



Sex Trafficking Case Study: Pimp-Controlled Trafficking of Minors

July 30, 2015
3:15–4:15 p.m. EST

Presenters:

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The material presented during today's webinar session will be available on the Human Trafficking Learning Community.

The session will be recorded and will begin shortly.

As with all technology, we may experience a momentary lapse in the Webinar session. In the event of a problem, please be patient and remain on the line.
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Human Trafficking Collaborative Approach Case Study Illinois v. Glen Simmons



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M47888 - SIMMONS, GLEN JR

Parent Institution:
Offender Status:
Location:

LINCOLN CORRECTIONAL CENTER
IN CUSTODY
LINCOLN

People v. Glen Simmons
Ind #13CR-17875

August 20, 2013

Pro-active Undercover work on the part of CPD & FBI Crimes Against Children TF Team brought them to a hotel in suburban Arlington Heights.

- Clean establishment,
- Nice commercial shopping neighborhood,
- Suburban town.



Through some more U/C work, they recover the girl... in the same hotel room pictured in the Backpage ad.

Poster's age: 19

- Location: Northwest Suburbs, Arlington Heights, Northwest Suburbs

- Post ID: [REDACTED] chicago

[Email this ad](#)



[Enlarge Picture](#)





courtesy of Motel 6 website

Same bathroom shot from a different angle.

- Pleased to say law enforcement did good surveillance on the scene (not just focused on sting in room).
 - ... But still did not spot the trafficker.
 - Not coming or going from room.
 - Not lurking in the parking lot.
 - Not waiting in the lobby.
- But the trafficker's belongings are in the room.
- So the officer who already has a rapport with victim pulls her aside and talks with her.
 - She is a very respectful young lady, but she is not ready to give up "her Boo".

... and at the same time, one of his partners goes down to the desk, to get the name on the hotel registry for the room.

		Guest Check In Card	
Room No.	Folio No.	Control Number	
240	135158	105330498	
Arrival Date	Departure Date	Number of Adults	Room Rate
8-20	8-21	1	47.95
Welcome to Motel 6!			
Last Name		First Name	
Simmons		Tom	
Street Address			
City	State/Country	Zip Code	
E-Mail Address			
estraner514@gmail.com			
Company Name	Company Phone Number	CP Account #	
License Plate #	State		
JHX 9782	TX		
Signature			
			
Please have your identification available for check in.			

