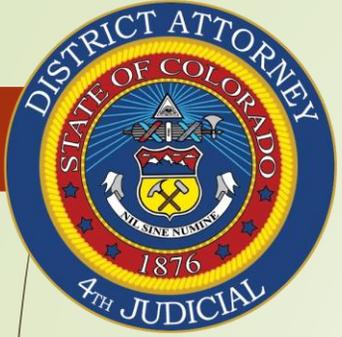


# Coercion

- Force / Threat of Force
- Use / Threaten law for which it was not designed
- Threaten to notify law enforcement of illegal immigration status



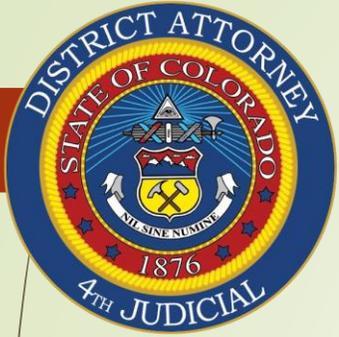
- Destroys / Takes property and ID Documents
- Controls access to illegal drugs
- Debt bondage / Indentured servitude
- Exploit Physical / Mental Impairment



# Strategic Enforcement

"Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth"  
Marcus Aurelius

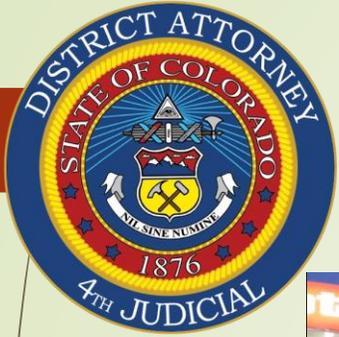
- ▶ Prostitute – criminal offender or victim?
- ▶ Evidence that prostitute is victim of Human Trafficking at time of the crime?



# Recruit Victims

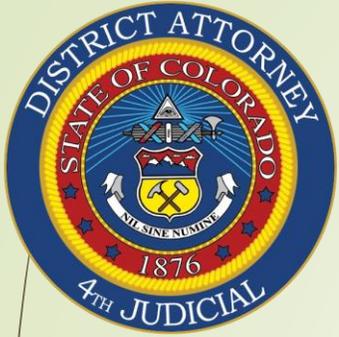
- Begins in the safety of a home
  - Tablets and smartphones
  - Social media
  - Game chat rooms
  
- Exploit insecurities and needs





Does this occur in our community?





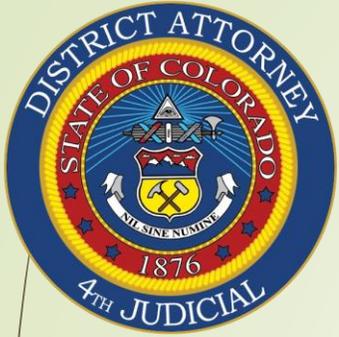
# International and National Statistics

## International Labour Organization's 2022 global estimates

- Approximately 50 million people are in modern slavery
- 27.6 million people are in forced labor
  - 11.8 million are women and girls
  - 3.3 million are children, with more than half in commercial sexual exploitation
  - 99% in forced commercial sexual exploitation are women and girls

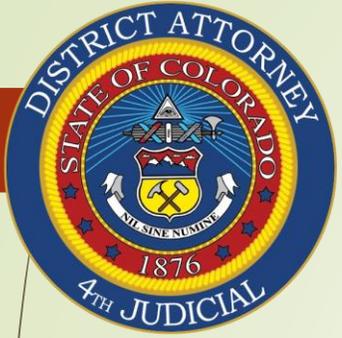
## US Department of Justice, Bureau of Statistics

- 2,329 persons referred for human trafficking offenses in 2023
- Represents a 23% increase from 2013
- Number of persons prosecuted for HT increased by 75% from 2013 to 2023
- Number of persons convicted increased from 616 to 1,008 between 2013 and 2023



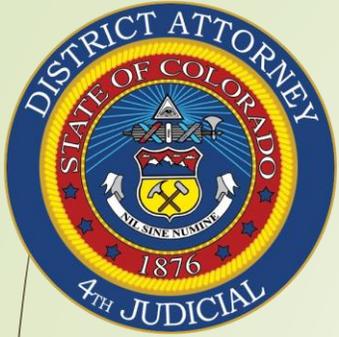
# CBI Colorado Statistics

2025	HT – Sex	HT – Inv Serv	Prostitution	Solicit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colorado</li></ul>	80	20	216	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• El Paso County</li></ul>	14	4	7	
2024				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colorado</li></ul>	73	22	294	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• El Paso County</li></ul>	8	3	7	
2023				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colorado</li></ul>	87	26	177	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• El Paso County</li></ul>	13	1	12	



Can You See Me?

