

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Investigation, Prosecution, Reparation



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Southeast Michigan Trafficking and Exploitation Crimes  
(SEMTEC) Task Force



**Nate Knapper**  
Special Agent  
FBI

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## What Is SEMTEC?

- SEMTEC is a federally-funded task force operated by the FBI.
- SEMTEC was established to investigate human trafficking and child exploitation crimes in Southeast Michigan.

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## INVESTIGATION

Undercover (UC) Operations:

- Online Advertisement
- UC Outreach
- UC Date

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## ONLINE ADVERTISEMENT

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|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| <br>15 years old<br>Detroit, MI | <br>16 years old<br>Oak Park, MI | <br>16 years old<br>Flint, MI | <br>16 & 17 years old<br>Iowa | <br>16 years old<br>Dallas, TX | <br>15 years old<br>Cleveland, OH |
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## Federal Statutes

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)
- Mann Act
- FOSTA + SESTA

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## TVPA

**Prohibited Conduct:**  
Commercial exploitation of another person for sex or labor services through force, fraud, or coercion

**Penalties:**  
Punishable by 10-15 years in prison, depending on victim age and circumstances

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## Mann Act

**Prohibited Conduct:**  
Transportation of minors and coercion of adults to travel across state lines or to foreign countries to engage in commercial sex

**Penalties:**  
Punishable by up to 20 years in prison, with enhanced punishment options for transportation of minors

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## FOSTA + SESTA

**Prohibited Conduct:**  
Online promotion or facilitation of sex trafficking

**Penalties:**  
Punishable by fine and up to 10 years in prison, with enhanced penalties up to 25 years under aggravating circumstances (5+ people or reckless disregard)

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## Michigan Statute

**MCL 750.462a**

House Bill 5438 (2018) amended the definition of "coercion" under the Michigan Penal Code to include facilitating or controlling someone's access to a controlled substance for other than legitimate medical purposes.

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## Prosecutorial Challenges

- Drug addiction
- Transience
- Fear of reprisal



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## The Justice Gap

“With 87% of the legal needs of the public not being met because of lack of resources, it appears that [the] justice gap for low-income people in Michigan has become a crisis and a legal disaster.”



— Jennifer Grieco  
President, State Bar of Michigan,  
2018-2019

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## Legal Needs of Survivors

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Family Law</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custody</li> <li>• Child Support</li> <li>• PPOs + Restraining Orders</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Immigration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T and U Visas</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Criminal Justice Advocacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expungement</li> <li>• Defense for those incarcerated</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim Compensation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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## CONTACT INFORMATION

FBI-Detroit Division -- (313) 965-2323

Polaris Project -- (888) 373-7888

NCMEC -- (800) 843-5678

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