

INVESTIGATIVE STRATEGIES

Techniques & Tools

Victim or Criminal?

If you are an active participant in the crime, are you a willing victim?

Perception vs. Reality

It's worth remembering...

- Victims have been seasoned into the sex trade. They are not willing participants.
- Pimps' livelihoods are based on their ability to manipulate victims.
- These activities are **ILLEGAL**.
- The photos of the underage girls on the internet are crime scene photos.
- The locations at which these photos were taken are actually crime scenes.

Trash Pulls

The trash going into a city garbage can make a difference. You can find proof that someone lives there, phone bills, used reloadable credit cards, massive amounts of condoms, photographs, DNA sources (toothbrushes, razors, etc).



Subpoenas / Court Order

- Backpage.com
- Utilize cell phone information from adds
- Cell cite information will allow you to “track” juvenile offenders.
- If the victim tells you that they had that phone with them all the time, you can watch them bounce across the boarder and from city to city.

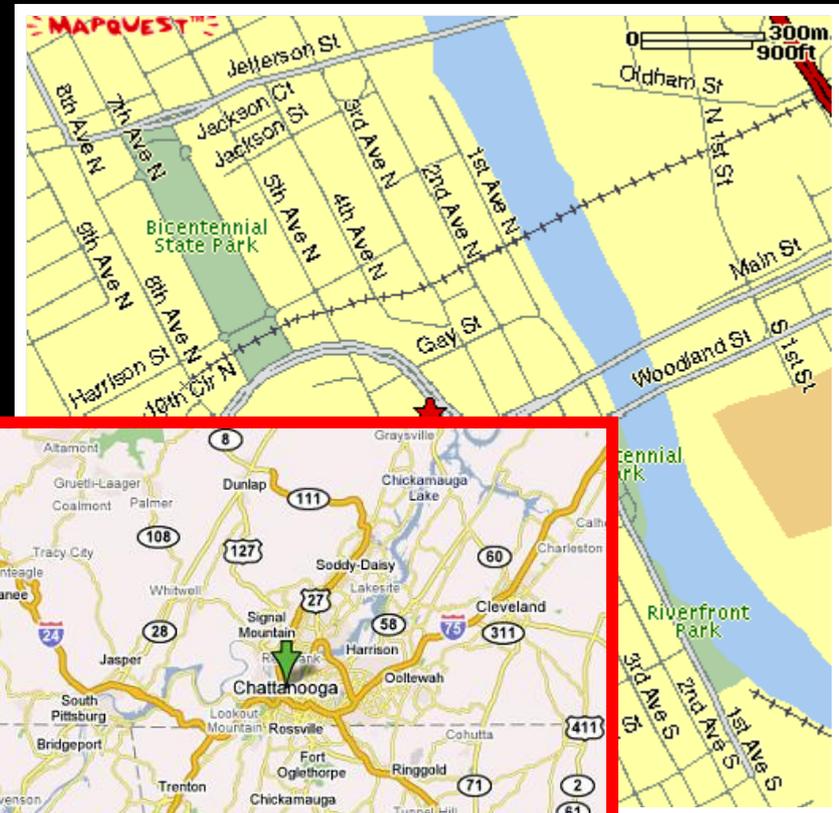
Search Warrant

- Everything we do in these cases is done for the purpose of gathering probable cause to execute a search warrant at a location.
- Hit the house or the hotel.
- Search warrants should be second nature to you.
- Seize money, phones and computers.
- Your case can and will be made.

*****This is the single most important investigative action.***

GPS

- See if there is a GPS tracker on the pimp's vehicle.
- He will lead you to hotels that may have your victim or that your victim is operating out of.
- Some rental cars already have them on the car.
- A lot of tote-the-note lots have them on their cars already.
- Just a matter of getting the info.



Work the Drug Angle

- Many prostitutes use drugs to get by on a daily basis.
- Pimps use drugs to control their women.
- They will typically not deal a lot of drugs, but they do have some laying around.
- Drugs can get you into the house with a search warrant.
- Many Pimps are leaving the drug dealing behind and dealing in prostitution instead.

