

# Human Trafficking Update

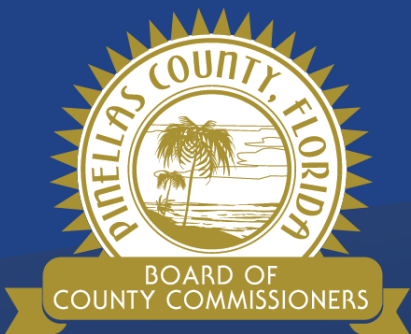


**Human Services – Consumer Protection**

**Doug Templeton**

Chief Investigator

November 12, 2020



**Our Vision: To Be the Standard for Public Service in America**



## June 2015

- State of Florida enacted a new statute requiring Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs
  - Authorizes counties to adopt ordinances to enforce the requirements
  - Effective January 1, 2016

## January 2016

- Board of County Commissioners approve ordinance
  - Ordinance effective March 1, 2016

## Alert employees and the public about the existence, remedies and protections related to human trafficking

- Provides the hotline number to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center
- Required at the following locations:
  - Adult Entertainment establishments
  - Any business or establishment offering massage or bodywork services that is not owned by a healthcare professional
  - Specialty salons performing nail services

## Public Awareness Signs must:

- Be displayed in a conspicuous location that is clearly visible to the public and employees of the establishment.
- Be at least 8.5 inches by 11 inches in size and printed in at least 16-point type.
- State substantially the following in English and Spanish:
  - *“If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in an activity and cannot leave – whether it is prostitution, housework, farm work, factory work, retail work, restaurant work, or any other activity – call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or text INFO or HELP to 233-733 to access help and services. Victims of slavery and human trafficking are protected under United States and Florida law.”*

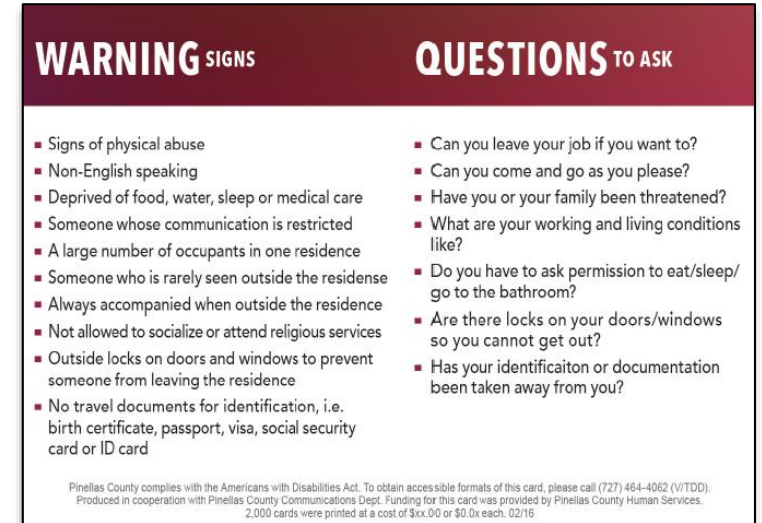
# Education and Outreach

**Consumer Protection implemented the signage requirements and created a public awareness campaign**



**Digital Billboards**

**Informational Pocket Cards**





# Human Trafficking Website

**Businesses can download, print and post the free sign from the website**

[http://www.pinellascounty.org/consumer/human\\_trafficking.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/consumer/human_trafficking.htm)



The screenshot shows the website's header with the Pinellas County logo and navigation links. The main content area features a large red banner with the text "HUMAN TRAFFICKING" and a silhouette of a hand. Below the banner, there is a section titled "Human Trafficking" with a paragraph explaining the issue. To the right of this text is a blue box with white text that says "To order a sign to post: Please fill in your business information HERE." Below this is a pink box with black text that says "A pdf will be available to download once this is submitted. There is no fee to use this service." At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "Required Signage Information:" with a paragraph explaining the ordinance. The left sidebar contains a menu with links to "Consumer Protec. Home", "Check a Business", "File a Complaint", "Frequently Asked Questions", "Regulatory / Ordinances", "Resources", and "Other Information". At the bottom of the sidebar, there is contact information for Consumer Protection and social media icons.

# Human Trafficking Sign

## Stop Human Trafficking

If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in an activity and cannot leave— whether it is prostitution, housework, farm work, factory work, retail work, restaurant work or any other activity, call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center** at **1-888-373-7888** or text **INFO** or **HELP** to **233-733** to access help and services.

Victims of slavery and human trafficking are protected under United States and Florida law. Posted Pursuant to F.S. § 787.29, and Pinellas County Code § 42-430.

