



FLORIDA

| Legal System | Constitution | Bill of Rights | Form of Government |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Common Law Statutory Law | Written | Yes | Republic |

A. Criminal Statutes

1. Human Trafficking and Related Offenses

a. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06 (2021) – Human Trafficking

i. Summary

In Florida, “[a]ny person who knowingly, or in reckless disregard of the facts, engages in human trafficking, or attempts to engage in human trafficking, or benefits financially by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that has subjected a person to human trafficking” commits a felony. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(3).

“Human trafficking” is defined as “transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, purchasing, patronizing, procuring, or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(2)(d).

Florida provides separate penalties for human trafficking involving:

- (1) labor or services of any child younger than 18 years old or an adult believed by the person accused to be younger than 18 years old;
- (2) coercion for labor or services of an adult;
- (3) coercion for commercial sexual activity of an adult;
- (4) labor or services of a minor unauthorized alien or an adult believed by the person accused to be younger than 18 years old and who is an unauthorized alien;
- (5) coercion for labor or services of an adult unauthorized alien;
- (6) coercion for commercial sexual activity of an adult unauthorized alien;
- (7) labor or services involving the transfer or transportation of a minor from outside Florida to within Florida;
- (8) coercion for labor or services involving the transfer or transportation of an adult from outside of Florida to within Florida;
- (9) commercial sexual activity involving the transfer or transportation of a minor or adult believed by the person accused to be younger than 18 years old;
- (10) coercion for commercial sexual activity involving the transfer or transportation of a minor or an adult believed by the person accused to be younger than 18 years old from outside Florida to within Florida; and
- (11) commercial sexual activity involving a minor, an adult believed by the person accused to be younger than 18 years old, or an adult who is mentally defective or mentally incapacitated.

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(3)(a)–(g).

Each instance of human trafficking constitutes a separate crime and “a separate punishment is authorized.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(3).

Florida’s human trafficking law provides for enhanced penalties for any parent, legal guardian, or person having custody or control of a minor “who sells or otherwise transfers custody or control of [a] minor, or offers to sell or otherwise transfer custody of such minor with knowledge or in reckless disregard of the fact that” the minor will be subject to human trafficking. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(4)(a).

It is a crime for any person to permanently brand a human trafficking victim or direct a victim of human trafficking to be branded for the purpose of committing or facilitating a human trafficking offense. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(4)(b).

In a prosecution under Florida’s human trafficking statute, a defendant’s ignorance of a victim’s age, the victim’s misrepresentation of their age, the defendant’s bona fide belief of the victim’s age, a victim’s lack of chastity, and the victim’s willingness or consent are not valid defenses. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(9), (11).

Information about the location of a residential facility offering services for adult victims of human trafficking involving commercial sexual activities will be kept confidential in a prosecution. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(10)(a).

ii. Sentencing

Human trafficking is generally a felony of the first degree, punishable by a maximum prison term of 30 years and a maximum fine of USD 10,000 for first-time offenders. Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 775.082(3)(b)(1), 775.083(1)(b), 787.06(3)(a)–(e), (f)(2).

For a human trafficking offense involving the transport of a minor from outside of Florida to within Florida, the statute specifies that the offense is a felony of the first degree, “punishable by imprisonment for a term of years not exceeding life” and a maximum fine of USD 10,000. Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 775.082(3)(b)(1), 775.083(1)(b), 787.06(3)(f)(1).

A branding offense under Section 787.06(4)(b) is a felony of the second degree, punishable by a maximum prison term of 15 years and a maximum fine of USD 10,000. Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 775.082(3)(d), 775.083(1)(b), 787.06(4)(b).

A human trafficking offense involving commercial sexual activity with a minor or a “mentally defective or mentally incapacitated” person is a “life felony,” punishable by a maximum life sentence and a maximum fine of USD 15,000. Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 775.082(3)(a)(6), 775.083(1)(a), 787.06(3)(g).

Parents, guardians, or custodians found guilty of selling or transferring custody or control of minors in violation of Section 787.06(4) are also subject to the penalties associated with a life felony. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(4)(a).

Penalties are enhanced—such that a felony of the second degree is reclassified as a felony of the first degree, and a felony of the first degree is reclassified as a life felony—if the human trafficking offense “causes great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(8)(a)–(b).

