

ILLICIT MASSAGE RED FLAGS



ADMINISTRATIVE

- City or county permit for something other than actual business being conducted. Example: permit for incense or candles when conducting illicit massage
- Location changes ownership, management, and names frequently, but remains focused around spa, massage, and/or reflexology
- Ads on RubMaps or other websites dedicated to illicit massage
- Ads share same or similar photos and descriptions of services with other Illicit massage locations in surrounding counties
- Individuals working at the location are not licensed to conduct massage

PRACTICES

- Overwhelmingly male clientele
- Overwhelmingly female staff – may be dressed in scrubs, robes, or dressing gowns
- Men sitting at the location in vehicles on cell phones or walking through the parking lot talking on cell phones and looking for location
- Hours not consistent with the surrounding businesses
- Significant business during the lunch hour, as well as late into the night
- Two-part pricing: original fee paid to front desk or management prior to going to the back and then second fee paid to person conducting sexual acts in the back
- Establishment requires table shower prior to massage
- Employees may not speak English and use hand gestures or Google Translate to communicate about sexual acts
- Used condoms in the parking lot or common trash receptacles
- Plumbing problems due to condoms in the pipes

PHYSICAL FEATURES

- Location may have a guarded entrance or stronger security measures than other businesses in the area
- Cameras both inside and outside the location
- Storefront may be curtained-off, painted, or blocked to avoid examination through the window
- Inside the location only front area is completely visible
- Location may be locked and opened only when someone at the door, while other businesses in area open during normal business hours

VICTIM BEHAVIORS

- Employees may be ferried to and from work by the employer
- Employees lack transportation and ability to come and go without employer
- Employees live at the location with food, clothing, beds, or cots onsite
- Employees supplied with food and necessities by the same person or persons at the worksite on a regular basis
- Employees cycle through the location and do not remain for more than a few months at a time
- Employees may or may not speak English
- Employees unwilling to interact with other business owners, managers, and employees in strip center
- Employees unable to have normal conversation about what is going on locally or within the strip center
- Employees fearful, depressed, anxious, and/or unwilling to make eye contact

Please Note: The Red Flags are to be viewed within an individual's context and circumstances. For instance, someone who is an airline pilot may have multiple hotel keys due to the fact that she travels for a living, while if you saw those same hotel keys on a 16-year-old child, it could raise potential concerns. No one Red Flag means that an individual is being trafficked. If you are viewing multiple Red Flags, it is a cause for concern and a reason to start asking questions and trying to obtain more information, if you can do so without putting yourself or the person you are concerned about in danger. In the end, if you believe that someone is being trafficked and is in immediate danger, call 911 and provide descriptions of cars, people, locations, etc. to law enforcement or if you need to remain anonymous, you can call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1 (888) 3737-888.