Juvenile Court

A juvenile court judge who is educated on human trafficking is an invaluable ally. If they see photos of the girl on Backpage, how can they not conclude that she is in danger?



Interview the Adult Prostitutes

- Sex traffickers and other prostitutes WILL TALK TO YOU. Adult prostitutes will talk to you. They are involved in this business to the extent that it is burned into them. As long as you don't come off as disrespectful or judgmental, they will tell you a lot.
 - They will admit to being "escorts".
 - They will brag about the money that they make.
 - They will claim their pimp.
 - They will tell you where they have worked before.

Interview the Adult Prostitutes

- A few things to remember about “street” culture:
 - Individuals from this subculture are afraid of police who write things down. I have interviewed them for hours and then when I make a mark on a notebook the rapport building is shot.
 - The criminal subculture does not use real names.
 - These girls are “programmed” to accept responsibility for everything when they get caught. That is part of the culture. You can work around it, but be aware of that. It is unlikely that you will be able to see through that programming in a few hours.

Establish Knowledge of Age

- This is normally done during an interview with the pimp or prostitute. The question being “did they know the girl was underage?”. They will admit to burning a bus load of nuns before they admit to knowing the girl was 17 years old.
- Things like the girl not having an ID, not being able to drive, not being able to buy alcohol... all of these things are indicators that they have this knowledge.
- Document it.

Establish that the Victim was Controlled

Again, this is often done during the interview or by the phone.

- They had to call someone before and after a trick...
- They were subjected to violence...
- They were given drugs...
- Given alcohol...
- Moved far from home...
- Made to answer the telephone...
- Kept from talking on the phone...
- Locked in an area...

***** All of these things are done to victims to control them.**

Offline Searches

These will tell you where someone or their vehicle has been operating. You will run the person or the vehicle and find out where the vehicle has been in the past.



Street Cops

- These cops know the ins and outs of the neighborhoods. They will know the prostitutes and may have even cut them a break before.
- They have unofficial informants and can usually point you in the right direction if they do not already know the information.
- Give them a vehicle to look for and they will stop it and Field Interview everyone in the car.
- This is the information age. You should be able to text a photo of a runaway to the Sgt on patrol so he can get it out to his guys.

Hospital Records

Sometimes hard to get, but if there is an allegation of abuse you will need the hospital records. There is a big difference between hearing that a guy slaps his girls around and having hospital records from where he broke her ribs.

