

# Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force



## What is Human Trafficking?

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is the federal U.S. law that criminalizes “trafficking in persons,” commonly referred to as “human trafficking.” Federal law defines severe forms of trafficking in persons as (1) **sex trafficking** in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, **or** in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; **or** (2) **labor trafficking** in which the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services is through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

## Maryland Human Trafficking Law:

The Maryland Human Trafficking Prohibitions Law criminalizes persons who knowingly engage in a device, scheme, or continuing course of conduct designed to “persuade, induce, entice, or encourage” another into exploitive labor or commercial sex, or who knowingly profit from such ventures.

## What is the MD HT Task Force?

The task force was formed in 2007 to combat the growing prevalence of human trafficking in Maryland. The goal of the task force is to engage a multi-disciplinary team in discovering and rescuing victims of human trafficking, while identifying and prosecuting offenders. The task force focuses on training first responders, increasing public awareness, and offering victims’ assistance to survivors of human trafficking.



## Techniques used by traffickers and pimps to keep victims **enslaved**:

Some traffickers keep their victims under actual lock and key. More common, however, is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to keep victims enslaved, which can be accomplished by:

- Debt bondage – financial obligations, honor-bound to satisfy “debt”
- Isolation from the public & family – limiting contact with outsiders and making sure that any contact is monitored or superficial in nature
- Confiscation or destruction of passports, visas and/or other identification documents
- Use or threat of severe violence toward victims and/or families of victims
- The threat of shaming victims by exposing circumstances to family
- Control of the victims’ money, e.g., holding their money for “safe-keeping”
- Telling victims they will be imprisoned or deported if they contact authorities

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## Who Are The Victims?

Victims include any person targeted and exploited by another into labor or commercial sex. Labor trafficking is widespread and can include private domestic servitude as well as larger-scale operations such as agricultural work and/or sweatshops. Sex trafficking includes exploitation through prostitution, pornography and other forms of explicit sexual performance.

## Recent Maryland Cases:

**U.S. v. Royal** - Lloyd Mack Royal, III of Gaithersburg, MD, was convicted in March of 2010 of various federal offenses related to the trafficking of 3 minor females. His 37 year prison sentence was upheld by the United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, in August of 2011.

**U.S. v. Udeozor** – In October of 2008, George Udeozor pled guilty to one count of involuntary servitude after being accused of illegally transporting a 14 year-old Nigerian girl into the United, States, where she was exploited for domestic service in Montgomery County, MD. Udeozor was

sentenced to 8 years in prison after it was revealed at his plea hearing that he sexually abused the minor victim as well. A motion to vacate his sentence was denied in November of 2010.

**U.S. v. Mason** - Duane Mason of Frederick, MD, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in August of 2011 for the sex trafficking of a minor. He pled guilty to allegations that he and an associate recruited a girl under the age of 16 for purposes of prostituting her.

**U.S. v. Corey** – U.S. Army Soldier Craig Allen Corey, II was sentenced to more than 17 years in prison in April of 2010 for running a sex trafficking business out of his Millersville, MD apartment. Corey and several other co-conspirators were accused of trafficking at least 12 individuals, including a 16 year-old female, into Maryland from several states throughout the country.

### ***HT Facts:***

- Human trafficking ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> to drug trafficking as the most lucrative form of criminal activity.**
- 100,000 American children are at high risk for trafficking into the sex industry each year.**
- 13 is the average age children are first targeted by traffickers for involvement in commercial sex.**
- The labor trafficking industry claims men for**

Please check out our website for more information:

[www.mdhumantrafficking.org](http://www.mdhumantrafficking.org)

Report tips to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline:

1-888-3737-888