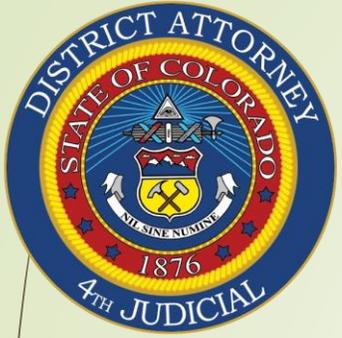




## Prostitute (d)

- 90-95% have been trafficked
- Up to 84% have suffered sexual abuse as child, and many struggle with drug addiction and mental health concerns
- 63% have been threatened with harm by traffickers
- 41% have contemplated suicide
- Involves cycles of violence that are similar to domestic violence

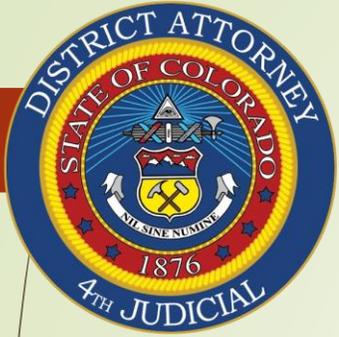




# Illicit Business

What motivates traffickers?

- Lucrative industry – money motivated
- Sell a dream to victims
- Vulnerable victims – very dependent and then groomed and controlled
- Coercion – isolated, fear of police, and physical violence

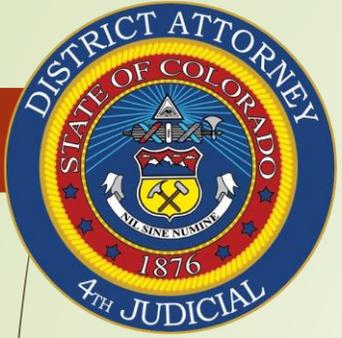


# Trafficking Red Flags

- Tattoos and reluctance to explain it
- Unexplained / inconsistent injuries
- Dresses in provocative manner



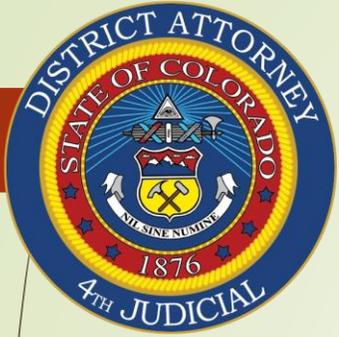
- Evidence of travel to other cities
- Living out of suitcase
- Lacks knowledge of current location
- Juveniles at hotels, truck stops, strip clubs
- Multiple females living with one male



# Trafficking Red Flags

- Relationships
  - Much older boyfriend
  - Multiple minors with unrelated adults
  - History of sex abuse
- Weak ties to home
  - Absence from school
  - Repeat runaway
  - Father not in her life

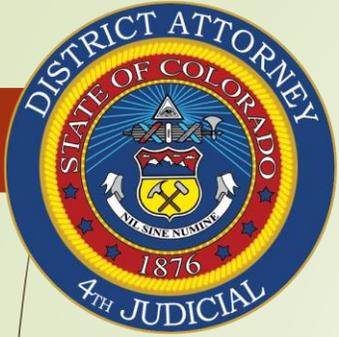




# Trafficking Red Flags

- Not in possession of ID card
- Lies about age or identity
- Permits others to speak for them
- Obsessive over cell phone
- Always with older individual without reasonable explanation
- No access to parents or guardians