Name

Email

Plate #

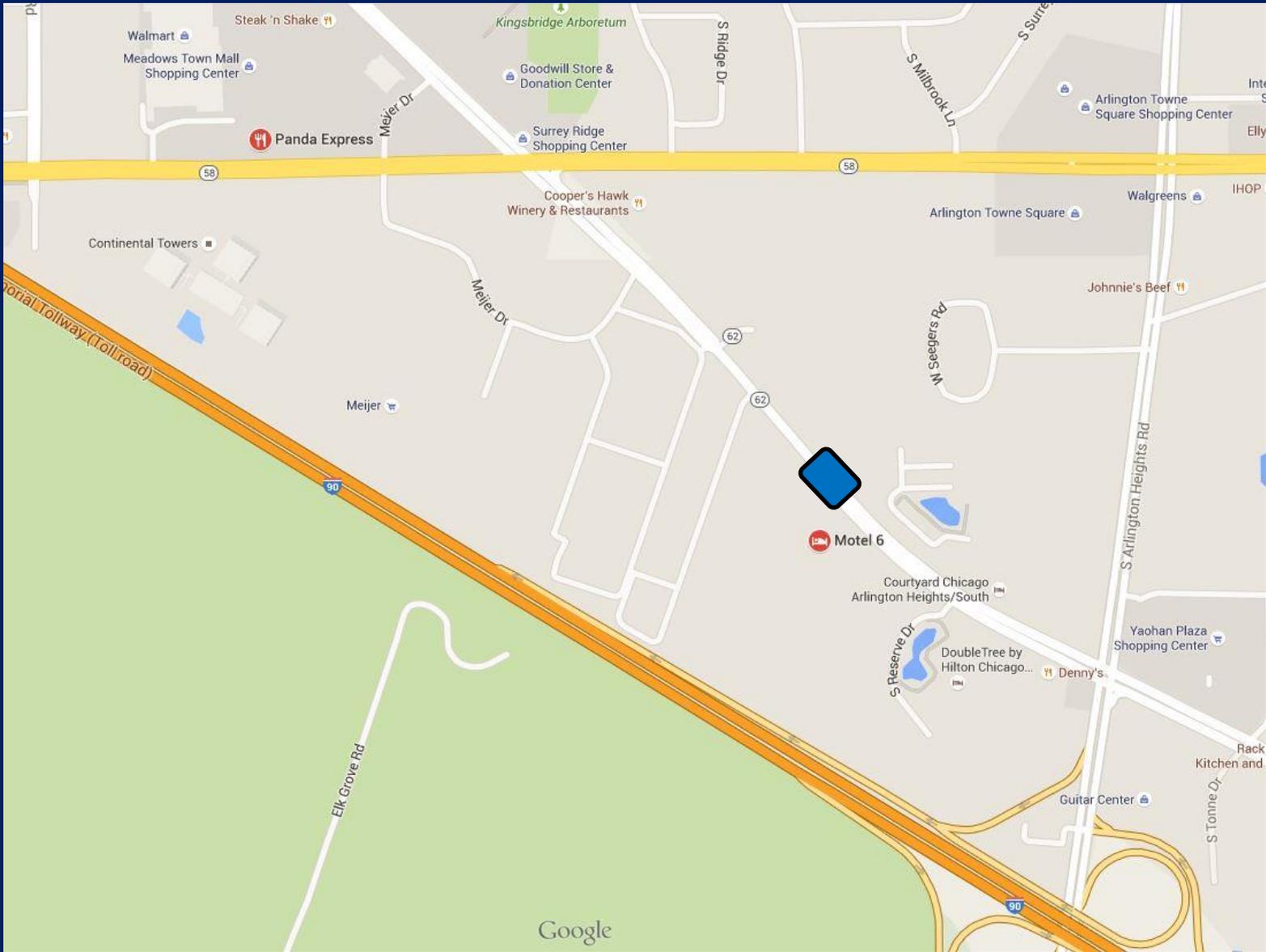
And then her phone starts blowing up with text messages telling her to be careful because he smells the cops...

- From a number listed as “my Boo Glen”



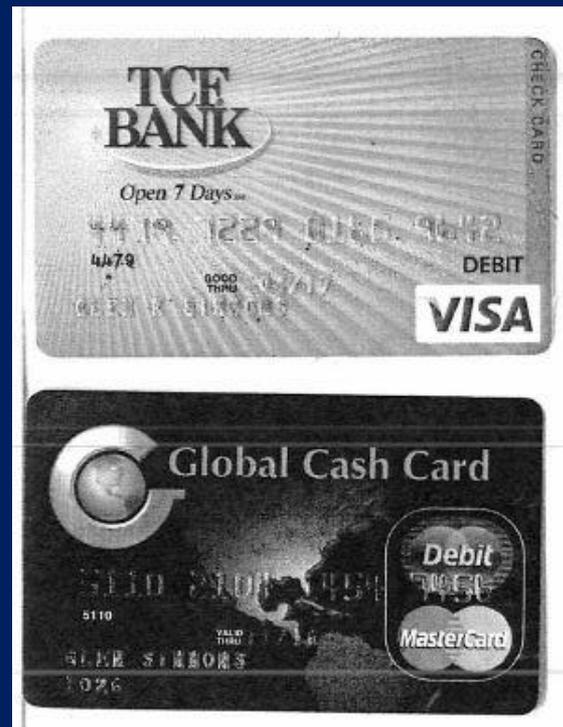
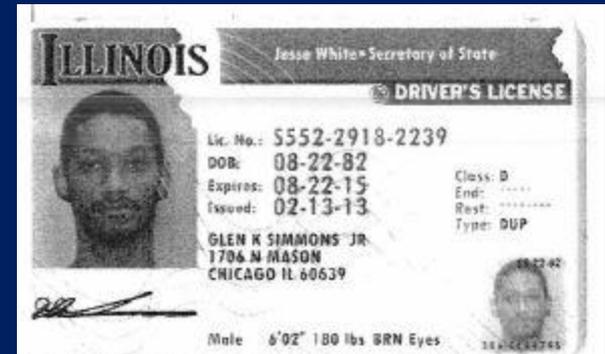
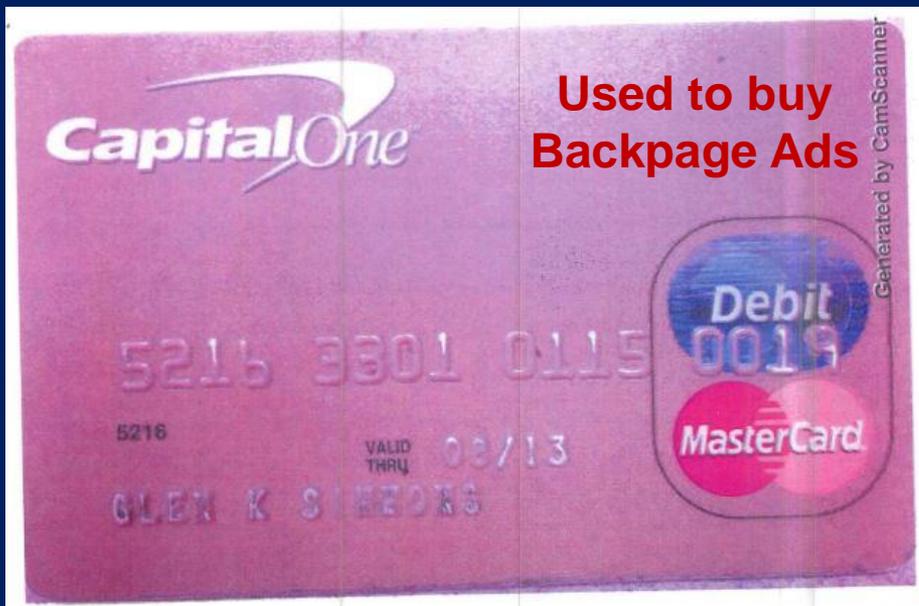
And we have the name “Glen Simmons” off the hotel registry...

