The seal of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation is faintly visible in the background, centered behind the title text. It features a circular design with a central emblem and text around the perimeter.

# Human Trafficking & Online Child Sexual Exploitation – Real Life Examples from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation

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*\*Caution – sexually explicit conversation and material within this presentation\**

# Background

- Colorado Bureau of Investigation Sex Crimes Unit:
  - Human Trafficking – Task Forced with Homeland Security Investigations Colorado Cyber Guardian Task Force & work with Colorado State Patrol Smuggling & Trafficking Interdiction Unit
  - Fugitive – Task Forced with US Marshals Violent Offender and Fugitive Task Force
  - Sex Offender Registry – maintains 20,000+ sex offenders for the state of Colorado
- Human Trafficking Investigative Analyst for Sex Crimes Unit of Colorado Bureau of Investigation
- Been with CBI since 2017. Worked in the Sex Offender Registry 2018-2019. Started Human Trafficking portion of unit in January 2019 and have been there since.

# Key Points of Discussion

- Differences in human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other crimes we investigate
- The platforms child predators may use to engage with youth online
- How child predators lure youth in to sexually exploit and traffic them
- Case study example
- Best practices of finding occurrences of illegal online behavior between children and adults
- Tools to prevent online child sexual exploitation

# Types of Human Trafficking

## • Sex Trafficking

- As defined by the National Human Trafficking Hotline: Sex trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Minors under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex are considered to be victims of human trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
- Sex traffickers frequently target victims and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of control and manipulation to keep victims involved in the sex industry for their own profit.
- Sex trafficking exists within diverse and unique sets of venues and businesses including fake massage businesses, escort services, residential brothels, in public on city streets and in truck stops, strip clubs, hostess clubs, hotels and motels, and elsewhere.
- In Colorado, the crime of sex trafficking of adults and minors if the victim is under 18 years of age can be found under Colorado Revised Statute 18-3-504 and is defined as:
- *"A person who knowingly sells, recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, isolates, entices, provides, receives, or obtains by any means another person for the purpose of coercing the person to engage in commercial sexual activity commits human trafficking for sexual servitude."*
- CRS 18-3-504 makes it a felony under Colorado state law to traffic anyone for sexual servitude.

## • Labor Trafficking

- As defined by the National Human Trafficking Hotline: Labor trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
- Labor trafficking includes situations of debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor. Labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many industries.
- Common types of labor trafficking include people forced to work in homes as domestic servants, farmworkers coerced through violence as they harvest crops, or factory workers held in inhumane conditions with little to no pay.
- In Colorado, the crime of labor trafficking can be found under Colorado Revised Statute 18-3-503 and is defined as:
- *"A person who knowingly sells, recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, isolates, entices, provides, receives, or obtains by any means another person for the purpose of coercing the other person to perform labor or services commits human trafficking for involuntary servitude."*
- CRS 18-3-503 makes it a felony under Colorado state law to traffic anyone for involuntary servitude.

Key points for Sex Trafficking: commercial sex through use of force, fraud, or coercion. Will use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, etc. There is sex trafficking statute for both adult and child victims. Colorado Revised Statute 18-3-504. If convicted of human trafficking (of a minor or adult) for sexual servitude you are required to register as a sex offender.

Key points for Labor Trafficking: labor services through force, fraud, or coercion. Also use various types of manipulation – illegal immigrants we will generally see withholding of passport, identification, etc. Colorado Revised Statute 18-3-503. Both are felonies.

# Sexual Exploitation of a Minor & Internet Sexual Exploitation of a Minor

- Sexual Exploitation of a Minor
  - Possessing, producing, or distributing sexually explicit material of a child.
  - A person commits sexual exploitation of a child if, for any purpose, he or she knowingly:
    - Causes, induces, entices, or permits a child to engage in, or be used for, any explicit sexual conduct for the making of any sexually exploitative material; or
    - Prepares, arranges for, publishes, including but not limited to publishing through digital or electronic means, produces, promotes, makes, sells, finances, offers, exhibits, advertises, deals in, or distributes, including but not limited to distributing through digital or electronic means, any sexually exploitative material; or
    - Possesses or controls any sexually exploitative material for any purpose; except that this paragraph (b.5) does not apply to peace officers or court personnel in the performance of their official duties, nor does it apply to physicians, psychologists, therapists, or social workers, so long as such persons are licensed in the state of Colorado and the persons possess such materials in the course of a bona fide treatment or evaluation program at the treatment or evaluation site; or
    - Possesses with the intent to deal in, sell, or distribute, including but not limited to distributing through digital or electronic means, any sexually exploitative material; or
    - Causes, induces, entices, or permits a child to engage in, or be used for, any explicit sexual conduct for the purpose of producing a performance.
  - Defined in Colorado Revised Statute 18-6-403
- Internet Sexual Exploitation of a Minor
  - An actor commits internet sexual exploitation of a child if the actor knowingly importunes, invites, or entices through communication via a computer network or system, telephone network, or data network or by a text message or instant message, a person whom the actor knows or believes to be under fifteen years of age and at least four years younger than the actor, to:
    - Expose or touch the person's own or another person's intimate parts while communicating with the actor via a computer network or system, telephone network, or data network or by a text message or instant message; or
    - Observe the actor's intimate parts via a computer network or system, telephone network, or data network or by a text message or instant message.
  - Defined in Colorado Revised Statute 18-3-405.4

This crime constitutes a wrongful invasion of a child's right of privacy and results in social, developmental, and emotional injury to a child. Children are incapable of giving informed consent to the use of their body for a sexual purpose.

Possession or control of any sexually exploitative material results in continuing victimization – viewed as a permanent record of sexual abuse of a child.

Main differences between sex trafficking and sexual exploitation include hands on vs hands off offenses. Exploitation is generally hands off unless there is a chance at physical production of sexually explicit material between predator and child victim. Trafficking includes sex for a trade of something (the commercializing of sex) through force, fraud, or coercion.

# Other Common Crimes Against Children

- Procurement of a child for sexual exploitation – C.R.S. 18-6-404
  - Soliciting for child prostitution – C.R.S. 18-7-402
  - Pandering of a child – C.R.S. 18-7-403
  - Procurement of a child – C.R.S. 18-7-403.5
  - Keeping a place of child prostitution – C.R.S. 18-7-404
  - Pimping of a child – C.R.S. 18-7-405
  - Inducement of child prostitution – C.R.S. 18-7-405.5
  - Patronizing a prostituted child – C.R.S. 18-7-406
  - Wholesale promotion of obscenity to a minor – C.R.S. 18-7-102
  - Promotion of obscenity to a minor – C.R.S. 18-7-102
  - Unlawful electronic sexual communication – C.R.S. 18-3-418
- \*There are more crimes against children, but these most commonly are incorporated in human trafficking & sexual exploitation investigations*  
*\*\*All of these crimes are crimes that require sex offender registration following conviction.*

Procurement of a child for sexual exploitation - any person who intentionally gives or offers transportation to another person a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Soliciting for child prostitution – soliciting another for the purpose of prostitution of a child or by a child, arranging or offering to arrange a meeting for the purpose of prostitution of a child, directs someone to a place knowing the place is used for child prostitution.

Pandering of a child – inducing a child by menacing/intimidation to commit prostitution, arranging or offering to arrange a situation in which a child may practice prostitution

Procurement of a child - Any person who intentionally gives, transports, provides, or makes available, or who offers to give, transport, provide, or make available, to another person a child for the purpose of prostitution of the child

Keeping a place of child prostitution – anyone who knowingly grants/permits the use of a place for child prostitution before and after the crime of child prostitution.

Pimping of a child - Any person who knowingly lives on or is supported or maintained in whole or in part by money or other thing of value earned, received, procured, or realized by a child through prostitution commits pimping of a child

Inducement of child prostitution – anyone who induces a child to engage in child prostitution - often hand in hand with pandering of a child.

Patronizing a prostituted child – any person who is not the spouse of a child engages in child prostitution

Promotion of obscenity to a minor – Promotes of has intent to promote to a minor any

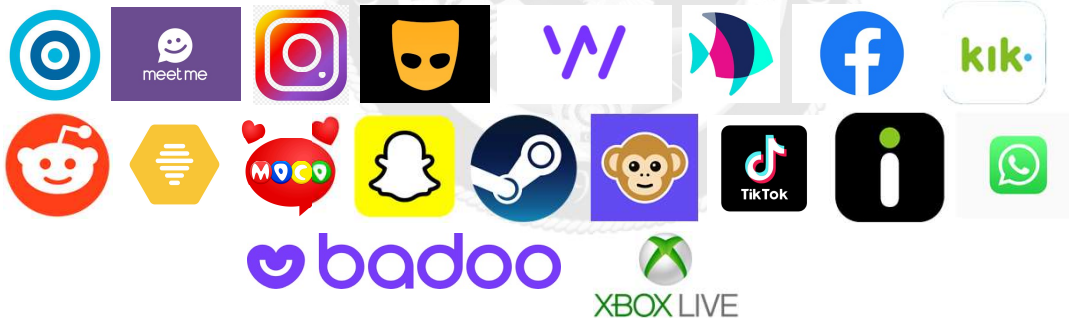
obscene material; or Produces, presents, or directs an obscene performance involving a minor or participates in a portion thereof that is obscene or that contributes to its obscenity.

Unlawful electronic sexual communication – most recent addition in 2019 - An actor commits unlawful electronic sexual communication if the actor knowingly importunes, invites, or entices through communication via a computer network or system, telephone network, or data network or by a text message or instant message a person whom the actor knows or believes to be fifteen years of age or older but less than eighteen years of age and at least four years younger than the actor, and the actor committing the offense is one in a position of trust with respect to that person, to Expose or touch the person's own or another person's intimate parts while communicating with the actor via a computer network or system, telephone network, or data network or by a text message or instant message; or Observe the actor's intimate parts via a computer network or system, telephone network, or data network or by a text message or instant message.

# Platforms of Engagement Online

## • SOCIAL MEDIA & GAMING

- Number one way child predators meet children online.
- Skout, Snapchat, Reddit, Kik, Grindr, MeetMe, TikTok, WhatsApp, Whisper, Plenty of Fish, Facebook, Instagram, Monkey, Mocospace, Badoo, Bumble
- Xbox Live, PlayStation Plus, Steam, Origin
- Anywhere a child can interact with strangers in a virtual capacity



Important to note that just because a child has access to these apps doesn't mean there is anything illicit happening. The general concern is the safety precautions set up in place when a child is using these platforms – will talk about later.

Because social media today is so heavily based on the amount of interaction our profiles have in terms of likes, comments, amount of followers – it makes it harder to identify online “stranger danger”. A “slide into the DM’s” may not seem as harmful or as scary as the typical image we have of a child predator picking a kid up and luring them to their van with candy.

Does the child know everyone they are communicating with? Does the child know everyone they are friends with or followed by? Does the child have location services turned on (ie Snapchat map)?

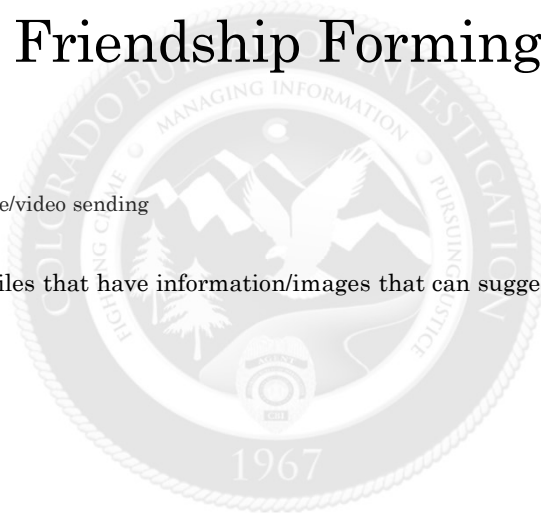


# Online Grooming Methodology

- Once contact is made, grooming begins.
- Grooming is the process by which someone befriends and gains the trust of a child in order to take advantage of the child for sexual purposes.
- Often involves manipulation:
  - Giving gifts or special attention
  - Openly or pretending to accidentally expose the child to sexual material and sexual acts
  - Controlling through threats, force, or use of authority
  - Secret keeping
- Grooming can look like “normal” caring behavior and through the process victims will often think of child predators as friends or more than friends.
- 6 stages of grooming that typically happen
- Signs of online grooming can look like:
  - Wanting to spend more time on the internet
  - Being secretive about sites visited or people they are talking to
  - Switching screens when an adult is near
  - Possessing new items
  - Using non age-appropriate sexual language
  - Emotions that become more volatile

# Stage 1: Friendship Forming

- Initial contact
  - Friend request
  - DM's
  - Snapchat – image/video sending
  - Dating apps
- Might target profiles that have information/images that can suggest a starting point:
  - Sports
  - Movies
  - Music
  - Location, etc



## Stage 2: Relationship Building

- Predator begins talking to child about family, friends, school life, and other interests with the intention of exploiting them for a deeper connection.
- The predator will start giving the child compliments and making them feel special.
- Depending on the platform, gifts can be sent – ie gift cards, money, etc.
- The conversation may include “doing favors” and planning future fun activities.
- The language may transition to calling the child “cutie”, “sweetie”, “hun”, etc.

## Stage 3: Fake Love & Risk Assessment

- The predator will begin gauging the threat of the parent, caregiver, etc. They will attempt to see how much the child's interactions online are monitored. They will also attempt to exploit any child-caregiver issues to begin driving a wedge between the two. Children with issues in the home life may be at a higher risk of online grooming.
- Children will likely feel they are in a "real" relationship with the predator at this point. The child will feel like everything is in control.
- The predator will begin introducing the child to sex through pornography, watching sexual acts, looking up sexual acts, and being asked to talk about their preferences.

## Stage 4: Exclusivity, Control, & Reinforcement

- The predator may attempt to get the child to do things that are more dangerous/or against the law:
  - Doing/obtaining drugs
  - Drinking
  - Running away
  - Beginning thoughts/questions of masturbation
- The predator is trying to gain full trust of the child and introduce love as a special bond they share to isolate the child further:
  - May say things like “I love you”, “We’re meant to be”, “I don’t want to be with anyone other than you”, etc.
  - Look for opportunities to be with the child alone – online this could be video chatting, phone calls, playing games, etc.

## Stage 5: Sexual Stage & Victimization

- The predator will attempt to gain sexually explicit images and videos or meet in person with the child for sex.
- Emotional blackmail is generally used – to make the child feel bad for not providing sex due to the nature of their “relationship”.
- Predators may use already obtained sexually explicit images of children as bait to make it appear normal and natural.
- The predator will introduce sayings like: “You are sexy”, “That’s so hot”, etc.
- Physical sexual abuse will determine if the predator is in the same location as the child and if the predator can make it the “child's idea” to participate in physical sexual activities. An online predator introduces the opportunity to only receive images and video while never meeting up with the child physically.

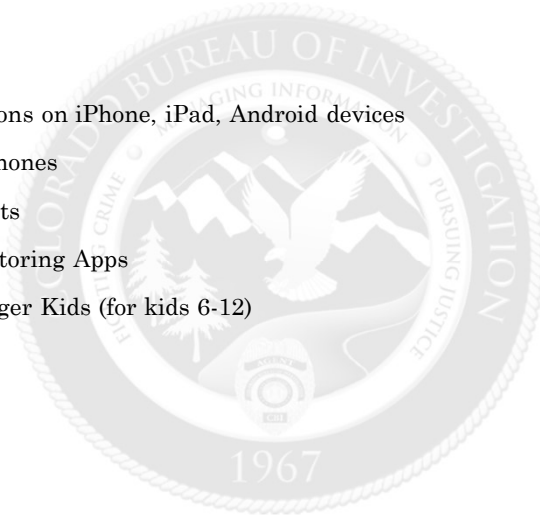
## Best Practices in Identifying Internet Luring and Child Sexual Exploitation

- The most effective way to protect children against predators is to keep tabs of online behavior: monitor online usage.
- If a child is under 13, they shouldn't be on social media; The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act already makes it illegal for children under 13 years old to sign up for websites that gather data about users.
- Monitor data sharing – what is on the internet is basically there forever, certain apps and social media also share geolocation and other trackable data points.
- Make sure devices have a passcode on it – in case it is lost or stolen sensitive information protection from any would-be predators.
- **HAVE THE CONVERSATION**
  - <https://thesmarttalk.org/#/>
  - Gets kids and parents together for a conversation about being responsible with new technology

Monitoring data can seem like a breach of trust if communication is minimal between parents/guardians and minors. Especially with mid-older teenagers. It's important to educate children and teens about the dangers and know that predators can be ANYONE just as much as the victim could be them if they aren't smart about online and social media usage.

# Tools

- Parental restrictions on iPhone, iPad, Android devices
- Basic vs Smart Phones
- Kid friendly tablets
- Third Party Monitoring Apps
- Facebook Messenger Kids (for kids 6-12)



Apple products – Settings -> General -> Restrictions – can restrict certain apps or games, including the Safari web browser and the camera. Can also prevent children from making any purchase or downloads in the app store.

Android – Parents can download the Family Link app which lets users set restrictions on what apps and videos can be downloaded from Google Play store. Otherwise, parents can directly set restrictions in the Google Play app by going to parental controls option.

Option to purchase kids phones and smartwatches with only basic capabilities for children – Jitterbug Flip, LG GizmoGadget

Fire Kids Edition Tablet/Verizon GizmoTab

Third party control apps – let you set screen time limits and block certain websites and apps: Qustodio (monitor social media, calls ,texts, enable location tracking, & panic alerts), Net Nanny (block websites, profanity, warnings, monitor social media, time limits), FamilyTime Premium (blocks apps and websites, set time limits, create a contact watchlist, track locations and monitor texts),



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