



AT HOME

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IT CAN HAPPEN HERE



By Tanya D Hallford,
Attorney At Law

It's easy to think of human trafficking victims as people you hear about, but never expect to encounter, and never expect it to happen in your own backyard. *Your child* could never be-

come such a victim, right? Aren't trafficking victims foreign? Abducted from the street? You or your child could never be conned by someone into thinking a modeling or acting job is legit when it's really a front?

Americans make up the majority of victims I've encountered in my 10 years of working with trafficking victims.

Victims look like you and me. So do traffickers. Victims are in our churches, classrooms, serving our food, doing our nails, next to us in line at the store. Victims often have unexplained injuries, don't know what city they're in, can't give you an address, have no ID. They're all around us. If you see something suspicious, call the Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.

Ms. Hallford was the State Director for KlaasKIDS Search Center for Missing & Trafficked Children wherein she assisted in the identification of victims of sexual exploitation on the streets and online, as well as assisted in their rescue, transport or extraction. She speaks across Alabama about human trafficking. She has trained law enforcement, nurses, social workers and civilians in the identification of human trafficking, victim response and community response. She was part of the founding team for Polly's Center in Pensacola, FL, a place to assist victims and families of the missing and trafficked. She



has held a national certification as SARTECH II (search and rescue technician), has participated in more than 20 searches for missing children and adults, has taken initial calls and intakes on missing children and adults, and has a search and rescue K9, Sinatra, an Aussie-mix, She and Sinatra were members of the KlaasKIDS Search & Rescue Team.

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