So she opens up and tells the officer that Glen is waiting down the road at the Panda Express restaurant for her to signal him when it's all-clear.



Sure enough they catch him coming out of the restaurant & getting into a car bearing the plate # from the hotel registry.





Carrying credit cards
on his person

Search warrants on victim and trafficker's phones yield:

- Text messages between them;
- Call Logs;
- Evidence that he was recruiting other girls;
 - Not explicit what for...
- Pictures (including the ones used in the ad).



Meeting Victim's Needs

- CPD spent a lot of time with her.
- Not interested in meeting with or TF partners at Salvation Army STOP IT Program.
- Notification to DCFS:
 - Luckily had very involved CPS case worker.

Victim Information

- Ward of the state
- History of running from placements
- Placed back into a group home
 - Possible break that it wasn't in the neighborhood where she had been recruited in past.

Victim Interview

1. On day of Recovery: (CPD & FBI only)

- Not ready to be candid with strangers.
- Not ready to tell any of the facts to a prosecutor.
- Not interested in talking to service providers.
- Only telling very limited details to the police officer she already has some rapport with.
 - Minimizing Glen's role/responsibility.
 - Overstating her role/autonomy/power.

Case Status

- Corroborated the details she told us about his role.
 - Rental of Room in his name. (Video???)
 - Backpage ads paid on his Credit Card.
 - Pictures on his phone (and hers).
 - But we know he would claim he just provided her with her needs... and she ran the business.
- We know his role is much bigger than she is telling us... but need evidence.

Building rapport

- Collaborative effort between CCSAO, CPD, & DCFS
- Arrangements made with DCFS caseworker to interview victim
- Victim meeting took place at the group home

Victim Interview

2. At Group Home: *(CPD, ASA, Vic Specialist, & DCFS)*

- Several days after recovery, during day - by appt.
- Not really an interview... meeting/intros/rapport.
- Didn't ask her about Glen or the Case.
 - Didn't want to push.
 - Would not be productive anyway.
- Let her talk about who she is (school, boys, poetry, art), family history, social history, and other people who have exploited her in life. (Appreciate interest in what she wanted to say.)
- Set stage for another meeting.
 - Asked if she wouldn't mind talking to us again.
 - Asked if she would come to our office next time.

