



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND BODY WORKS ESTABLISHMENTS



In addition to health regulations, bodywork establishments must be licensed to operate because illicit businesses in the bodywork industry are often a front for sex and labor trafficking. Bodywork establishments that claim their workers/employees are professionals but engage in illicit and unregulated health practices may actually prey on vulnerable victims. **Here is what you need to know as a proprietor:**

Why do YOU need to be aware?

Human trafficking in massage businesses is the second most common type of trafficking reported. According to recently published research by Polaris Project in 2018, there are more than **9,000 illicit massage businesses** across every state in the United States. In 2021, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received 751 signals through the hotline, 279 of which were from victims or survivors of human trafficking. **Individuals who claim they are bodywork professionals may not only not be professionals but may be victims of human trafficking. Some proprietors may force their workers to provide sex, sexual acts, or forced labor against their will or under perceived threats.**

Sex Trafficking

Involves sex acts induced by force, fraud, or coercion, of if the person subjected to the act is under age 18, or the harboring or recruitment for persons for these purposes. **Venues may include:**

- Residential brothels
- Escort services
- Strip clubs
- Street prostitution
- Hotels, motels, short term rentals
- Massage/Body Work establishments

Labor Trafficking

Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining people for forced or coerced labor. The coercion could be threats directed at the victim or someone else. It is often linked with exploitation of a worker. **Venues may include:**

- Sweatshops
- Restaurants
- Nail Salons
- Construction Sites

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking, or modern slavery, is the domestic or international use or exploitation of human beings for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. It is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. It is estimated that there are approximately 24.9 million human trafficking victims worldwide.

Who does it affect?

Victims of human trafficking include men, women, boys and girls. Your next-door neighbor may be a victim OR perpetrator OR consumer of human trafficking.

RESOURCES

- Montgomery County Police Department:** (301) 279-8000
- Montgomery County Crisis Center:** (240) 777-4000
- University of Maryland SAFE Center:** (301) 314-7233
- National Human Trafficking Hotline:** 1 (888) 373-7888

Warning Signs

- Someone who is accompanied by a person who acts as a dominant figure. Note age difference as well
- Multiple people coming in and out of the residence/office late at night
- If someone does not have identification, or if someone else is in possession of their identification
- If a person is fearful, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- If someone is dressed inappropriately, or looks unhealthy and disheveled
- Someone who has few or no personal possessions
- If someone lacks knowledge of whereabouts and/or of what city he/she is in

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DOES NOT TOLERATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING!