

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is when someone uses force, fraud, or manipulation to control another person for labor or sexual exploitation. It is a crime, and it is never the victim's fault.

Trafficking doesn't always look like what you see in movies. Traffickers are often people you know, a romantic partner, a friend, or someone who seemed like they were trying to help you.

It can look like:

- Being controlled through drugs, debt, or threats
- Having your ID or phone taken away
- Being forced or pressured into sexual acts for money
- Being told where you can go, whom you can talk to, and what you can do
- Feeling like you owe someone and can't leave until the debt is paid
- Being promised love, safety, or a better life, and then having it used against you

If any of this sounds familiar, you are not alone, and what happened to you is not your fault. You deserve safety, support, and freedom.

We work to empower survivors to rebuild their lives and break the cycle of violence to create a safer community through outreach, education, and awareness.



Have questions or want to learn more? Get in touch with us!

219-879-4615 (24-hour crisis line)
info@steppingstoneshelter.org
www.steppingstoneshelter.org



Survivors of
Human
Trafficking

Stepping Stone Shelter

www.steppingstoneshelter.org

Not Sure If You're Experiencing Human Trafficking?

Trafficking doesn't always feel like what you'd expect. Many survivors don't identify as victims at first — and that's okay. If someone is controlling your life, your body, or how you make money, that may be trafficking.

Ask yourself:

- Does someone control where you go, whom you see, or what you do?
- Are you being forced or pressured to have sex for money, housing, drugs, or anything else?
- Do you feel like you owe someone and can't leave until the debt is paid?
- Has someone taken your ID, phone, or money to keep you from leaving?
- Were you promised something, love, safety, a job, a better life, that was used to trap you?

How to Contact Us:

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How We Can Help You

Reaching out takes courage, and we are here the moment you do, with no pressure, no judgment, and without telling you what to do.

When you need us most:

- Safe, Confidential Place to Talk
- 24-Hour Emergency Shelter: If you need somewhere to go
- Support During Medical Exams
- Help Filing Charges & Protective Orders if you choose
- Someone to Go With You to Legal Proceedings
- Emotional Support & Coping Strategies

You are in control of your own story.
We are just here to walk with you.

What about prostitution?

If you are exchanging sex for money, housing, drugs, or survival, even if it feels like your choice, you may be experiencing trafficking. Traffickers are skilled at making control feel like freedom. You are not in trouble. You are not a criminal. You are someone who deserves support. If anything here sounds familiar, trust yourself. We are here to listen with no judgment and no pressure.

Knowing Your Rights

As a survivor, you have rights: the right to be treated with dignity, to be informed, and to seek justice on your own terms.

Our advocates will help you understand and exercise those rights every step of the way.

Ask us about your rights as a victim or to learn more about how we can help. Scan the QR code below.



We stand strong in a community built over four decades, because this story belongs to everyone. There is always a seat at this table for you.