Building rapport

- Second meeting outside of the group home.
- Discussed feelings about the group home
- Again no discussion about the case
- Building trust and rapport

Victim Interview

3. At Prosecutor's Office: *(CPD, ASA, Vic Specialist, & DCFS)*
- Approx week after recovery, during day - by appt.
 - Legitimately an interview... but after follow-up on how she has been doing and prior discussion.
 - Posed broad question of telling us how she ended up here.
 - Let her explain in order that made sense to her, and going back as far as she wanted.
 - Much of the account still wasn't Simmons.
 - She was more comfortable talking and more open.
 - She appreciated the respect for her thoughts.
 - Value in understanding what is important to her.
 - Took a written statement (locked in statement) because she was much more candid and consistent with what we could confirm.

ILLINOIS Human Trafficking Law

720 ILCS 5 / 10 – 9

1. Involuntary Servitude ...10-9(b)

- Knowingly subjects someone to Labor by means of Force or Coercion.

2. Involuntary Sexual Servitude of a Minor ...10-9(c)

- Knowingly subjects a person <18 yrs to “Commercial Sexual Activity”

3. Trafficking in Persons ...10-9(d)

- Participates or profits from an enterprise that does either #1 or #2 above



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Charged with:

- Involuntary Sexual Servitude of a Minor (17)
- Trafficking in Persons
- Promoting Juvenile Prostitution

All = Class-1 Felonies (4-15 years in prison or probation)

- Involuntary Sexual Servitude of a Minor = Class X if under 17 or by force or coercion

Safe Harbor???

Illinois Safe Children's Act (2010)

- Makes all children under the age of 18 immune from prosecution for prostitution.
- Diverts jurisdiction to Child Protective System of DCFS.
- Safe Harbor was never an issue in this case, because the team never considered her an offender:
 - Task Force Team on mission to recover a victim.
 - Never considered her a suspect.
 - No Miranda given, because not under arrest & no intention to charge her.
 - However, if we didn't have this, DCFS would have been nervous about working with us.

While Case Pending

- While Simmons held on \$100K Bail.
 - Does he figure out how to contact her?
 - Does she contact him in jail?
 - The officer & Amy maintain contact with victim, but initial surge of attention passes.
 - Victim goes on run from Group Home.
- Communication with DCFS pays off, because they notify us.

While Case Pending

- December 14, 2013
 - Same CPD Officer recognizes her picture (tattoo) on Backpage advertising “2-girl special”.
 - Determine what hotel she is in.
 - Once room is confirmed, police make entry and recover victim and another young girl with a client.
 - New offender (knows Simmons from neighborhood) caught in lobby.
- This time around, original victim is completely uncooperative... even with the officer she likes.
 - She won't discuss new case/offender.
 - Officers know better than to bring up Simmons & old case.

Litigation

- Disclosure of new case/recovery.
- State files Motion to Exclude Evidence of Prior/Subsequent Sexual History.
- August 2014 – Defense Motion to Suppress Evidence
 - Defense subpoenas her to testify for defendant.
 - Defendant's family bring her to court.
 - She testifies that she never told the police any of the facts which contributed to Probable Cause for Simmons' arrest... but admits telling the State's Attorney all the same facts a week later after Simmons was arrested.
 - Cross Examination was very Delicate! (Walking a tightrope.)
 - When the court broke for lunch, she approached Amy and asked to come up to our office and visit with us and talk about her life.
 - Motion to Suppress was denied.

Plea Negotiation

- After losing motion to suppress and attorney explains that we may also win the motion to keep out the victim's sexual history...
 - Defendant asked for an *Offer*.
- Offer Calculus:
 - Defendant had no prior record.
 - Sentencing range doesn't guarantee prison (Probation eligible).
 - Unclear what the victim will say if we subpoena her.
 - The judge has just made an implicit finding that the victim wasn't telling the truth in court at the motion. (Credibility problems!)
 - She was the only victim in the case, and she doesn't want him in jail at all, and has asked us to show leniency for "her Boo".
 - If she flips us in her trial testimony, the questioning will have to be less delicate... and don't want to create adversarial relationship.



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Pled Guilty 9/26/2014
Trafficking in Persons
Class-1 Felony
Sentenced to 5 years IDOC

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