Flip the Johns

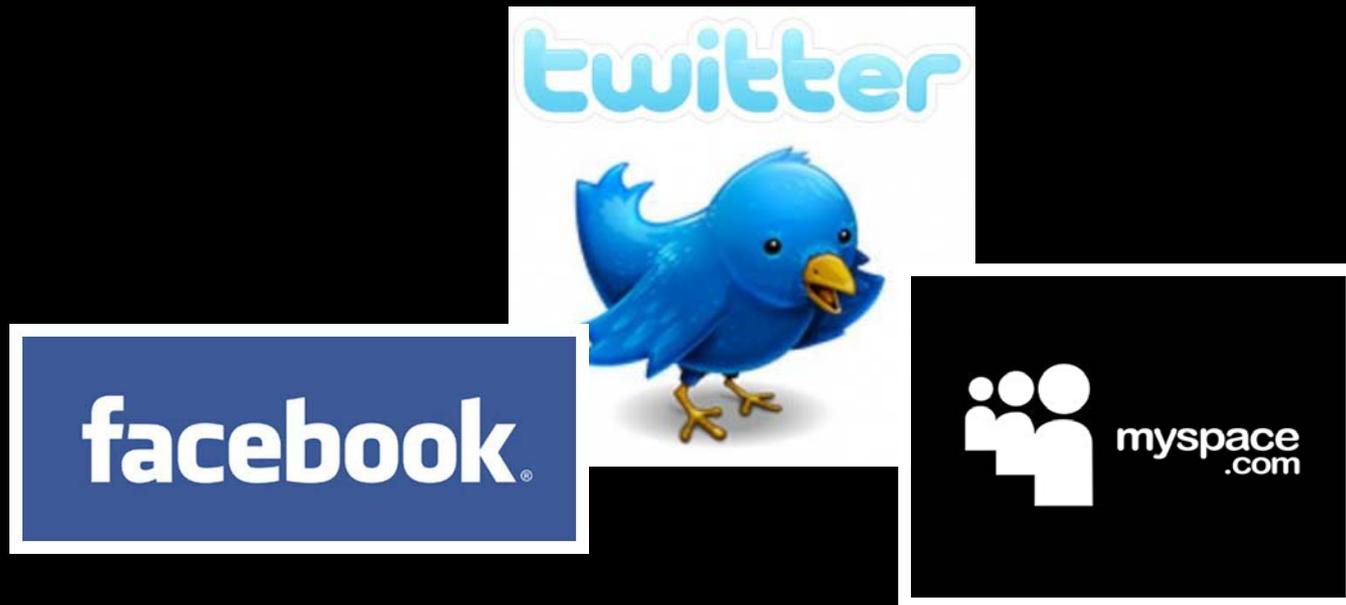
- Subpoena the phone records. Run the numbers and ID the Johns. Some of them will have a LOT to lose and will tell you all about what is going and what they did with who.
- Get the victims phone and call everyone in it. Just run down the list. It will disrupt the operation for a few days and it will dig up some Johns for you to call.
- Johns make great sources for your search warrants because the information that they are giving you is against their own penal interest. If you get 2 or 3 Johns that tell you the same thing... knowing that they could get arrested for telling you, then it is pretty much substantiated.

Neighbors

- Interview neighbors. They see things.
- Pull hotel records for the purpose of interviewing individuals who had a room across the hall or next door to the HT activity.
- They make excellent witnesses as well.

Social Networking

Social networking sites are very time consuming to browse, but definitely worth it as victims will post a lot of valuable information.



Federal Grand Jury

Step 1- Find an aggressive federal prosecutor.

Step 2- Identify your bad guys and everyone around them.

Step 3- Issue federal grand jury subpoenas to the “everyone around” the bad guy crowd... especially victims.

Step 4- Get them to tell on the bad guy in the grand jury.

Step 5- Charge them if they fail to show up or if they lie.

Stings

- Best tool of recovery.
- For juveniles, we just need the girl back. Get her to come to the hotel.
- A few things to remember:
 - The pimps and prostitutes know more about that hotel and what goes on there than you do. They know when certain conventions are coming into town.
 - They communicate better than we do. They call and check references. They will set up and watch a location just to check it out. They will call the front desk of the hotel to ask about you.
 - You are on THEIR turf when you are in hotels. They spend a lot more time there than you do.

“Fool’s Errands”

- Call a girl from Backpage:
 - See who shows up
 - See who leaves what house
 - See who calls who (if you have a pen register up).
 - See what car leaves where.
- Spoof cards work ok for this, but be careful prostitutes will let you call them and then they will call or text you back.

Hotel Records

The act of renting a room for the prostitution of a child is arguable money laundering. It is proof that someone was at a location and spent money there.

Dock Receipt

XYZ Company
101 Main Street
San Francisco, CA 94080

Ship to:
XYZ Company
101 Main Street
San Francisco, CA 94080

Ship from:
XYZ Company
101 Main Street
San Francisco, CA 94080

Ship date: _____ Ship time: _____

Ship quantity: _____ Ship description: _____

Ship weight: _____ Ship volume: _____

Ship value: _____

Remarks: _____

Received by: _____ Issued by: _____



Hotel Employees

- Some cities used to have and may still have Hotel / Motel units. Just divide the hotels among the cops in your vice squad, task force, crime suppression unit or whatever. Each officer will have from 3 to 10 motel that he or she is responsible for.
 - For each of their assigned hotels, that officer should be on a first name basis with the owner, night manager and most of the employees.
 - Have the owner on speed dial.
 - Drop in and say hi once a week.
 - Rummage through the guest list.
 - Look for cars or guest with local tags.
 - Watch rooms with high traffic.
 - Be there if you need them.
 - Bring the night clerk Starbucks.
 - This way if you need something from them, or if there has been some suspicious activity, they can let you know quickly. If you can have the photos of those girls in the employee break room of every hotel of your city... every cleaning lady looking for them... every janitor with a plunger looking for them...