In addition to any other authorized punishment, a court shall order defendants to pay restitution for any damage or loss “caused directly or indirectly by the defendant’s offense” and “related to the defendant’s criminal episode,” unless it finds “clear and compelling reasons not to order such restitution.” Restitution may be monetary or non-monetary. The court shall make the restitution a condition of probation. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.089(1)(a).

Where the victim suffers bodily injury, the restitution order shall require the defendant to pay for medical expenses and related professional services and devices relating to physical, psychiatric, and psychological care; to pay the cost of physical and occupational therapy; to reimburse the victim for income lost as a result of the offense; and to pay funeral and related expenses in the event of the victim’s death. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.089(2)(a).

Real or personal property “that was used, attempted to be used, or intended to be used” in violation of Section 787.06 is subject to seizure and forfeiture. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(7).

iii. Statute of Limitations

A prosecution for a violation of Section 787.06 may be brought at any time. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.15(19).

b. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.07 (2012) – Human Smuggling

i. Summary

A person commits the crime of human smuggling if the person transports “an individual who the person knows, or should know, is illegally entering the United States from another country” into Florida. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.07(1). For each individual transported into Florida, a defendant commits a separate offense. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.07(2).

ii. Sentencing

The crime of human smuggling is a felony of the third degree, punishable by a maximum prison term of five years and a maximum fine of USD 5,000. Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 775.082(3)(e), 775.083(1)(c), 787.07(1).

In addition to any other authorized punishment, a court shall order a defendant to pay restitution for any damage or loss “caused directly or indirectly by the defendant’s offense” and “related to the defendant’s criminal episode,” unless it finds “clear and compelling reasons not to order such restitution.” Restitution may be monetary or non-monetary. The court shall make the restitution a condition of probation. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.089(1)(a).

Where the victim suffers bodily injury, the restitution order shall require the defendant to pay for medical expenses and related professional services and devices relating to physical, psychiatric, and psychological care; to pay the cost of physical and occupational therapy; to reimburse the victim for income lost as a result of the offense; and to pay funeral and related expenses in the event of the victim’s death. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.089(2)(a).

iii. Statute of Limitations

A prosecution for a felony of the third degree must be brought within three years. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.15(2)(b). The statute of limitations will not run for up to three years “during any time when the defendant is continuously absent from the state or has no reasonably ascertainable place of abode or work” within Florida. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.15(5). If the victim was a minor, the statute of limitations does not begin to run “until the victim has reached the age of 18 or the violation is reported to a law enforcement agency or other governmental agency, whichever occurs earlier.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.15(13)(a).

c. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.0145 (1988) – Selling or Buying of Minors; Penalties

i. Summary

It is a crime for any parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody or control of a minor to sell or transfer or offer to sell or transfer custody of the minor either “[w]ith knowledge that as a consequence of the sale or transfer the minor will be portrayed in a visual depiction engaging in, or assisting another person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct” or with the intent to promote the same. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.0145(1).

It also is a crime for any person:

- (a) to “purchase or otherwise obtain[] custody or control of a minor, or offer” to do so, either with knowledge that as a consequence of the purchase or obtaining custody, the minor will be portrayed in a visual depiction engaging in or assisting another person to engage in sexually explicit conduct or
- (b) with “intent to promote either:
 1. The engaging in of sexually explicit conduct by such minor for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct; or

2. The rendering of assistance by the minor to any other person to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct.”

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.0145(2).

ii. Sentencing

The crime of selling or buying minors is a felony of the first degree, punishable by a maximum prison term of 30 years and a maximum fine of USD 10,000. Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 775.082(3)(b)(1), 775.083(1)(b), 847.0145.

In addition to any other authorized punishment, a court shall order a defendant to pay restitution for any damage or loss “caused directly or indirectly by the defendant’s offense” and “related to the defendant’s criminal episode,” unless it finds “clear and compelling reasons not to order such restitution.” Restitution may be monetary or non-monetary. The court shall make the restitution a condition of probation. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.089(1)(a).

