

Human Trafficking Illicit Massage Parlors

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Human Trafficking Coordinator

Background

- Vermont State Police since 2003
- Approximately 23 years of service
- Detective Lieutenant – Bureau of Criminal Investigation
- Human Trafficking Coordinator since 2019

Agenda

- Illicit Massage Parlor Appearance
- Business Profile
- Victim Profile
- Client Profile
- Business Model
- Investigatory Obstacles

Illicit Massage Parlors



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Illicit Massage Parlors



Legitimate Massage Business



Illicit Massage Parlors

- Business
 - Highly Organized
 - East Coast / West Coast
 - Victim Movement
 - Extremely Profitable
 - Cash Business
 - Male Only
 - Hours of Operation
 - Similar Business Model
 - Hidden in Plain Sight

Illicit Massage Parlors

- Victims
 - Chinese or Korean Females
 - Language Barrier
 - Job Posting
 - Moved Around
 - Limited Autonomy
 - Confined to Business
 - House Fees
 - Living / Working Conditions
 - No Massage License

Illicit Massage Parlors

- Clients
 - Profile
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Economic Status
 - Location
 - Privacy
 - Community
 - Language

Illicit Massage Parlors

- Operation
 - Appointment / Walk-in
 - \$80 Massage
 - Brought to the Massage Room
 - Undress
 - Option for a Table Shower – Down the Hall
 - If Table Shower – Brought back to the Massage Room after
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Massage
 - At $\frac{1}{2}$ hour mark, comes the flip
 - Masseuse asks what he would like –
 - Go through the options
 - \$40 - \$200
 - The customer pays the masseuse, and she takes the money outside the room
 - Sex Act performed
 - Client is cleaned up
 - He gets dressed and then leaves

Illicit Massage Parlors

- Obstacles
 - Language Barrier
 - Victim Movement
 - Onus on Victim
 - Business Not Licensed
 - Time and Resources