Hotel Employees

- These hotel employees are not stupid. They know a pimp / prostitute room when they clean it.
 - If you are on good terms with them then they can feed you that information.
 - If you offer them a reward... just \$300 cash will motivate someone to make a call.
 - You can recover a juvenile and you get her cell phone which is golden to us.
 - Hotel employees may remember seeing the victim with your subject. Again, that is golden.

School Resource Officers

- Kids talk.
- SROs listen.
- Teenage girls **CANNOT** keep secrets.
- They will tell other girls who will tell the SRO.



Lack of Employment

Always document the pimp's lack of employment. Old booking information showing that they are unemployed is a good place to start. Always ask the friendly prostitutes if "G-Money" ever had a job. Again, this is critical in establishing certain necessary facts in money laundering cases.

Jail Calls



They are a pain to listen to, but they are invaluable. It is like a free T3. Same for mailcovers in jail. Bad guys talk on the phone, even when they are recorded.

Name that Hotel

- Take photos from Backpage and show them around to the hotels in a certain area until you find out which hotel the photo was taken in.
- Then, get the records from that hotel from when the juvenile and the pimps were in that room.
 - If the hotel is sketchy, just subpoena the entire guest register for the past 30 days or 90 days.
- Hotel workers often bounce from one hotel to another. They recognize the beds, the furniture and other things in the rooms. They may be able to ID which hotel the photos were taken in. It will take some legwork, but it is not difficult.

Photograph the Walls

Photo the walls and windows during your search warrants. This will help you to match the background. You want to be able to prove that photos that advertised the juvenile for prostitution were taken in THAT house or in THAT hotel room.

Arrest on False Statements

- Do not let people lie to you. Under 39-16-502(a)(2) it is an offense to: Make a report or statement in response to a legitimate inquiry by a law enforcement officer concerning a material fact about an offense or incident within the officer's concern, knowing that the report or statement is false and with the intent to obstruct or hinder the officer from
 - Preventing the offense or incident from occurring or continuing to occur; or
 - Apprehending or locating another person suspected of committing an offense.
- Class D Felony. They may beat the rap, but they won't beat the ride.

Document the Organization

- This will be done through Facebook posts, interviews, and other sources. ***Especially for federal cases, it is critical to prove that this is ORGANIZED criminal activity.***
- There should be a hierarchy and there will be a leader. Some of these groups will name their own organization or clique. Document that! Ask the girls “who is in charge”. Not just who they give their money to.

Teachers

- Girls talk.
- Teachers listen.
- Teachers can tell you who their BFF is and you can go and interview that girl.
- These BFFs are also good because they are friends of our victims on Facebook. That is useful.

Parking Lot Interdiction

You would be surprised at what you would see in the parking lot of a hotel if you sit there for a few hours.

