

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITHIN BEGGING RINGS & SALES CREWS

A RESOURCE FOR JUVENILE COURT COUNSELORS DEVELOPED BY THE TRIAD LABOR TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Minors within the criminal justice system are especially vulnerable to human trafficking. Forced criminal activity may be the result of trafficking situations, while minors with criminal records are also often targets of traffickers. Be aware of labor trafficking warning signs to help keep our youth safe.

## WHAT ARE TRAVELING SALES CREWS?

Traveling sales crews are groups that go **door-to-door**, typically **selling fraudulent products** like fake magazine subscriptions. Salespeople are rarely fully compensated and work **long hours** in **fear of leaving their situation**. Crews **move between cities and states**, frequently changing their name and location under the same management in order to avoid law enforcement detection. Victims in this category are often **teenagers/young adults** who exhibit red flags and are exploited for their vulnerabilities.

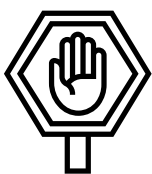
*Learn more at [PolarisProject.org](https://www.polarisproject.org)*

## WHAT ARE PEDDLING & BEGGING RINGS?

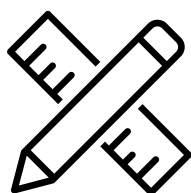
Forced peddling and begging rings take many different forms. One common scheme involves traffickers who **pose as religious or charitable groups** offering support and services to at-risk youth in return for **fundraising**. Recruited minors are then exploited, coerced to **sell candy** or **solicit "donations"** on street corners or in shopping centers. Victims are often recruited to become "volunteers" from sites such as **homeless shelters** and **rehab centers**. Some data has revealed familial links within such rings, with individuals forcing more vulnerable family members to beg on their behalf.

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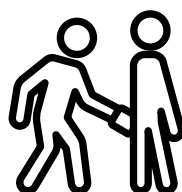
## COMMON CHARGES FOR TRAFFICKED MINORS



Trespassing



Truancy



Theft



Drug Possession



Other

# RED FLAGS

## SEE?

- Groups piling into vans
- Unexplained cash or inventory being carried around
- Demonstrated fear of abandonment or repercussions for leaving their current employment situation
- Tattoos suggesting gang or romantic affiliations
- Signs of physical abuse or unmet basic needs
- Falsified personal documents, or an individual's personal documents being withheld from them

## HEAR?

- Talk of sales/fundraising quotas, debt, and/or a lack of resources
- Talk of frequent travel
- Responses that sound rehearsed
- Mentions of payments that come in the form of housing, food, or clothing
- Parent mentions that a "friend" takes the child to school every morning, but child has poor school attendance
- Parent complains of child being gone for days at a time, especially over weekends

## DO: UTILIZE AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- **National Human Trafficking Hotline & Referral Directory:** Provides a list of organizations and programs that offer emergency, transitional, or long-term services to victims and survivors of human trafficking.
  - Visit <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>
  - Call **1-(888)-373-7888**
- **NC State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI):** Primary jurisdiction for the investigation of human trafficking cases that occurred in NC or when the victim was residing in NC.
  - Call **(919)-662-4500**
- **World Relief Triad's Parent Resources:** A compilation of resources for parents to aid them in intervening on behalf of a child who is vulnerable to, or currently being, trafficked.
  - Visit <https://worldrelieftriad.org/human-trafficking>