## Pare la Trata de Personas

Si usted o alguien que usted conoce está involucrado/a en actividades de las cuales no puede escapar— ya sea prostitución, quehaceres domésticos, trabajos de agricultura, de fábrica, de comercio, de restaurante o cualquier otra actividad, llame al **Centro Nacional de Trata de Personas** al **1-888-373-7888** o mande un texto con **INFO** o **HELP** al **233-733** para acceder ayuda y servicios.

Las víctimas de cautiverio y trata de personas están protegidas bajo las leyes de los Estados Unidos y la Florida. Publicado en conformidad con F.S. § 787.29, y el Código del Condado de Pinellas § 42-430.

Since inception of the ordinance, **536 businesses** have downloaded the sign from the website for posting.

**Consumer Protection** sends a letter to new businesses annually advising them of the requirements and includes a copy of the sign to assist in ensuring availability for posting.

# Businesses Subject to the Ordinance



## FY 2021

- Massage/Bodyworks establishments- 275
- Nail Salons – 1,192
- Adult Use establishments – 19
- Total – 1,486
  - Consumer Protection plans to conduct 1,355 initial and follow-up compliance visits



# Compliance Actions



Fiscal Year	Massage		Nail Salons		Adult Use		Total		Locations Visited
	Warnings	Citations	Warnings	Citations	Warnings	Citations	Warnings	Citations	
*2020	6	0	0	2	0	0	8	0	321
2019	10	0	20	2	1	1	31	3	675
2018	9	3	38	30	0	1	47	31	1,176
3/2016-2017	79	1	310	0	17	4	406	5	1,698

\*COVID-19: enforcement activity limited from March-September

# Accomplishments



- Expanded educational campaign
- Lealman and Asian Neighborhood Family Center – translate informational document and presentation
- International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators conference attendee
- DJJ Salon Talk workshop participation and presenter
- Participation in the Club Operators Against Sex Trafficking (COAST) meeting
- Human Trafficking Prevention month proclamation
- Human Services Coalition Meeting

# Ongoing Efforts

- Annual notification to new businesses
- Weekly field visits and enforcement to ensure local compliance
- Presentations on sign requirements
- Share information with Law Enforcement and regulatory agency partners
- Participation in Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force

# County Comparison



City or County	Sign Placement				Estimated # of Locations <sup>1</sup>	Enforcement Responsibility	Sign Notification				Sign Enforcement			
	Adult Use	Massage	Nails	Restrooms / Dressing Rms			In Person	Online	eMail	Letter	Warnings	Citations	Complaint Driven Only	Secondary Enforcement <sup>2</sup>
Pinellas	✓	✓	✓		1355	Consumer Protection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Hillsborough	✓	✓		✓	200	Code Enforcement	✓				unknown			
Pasco	✓	✓		✓	170	Sheriff's Dept Code Enforcement	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Collier	✓	✓			6	Code Enforcement						✓		
Leon	✓	✓			130	Development Services					unknown			
Martin	✓	✓			125	Sheriff's Dept					unknown			
Miami-Dade	✓	✓			350	Sheriff's Dept Municipal Agencies	✓						✓	
Osceola	✓	✓			120	Code Enforcement					unknown			
Palm Beach	✓	✓			30	Sheriff Dept	✓				unknown			

1 Most of the businesses required to have signs are massage establishments (except Pinellas County). The number listed is the number of licensed massage establishments obtained from the Florida Department of Health database or what the reporting person estimated is in his/her respective county.

2 "Secondary enforcement" refers to only enforcing the ordinance when conducting an inspection for other code violations or conducting an investigation of other criminal activity.

# National Human Trafficking Hotline



## Florida Statistics

Year	Contacts this Year	HT cases reported
2019	2,068	896
2018	1,896	760
2017	1,834	622
2016	1,769	562

**NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE**



**CALL**  
1-888-373-7888



**TEXT**  
"BeFree" (233733)



**LIVE CHAT**  
[humantraffickinghotline.org](http://humantraffickinghotline.org)

*24/7 • Toll free  
Confidential  
200+ languages*

**GET HELP • REPORT TRAFFICKING**



## **Pasco County**

- Commission on Human Trafficking established on September 9, 2014
- Monthly meetings with 11-member commission
- Focusing on awareness, education and advocating strategies to aid rescued victims

## **Hillsborough County**

- Commission on Human Trafficking established December 4, 2019
- Bi-monthly meetings with 20-member commission
- Focusing on awareness, education and supporting local and statewide efforts

## **Pinellas County**

- Local education and training efforts ongoing
- Many agencies participating in the Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force

# Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force



- Human Services – affiliate member
- Six county regional task force
- Collaboration of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working with organizations that provides services to victims of human trafficking
- Task force focuses on three areas:
  - Education
  - Rescue
  - Enforcement