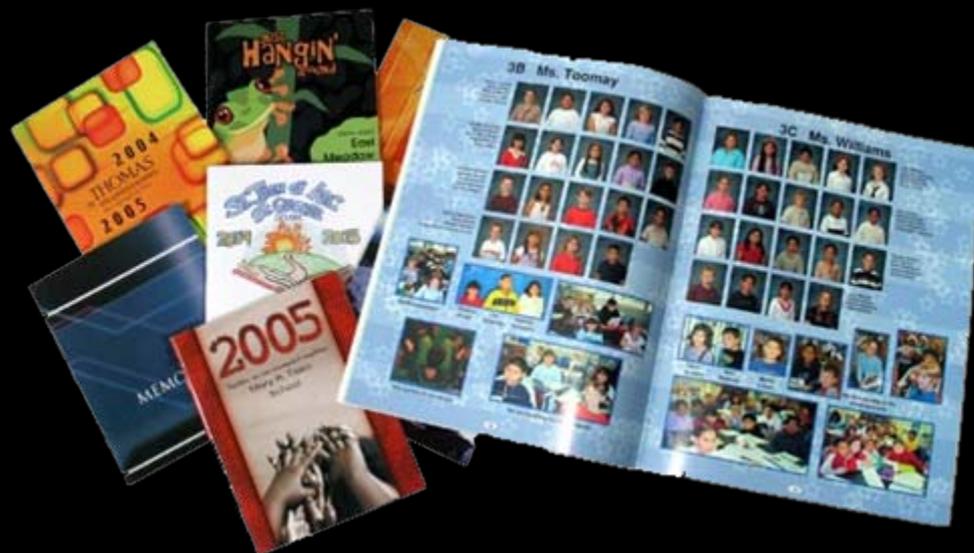


Informants

- Informants can do more than just buy dope. Ask your drug informants what they know about prostitution. Ask if they know about any young girls. Offer to pay them for the information as well.
- RECRUIT informants. Don't wait for them to fall into your lap.
 - Find that older stripper who has some younger sisters... Drop in on that coke head construction worker that has a teenage daughter... Go to the jail and pull a couple of the trustees down and start asking them about it.
 - Even your hardest criminals have a soft spot for kids. Most of them HATE pedophiles and those who would pimp them out.
 - It is something good to do on a slow day at the office, or if you happen to be down at the jail for something else anyway. If nothing else, it will also get the word out there that we are looking at HT cases.

Year Books

Get your hands on the year books for the high schools. Many of your victims and their associates were drop outs, but they were there for some period of time.



Stack Charges

If a pimp is trafficking girls, he is violating a number of offenses. Especially:

- Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of a Minor
- Promoting Prostitution
- Money Laundering
- Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor

Charge him with each and every little thing.

****Every time he posts a picture on the internet, it is a separate violation of promoting prostitution or child pornography.**

Vehicle Search Warrants

If a pimp or prostitute uses a vehicle to deliver themselves or another prostitute, you can articulate PC to search the vehicle. The tactic here is that you go and get a warrant for the vehicle and then search it at a more opportune time for your investigation. This is an ace you have up your sleeve.

You may want to search it when 2 or more girls are in the car. This will give you that many more phones to look through.

Sting to Build PC

If you know that your targets are operating out of a residence, put the residence under surveillance and then order up a girl.

If they bring the girl from the house then you may be able to go back to that house with a warrant.

Be Overt

Let EVERYONE know that you are looking at this particular group for a particular offense.

- Call his PO and tell him.
- Call the bad guy's attorney and tell him that you are going after his client for all the prostitution that he is doing, but that you would be interested in discussing the matter with him.

If the whole community knows you are looking at that crew, you may have some defectors.

- You will have some prostitutes who used to work for them come forward.
- You will have family members of girls who were pimped come out of the woodwork.
- It will also stir your targets.

Family of Prostitutes

Interview the family of the prostitutes. They may have tried to “rescue” their loved ones from the situation.

- They know where their daughters are.
- They know who you can ask to find out.
- They know about the abuse and the drugs and the hospital visits.
- Most will be glad to help.

Hotel Red List

- Some hotels have a separate file of people who are “banned” from the hotel. While getting records, you may have to ask for them to check the computer for this file specifically.
- These are people who have left the room in bad shape or who have been kicked out because they had too many people in the room. HT suspects often find themselves on this list.
 - As a side note, because they spend so much time in hotels, HT targets may be a member of a rewards program. A subpoena to the rewards program will tell you all the hotels they have stayed in under that program. The hotel may also have video of your targets roaming the hallways or photos of the damage they did to a room. If you can get the bad guys on video at the hotel with your juvenile victim, that is golden.

Tickets and Police Video

Pull tickets on the suspects every time they have been stopped by the police for any kind of violation. If you can, get the in-car video. That may place them with your victims.



Apartment Complex Management

A good apartment complex manager knows everyone in their complex. If they don't, the maintenance man will.