Where the victim suffers bodily injury, the restitution order shall require the defendant to pay for medical expenses and related professional services and devices relating to physical, psychiatric, and psychological care; to pay the cost of physical and occupational therapy; to reimburse the victim for income lost as a result of the offense; and to pay funeral and related expenses in the event of the victim’s death. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.089(2)(a).

iii. Statute of Limitations

A prosecution for a felony in the first degree must be brought within four years. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.15(2)(a). The statute of limitations will not run for up to three years “during any time when the defendant is continuously absent from the state or has no reasonably ascertainable place of abode or work” within Florida. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.15(5). If the victim was a minor, the statute of limitations does not begin to run “until the victim has reached the age of 18 or the violation is reported to a law enforcement agency or other governmental agency, whichever occurs earlier.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.15(13)(a).

d. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.0877 (2016) – Criminal Transmission of HIV; Procedures; Penalties

A person convicted of a violation of one of several enumerated offenses—including sections of Florida’s human trafficking law (Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06)—shall undergo HIV testing if the offense or attempted offense “involves the transmission of bodily fluids from one person to another.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.0877(1)(o). If an HIV diagnosis is revealed to the offender and they subsequently violate another enumerated offense, then the offender is subject to penalties for the criminal transmission of HIV. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.0877(3). Criminal transmission of HIV is a felony in the third degree, punishable by a maximum prison term of five years and a maximum fine of USD 5,000.

e. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 895.02 (2021) – Offenses Concerning Racketeering and Illegal Debts

Florida includes human trafficking among the possible predicate offenses of racketeering under its version of the RICO Act. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 895.02(8)(a).

2. Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Pornography Offenses

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 827.071 – Sexual Performance by a Child; Penalties

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 846.0138 – Transmission of Material Harmful to a Minor by Electronic Device or Equipment Prohibited: Penalties

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.002 – Child Pornography Prosecutions

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.011 – Prohibition of Certain Acts in Connection with Obscene, Lewd, Etc., Materials; Penalty

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.012 – Harmful Materials; Sale or Distribution to Minors or Using Minors in Production Prohibited; Penalty

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.0135 – Computer Pornography; Prohibited Computer Usage; Traveling to Meet Minor; Penalties

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.01357 – Exploited Children’s Civil Remedy

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.0137 – Transmission of Pornography by Electronic Device or Equipment Prohibited; Penalties

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.0139 – Immunity from Civil Liability for Reporting Child Pornography, Transmission of Child Pornography, or Any Image, Information, or Data Harmful to Minors to a Minor in this State

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.0141 – Sexting; Prohibited Acts; Penalties

3. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.21 (2021) – Florida Sexual Predators Act; Registration Requirement

A person convicted of the crime of human trafficking or a crime involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children or any attempt thereof shall be deemed a “sexual predator” and is subject to registration requirements. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 775.21(4)(a).

B. Civil Liability Statutes

1. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 772.104 (2006) – Civil Lawsuit

a. Summary

Any person who proves by clear and convincing evidence that they were injured by a violation of Section 772.103 involving sex or human trafficking can bring a civil lawsuit. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 772.104(2). Section 772.103 makes it unlawful for any person:

- (1) Who has with criminal intent received any proceeds derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of criminal activity or through the collection of an unlawful debt to use or invest, whether directly or indirectly, any part of such proceeds, or the proceeds derived from the investment or use thereof, in the acquisition of any title to, or any right, interest, or equity in, real property or in the establishment or operation of any enterprise.
- (2) Through a pattern of criminal activity or through the collection of an unlawful debt, to acquire or maintain, directly or indirectly, any interest in or control of any enterprise or real property.
- (3) Employed by, or associated with, any enterprise to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in such enterprise through a pattern of criminal activity or the collection of an unlawful debt.
- (4) To conspire or endeavor to violate any of the provisions of subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (3).

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 772.103.

b. Damages and Other Relief

A victim of human or sex trafficking shall have a claim for threefold the actual damages sustained and, in that lawsuit, is entitled to minimum damages of USD 200 and reasonable attorney’s fees and court costs in the trial and appellate courts. As an alternative, any person who proves by clear and convincing evidence that they were injured by reason of any violation of the provisions of section 772.103 [prohibited activities related to use of the proceeds of criminal activities] or human trafficking shall have a claim for threefold the amount gained from sex trafficking or human trafficking and in any such lawsuit is entitled to minimum damages of USD 200 and reasonable attorney’s fees and court costs in the trial and appellate courts. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 772.104(1), (2).