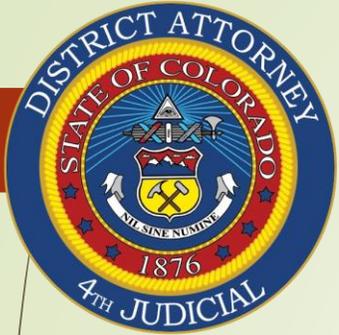


# Trafficking Red Flags

## Labor Trafficking

- ▶ Work hours
  - ▶ 7 days per week
  - ▶ 8-10 hours per day
- ▶ Sleep and eat at work
- ▶ Workers claim to not know owners
- ▶ No employee records

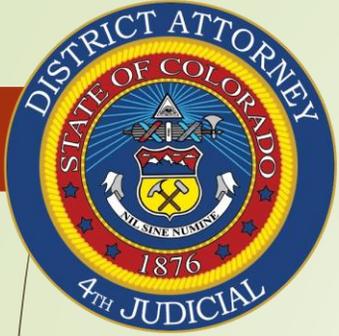




# Victim Perspective

Found in emails to her pimp/husband years before she left him:

- ➔ **“I hate doing this work,** I absolutely hate going on any and every appointment. There’s never, ever a moment that I enjoy any of this, I dread the thought of having to see anybody! I wish I could get you to understand how horrible and belittled I feel with you after seeing anybody.”



# Mandatory Reporting

How to make a report

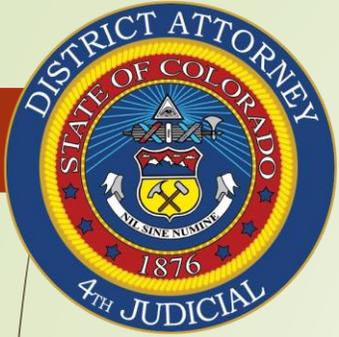
- Emergency – 911, or SRO
- Non-Emergency – (719) 444-7000
- DHS – (844) CO-4-Kids

Persons required to report child abuse: CRS § 19-3-304

- Who
  - Professionals who work with children
  - Public and private school officials and employees

What and When

- Any child abuse or neglect, including sex crime
- Reasonable suspicion
- Gather facts but don't play detective



# 2025 Legislation

SB26-015

## Commercial Sexual Activity with a Child Offenses

TYPE	Bill
SESSION	2026 Regular Session
SUBJECTS	Crimes, Corrections, & Enforcement

Concerning offenses involving commercial sexual activity with a child.

 [Recent Bill \(PDF\)](#)

### BILL SUMMARY:

The bill changes terminology related to child prostitution to commercial sexual activity in the crimes of soliciting for child prostitution, pandering of a child, keeping a place of child prostitution, pimping a child, inducement of child prostitution, and patronizing a prostituted child, including changing the name of the offenses for soliciting for child prostitution, keeping a place of child prostitution, inducement of child prostitution, and patronizing a prostituted child. A court is required to sentence an offender convicted of one of the listed offenses to at least the minimum of the presumptive range for the level of offense associated with the crime.

### Prime Sponsors



Senator  
**Byron Pelton**



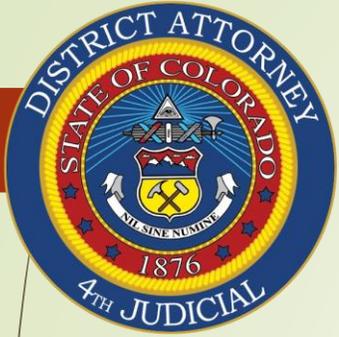
Senator  
**Dylan Roberts**



Representative  
**Monica Duran**



Representative  
**Jarvis Caldwell**



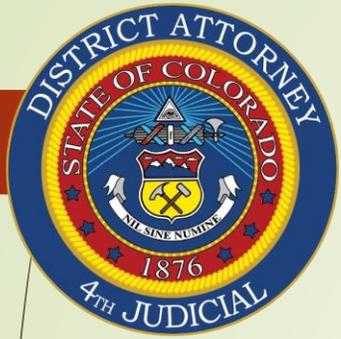
# How to report suspected Human Trafficking

Anonymous Tips: Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers – [crimestop.net](http://crimestop.net)

Colorado Trafficking Hotline: (866) 455-5075  
or Text (722) 999-9724

Human Trafficking Hotline: (888) 373-7888  
or Text 233733 (BEFREE)

Emergency: call 911



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