

Sex Trafficking in Alaska

This presentation will focus on the issues of human trafficking and sex trafficking in Alaska. The Anchorage Police Department Vice Unit and FBI have partnered to address the sex trafficking of young girls and women in Alaska. Attendees will learn about the different types of sex trafficking that occur in Alaska and how to identify children that might be at risk or involved. They will also learn about the cycle of violence and manipulation that many of these young girls experience at the hands of the men who exploit them (pimps and johns). Case examples will be used to better illustrate the experiences of these victims.

The speakers

Sergeant Kathy Lacey, a life-long Alaskan, began her law enforcement career with the Anchorage Police Department in 1993. She is currently Sergeant of the Vice Unit in the Detective Division of APD. She also has served as Sergeant of APD's Special Victims Unit, Burglary Unit, and Special Assignment Unit.

Sgt. Lacey has spent the majority of her career at APD working drug and prostitution related crimes. She now heads a human trafficking task force called Alaska Coalition on Trafficking (ACT) in Anchorage. This task force is a multi-disciplinary group aimed at identifying and prosecuting traffickers as well as restoring trafficking victims.

Sgt. Lacey and the APD Vice Unit are currently investigating numerous human trafficking cases in collaboration with the FBI, ICE and the US Attorney's Office. Recently the APD Vice Unit joined with the FBI and U.S. Attorneys' Office to form an Innocence Lost Task Force. This is an investigative task force to identify juveniles involved in prostitution and prosecute the traffickers.

Sgt. Lacey holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a Specialization in Human Services and is currently working on a Master's Degree.

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SA Jolene Goeden has been with the FBI since March 2004. She has been assigned to the Anchorage Division and works primarily human trafficking and sex trafficking cases. SA Goeden works closely with Sgt. Lacey and the Vice Unit to address human trafficking matters. SA Goeden helped to establish the Innocence Lost Task Force, which is a collaboration between the FBI and Anchorage Police Department to address sex trafficking of juveniles in Anchorage. The mission of the task force is to rescue children who are being exploited through prostitution and sex trafficking and prosecute the offenders who are responsible.

SA Goeden is also involved in the Alaska Coalition on Trafficking (ACT). This task force is a multi-disciplinary group aimed at identifying and prosecuting traffickers as well as restoring trafficking victims. This task force has proven to be a very successful collaboration between law enforcement and social service providers.

SA Goeden holds a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College in New York, New York. Prior to working for the FBI, SA Goeden worked for approximately 8 years with sex offenders in prison based and psychiatric hospital settings in Philadelphia and Minneapolis.

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