Punitive damages are not permitted under this section. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 772.104(3).

c. Statute of Limitations

A civil lawsuit for human trafficking based on Section 772.104 must be brought within five years “after the conduct in violation of a provision of this act terminates or the cause of action accrues.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 772.17.

If the state or the federal government brings a criminal prosecution or civil lawsuit because of such conduct, the statute of limitations is suspended for the pendency of the proceeding and for two years after the proceeding concludes. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 772.17.

2. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.01357 (2008) – Exploited Children’s Civil Remedy

a. Summary

Any person who, while under the age of 18, was a victim of a sexual abuse crime, “where any portion of such abuse was used in the production of child pornography,” may bring a civil lawsuit against the “producer, promoter, or possessor of such images or movies” if the victim suffers “personal or psychological injury” as a result of the “production, promotion or possession of such images or movies.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.01357(1). A sexual abuse crime includes those crimes listed in chapter 794 (sexual battery), chapter 800 (lewdness and indecent exposure), chapter 827 (abuse of children), and chapter 847 (obscenity). Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.01357(1).

Florida’s Office of Attorney General may pursue damages on the victim’s behalf at the victim’s request and subject to agency approval. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.01357(5).

A defendant may not assert as a defense that they “did not know the victim or commit the abuse depicted in any image of child pornography.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.01357(4).

A victim who brings a lawsuit in good faith can be provided with a pseudonym upon their request to be used in all legal pleadings. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.01357(3).

b. Damages and Other Relief

A victim may recover actual damages and reasonable attorney’s fees, and any victim who is awarded damages shall be deemed to have sustained damages of at least USD 150,000. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.01357(1).

c. Statute of Limitations

A civil lawsuit under Section 847.01357 must be brought within three years of “the conclusion of a related criminal case” or notification to the victim from a law enforcement agency that the pornographic images have been “creat[ed], possess[ed], or promot[ed]”—whichever is later. If the victim is a minor, then the lawsuit must be brought within three years after the victim turns 18 years old. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.01357(2)(a)–(c).

C. Additional Statutes Specific to Human Trafficking

1. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 16.555 (2019) – Crime Stoppers Trust Fund

This provision requires Florida’s Attorney General to establish a trust fund for grant administration to the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers. Recipients may use the grants to fund rewards for the recovery of human trafficking victims of a missing person connected to criminal activity.

2. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 16.617 (2017) – Statewide Council on Human Trafficking

Florida created a Statewide Council on Human Trafficking within Florida’s Department of Legal Affairs, tasked with enhancing the development and coordination of state and local law enforcement and social services responses to fight commercial exploitation as a form of human trafficking and to support victims.

3. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 39.01 (2021) – Proceedings Relating to Children; Child Protection Statutes

Florida’s child protection statutes define “sexual abuse of a child” to include sexual exploitation of a child, which includes allowing, encouraging, or forcing a child to participate in the trade of human trafficking.

4. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 92.56 (2014) – Judicial Proceedings and Court Records Involving Sexual Offenses and Human Trafficking

The state may use a pseudonym instead of the victim’s name to designate the victim of a crime of human trafficking, sexual battery, lewdness, child abuse, aggravated child abuse, or sexual performance by a child, or any crime involving the production, possession, or promotion of child pornography, in all records of civil and criminal court proceedings. Subject to narrow exceptions, the identity of a human trafficking victim is generally exempt from disclosure. The defendant charged with a crime may ask the trial court for an order of disclosure to prepare the defense but may not disclose the victim’s identity to any person other than their attorney.

5. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 402.87 (2014) – Services to Immigrant Survivors of Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Other Serious Crimes

Florida’s Department of Children and Families shall provide “immigrant survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes” with services, including medical care, mental health care, and basic assistance, to help them secure housing, food, and support services while the immigrant survivors are awaiting a visa from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or certification from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

6. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 448.110 (2012) – Florida Minimum Wage Act

To recover unpaid wages in a civil lawsuit, an employee must first provide a noncompliant employer with written notice of the employee’s intent to sue and basic information about the employee’s claim including “the minimum wage to which the person aggrieved claims entitlement, the actual or estimated work dates and hours for which payment is sought, and the total amount of alleged unpaid wages through the date of the notice.” An employee may file a civil lawsuit if the employer fails to respond to the notice within 15 days and pay the total amount of unpaid wages or otherwise resolve the claims to the satisfaction of the aggrieved person. An employee may recover the amount of wages owed, plus liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages owed, reasonable attorney’s fees and costs. An employer may also be subject to additional civil penalties in an action by the Attorney General to enforce this section. Prevailing employees may also be entitled to legal and equitable relief to remedy the violation, including reinstatement in employment and injunctive relief, but shall not include punitive damages. A lawsuit to recover wages, overtime, damages, or penalties concerning payment of wages and overtime shall be brought within two years.

7. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 456.0341 (2019) – Health Professionals and Occupations; Requirements for Instruction on Human Trafficking

Certain licensed or certified health professionals and occupations must complete a board or department approved continuing education course on human trafficking, how to report cases of human trafficking, and resources available for victims. By January 1, 2021, a notice shall be placed in the workplace with the national human trafficking hotline phone number.

8. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 480.043 (2021) – Massage Establishments; Licensure; Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Policies

Florida requires that its Department of Business and Professional Regulation deny applications for business licenses to massage establishments if the owners, operators, managers, or individuals involved in the business have been convicted of human trafficking, among other crimes.

9. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 509.096 (2020) – Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Policies for Employees of Public Lodging Establishments

Public lodging establishments must provide annual human-trafficking awareness training to housekeeping and front-desk employees within 60 days after the start of employment. These establishments also must post human trafficking public awareness signs within the establishment and implement a procedure for reporting suspected human trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Hotline or the local law enforcement agency.

10. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.06(5)–(6) (2016) – Prosecutor and Law Enforcement Human Trafficking Training

Prosecutors and law enforcement officers must receive training on investigating, preventing, and prosecuting human trafficking offenses.

11. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 787.29 (2016) – Human Trafficking Awareness Signs

Florida’s Department of Transportation must display human trafficking awareness signs at transportation hubs, such as rest areas, rail stations, and other public places.

12. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 794.022 (2016) – Rules of Evidence

In a prosecution under section 787.06 (human trafficking), the victim’s testimony does not need to be corroborated, and evidence of prior consensual sexual activity between the offender and the victim is generally inadmissible unless decided otherwise by a proceeding in camera (non-public). Fla. Stat. Ann. § 794.022(1), (2).

Reputation evidence relating to a victim’s prior sexual conduct or evidence presented for the purpose of showing that the manner of dress of the victim at the time of the offense incited the sexual battery may not be admitted into evidence in a prosecution under Florida’s human trafficking statutes. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 794.022(3).

When consent of the victim is a defense to a human trafficking prosecution, “evidence of the victim’s mental incapacity or defect is admissible to prove that the consent was not intelligent, knowing, or voluntary; and the court shall instruct the jury accordingly.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 794.022(4).

“An offender’s use of a prophylactic device, or a victim’s request that an offender use a prophylactic device, is not, by itself, relevant to either the issue of whether or not the offense was committed or the issue of whether or not the victim consented.” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 794.022(5).

13. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 943.0583 (2021) – Human Trafficking Victim Expunction

A victim of human trafficking may petition to expunge the criminal history record for one or more offenses committed or reported to have been committed while they were a victim of human trafficking. Such a petition must be initiated with “due diligence” after the person “ceased being a victim of human trafficking or sought victim services, subject to reasonable safety concerns.” Official documentation of the victim’s status creates a presumption that their participation in the offense was the result of having been a human trafficking victim but is not required for granting a petition for expunction. A determination made without such official documentation must be made by a showing of clear and convincing evidence.

14. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 943.17297 (2019) – Continuing Employment Training in Identifying and Investigating Human Trafficking

Florida requires that “certified law enforcement officer[s]” complete four hours of training courses on identifying and investigating human trafficking within a year of beginning employment.

15. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 960.196 (2019) – Relocation Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking

Florida authorizes a one-time payment of up to USD 1,500—with a lifetime maximum payment of USD 3,000—for a victim of human trafficking who needs urgent assistance to escape from an unsafe environment directly related to the human trafficking offense.

16. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 90.5037 (2021) – Human Trafficking Victim Advocate-Victim Privilege

Under Florida law, “confidential” communications include communications between a human trafficking victim and a trained volunteer [“a person who volunteers with an anti-human trafficking organization and who complies with the training requirements”] or a human trafficking victim advocate [“an employee of an anti-human trafficking organization whose primary purpose is to provide advice, counseling, or services to human trafficking victims and who complies with the training requirements”]. Such communications can be disclosed only with the prior written consent of the human trafficking victim.

D. Significant Cases

Poole v. State, 284 So. 3d 604 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 2019)

The defendant was convicted of human trafficking involving commercial sexual activity and branding after meeting the victim on Backpage.com, an online marketplace for prostitution. On appeal, the defendant principally argued that the trial court erred by allowing a Special Agent with Florida’s Department of Law Enforcement to provide expert testimony on “sex worker subculture and human trafficking,” including the “relationships between pimps and their sex workers.”

The appellate court rejected the defendant’s argument, holding that the testimony allowed the jury “to better assess [the victim’s] credibility” and “better understand critical issues in the case that might have confused jurors unfamiliar with the patterns and penchants of sex workers.”

E. Academic Research/Papers

Aaron Ball, Note, *The Battle Against Human Trafficking: Florida’s New Expungement Law Is a Step in the Right Direction*, 38 NOVA L. REV. 120 (2013).

Adam S. Butkus, Note, *Ending Modern-Day Slavery in Florida: Strengthening Florida’s Legislation in Combating Human Trafficking*, 37 STETSON L. REV. 297 (2007).

Janelle Zabresky, Note, *Creating a Safe Harbor for Florida’s Children: An Overview of Florida’s Legislative Evolution in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*, 40 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 415 (2013).

Joan A. Reid, et al., *Human Trafficking of Minors and Childhood Adversity in Florida*, 107 Am. J. Pub. Health 306 (Feb. 2017).

Madelyn Diaz, et al., *Demanding Reduction: A County-level Analysis Examining Structural Determinants of Human Trafficking Arrests in Florida*, Crime & Delinq. (Oct. 2020).

F. Resources

National Human Trafficking Hotline (Florida):

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/florida>

Florida Department of Children and Families, *Human Trafficking*:

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/human-trafficking/>

Department of Juvenile Justice Human Trafficking Screening Tool:

https://www.flcourts.org/content/download/217038/file/DJJ_Human_Trafficking_Screening_Tool.pdf

Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking:

<https://floridaallianceendht.com/>

Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking:

<http://www.stophumantrafficking.org>

Florida Health, Programs and Services, *Human Trafficking Program*:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/human-trafficking/resources.html>

Florida Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, *Annual Report 2020*:

[http://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/MVIS-BUSHXL/\\$file/2020+Human+Trafficking+Annual+Report+v4.pdf](http://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/MVIS-BUSHXL/$file/2020+Human+Trafficking+Annual+Report+v4.pdf)

Shared Hope Center for Justice and Advocacy Florida Report Card (2019):

http://sharedhope.org/PICframe9/reportcards/PIC_RC_2019_FL.pdf

Shared Hope Center for Justice and Advocacy Florida Analysis and Recommendations (2019):

http://sharedhope.org/PICframe9/analysis/PIC_AR_2019_FL.pdf

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, *Florida: Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking* (2017):

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/florida_profile_efforts_to_combat_human_trafficking.pdf

G.R.A.C.E. Court Benchbook, *2017 Juvenile Human Trafficking Benchbook* (2017):

https://www.flcourts.org/content/download/217037/file/GRACE_Court_Benchbook.pdf

Florida Domestic Violence Center, *Certified Domestic Violence Center Handbook on Human Trafficking* (2016):

<https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/sites/dcjs.virginia.gov/files/publications/victims/domestic-sexual-violence-advocate-handbook-human-trafficking.pdf>

United Abolitionists to Stop Human Trafficking:

<http://www.unitedabolitionists.com>

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