Go out and interview them. If there is a courtesy officer there he can be enlisted to help as well.

The juvenile HT victim that you are looking for may be kept locked up somewhere (we know that this has happened) but they must go out to meet people to make money for the pimp. The more people that you have looking for them the better.

ICE Involvement

Get ICE involved on anything that involves people from other countries. They have access to information that is critical to your case. In addition, there are a number of immigration related felonies that someone may commit just by checking a box on an application. ICE will know all of these.

Fusion Centers

Tennessee is not the only state with a fusion center, ours is just the best. Other fusion centers or intelligence centers may have a lot of information on your crew if that crew has bounced into another jurisdiction.

The most dangerous thing to these guys is a bored intelligence analyst (affectionately referred to as “Intel Squirrels” because of their tendency to collect little nuts of information).

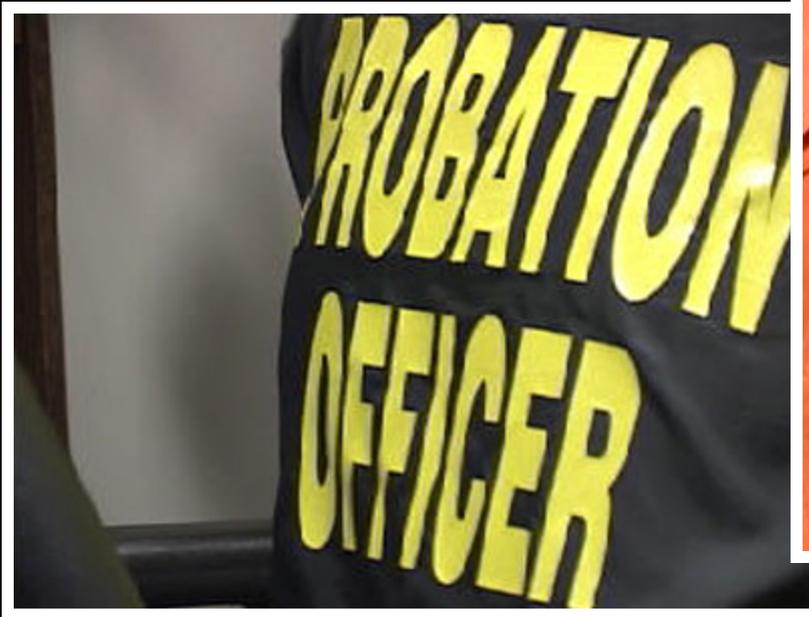
SA Jason Wilkerson...”Point is, I have been on cases for months only to find out that there is an Intel Squirrel in another state that has been tracking the same crew for longer. Squirrels sit on these bits of info because they do not have law enforcement officers at their disposal to act on the info, or they don’t know the value of what they have.”

Message Parlor Interdiction

- Just like interdiction at a crack house, post up around the massage parlor and interdict customers as they leave.
- Stop them for a traffic violation and interview them about what they were doing in the block building with all the young girls inside.
- If you get the same story from 3 or 4 guys, you are well on your way to a warrant.

Probation and Parole

This is always a good source of intelligence. Talk to probation and parole officers about your suspects or your victims.



Work through the Trial

- The case DOES NOT STOP once you make an arrest. Your best information will often come after the arrest.
- Pimps will ALWAYS try to control their women. After a while, it becomes a character flaw. They cannot sit in jail and stay off of the phone. Always check the jail calls. You will have other women coming out of the woodwork as well.

Electronic footprints

- Get the computer.



**Get the picture?

Electronic footprints

- Seize all phones and their chargers
- Seize all hotel keys and receipts
- Seize all computers and their power cords.
- Seize all medicines and female products.
 - Buying “Summers Eve” in bulk is a clue.
- Ask for screen names.
- Ask for street names.

A Good Witness

- After the dust settles, get your victim to some good services in the area.
- A “treated” victim makes the best witness.
- Talk to the counselors, ask them if they will help the victim work towards testifying against their perps.
- The treatment process for these victims takes months if not years. Be patient.

“Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you don’t move.”

~Will Rogers