



Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy

Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov



Language Associated with the Commercial Sex Industry

There are many terms associated with the commercial sex industry and some vary from location to location. This is a list of some of the terms. This list does NOT include the terminology for, or the definition of various sex acts.

- To contact the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) about a child, email: Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov
 - To contact OCTPP about upcoming trainings and resources, email TraffickingTraining@acs.nyc.gov
 - Preventing Youth Trafficking webpage: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/traffickedyouth.page>
 - Resources for Professionals webpage: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/child-trafficking/resources.page>
 - “Children are NOT for \$ale” Trafficking Awareness Campaign materials: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/virtualresourcefair.page#AwarenessCampaigns>
 - Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It: Tools for NYC Child Welfare professionals (2025 version): <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/youth/childtrafficking/2024/what-you-can-do-about-it.pdf>
- **12:** Notifying others that law enforcement is in the area.
 - **411:** Seeking information.
 - **Agency:** Pre-arranged bookings only. Many have websites.
 - **AAMP:** Apartment Asian Massage Parlor: Occurs in a residential apartment instead of a commercial storefront.
 - **Automatic:** The victim’s “automatic” routine when the exploiter is not physically present. Can occur when the pimp is out of town or in jail.
 - **Baby Ho:** Very young person being victimized.
 - **Bag Up:** Arrested by police.
 - **Bait and Switch:** Different person than advertised shows up.
 - **BDSM:** Bondage and Discipline, Dominance and Submission, Sadism and Masochism.
 - **Beef:** Argument that can escalate to physical fighting.
 - **Berry:** Police car (red light looks like a berry).
 - **BFE:** Boyfriend Experience.
 - **Bi-doubles:** A booking with two victims or sex workers.
 - **BITCH:** Babe in Control of Herself. Common term used by pimps and johns to refer to women.
 - **Bizzo:** girl
 - **Blade:** aka **The Track, The Stroll.** Area where sex work actively occurs.
 - **Bottom or Bottom Bitch:** the #1 woman who acts as an enforcer.
 - **Branding:** A tattoo or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang.

- **Break a Bitch:** When the pimp, or someone acting for the pimp, takes the money earned from dates.
- **Break Yourself:** When a pimp wants the victim's money or for the victim to choose another pimp.
- **Breaking in a New Bitch:** When a pimp takes control of a new person.
- **Broke Luck:** When someone makes money, they have "broke luck" for that day.
- **Brothel (Cathouse, Whorehouse, Bordello, Knocking Shop):** A location where sexual acts are purchased.
- **Bumpin':** Taking another pimp's victim. **Aka Knockin' or Peelin'.**
- **Buster:** A wanna be pimp.
- **Call Girl:** Take appointments over the phone or internet.
- **Campaign:** The items (car, clothes, jewelry, electronics) a pimp displays to get chosen by a victim.
- **Car Date/Car Trick:** Picked up in the street for sex in a car.
- **Carpet Ho:** Works primarily in hotels.
- **Cateye:** Staring with sexual intention.
- **Catcher:** Wanna be pimp. Works for the pimp to keep the victims in line on the track.
- **Caught a Case:** When exploited or exploiter has been arrested and charged.
- **Catch a Fade:** Invitation to fight.
- **Certified:** A real pimp or victim. **Aka Stand-Up.**
- **Charge:** A fine for breaking the rules. Can include being kidnapped by a pimp to make up the owed money.
- **Checkin':** To put someone in their place, verbally or physically.
- **Choosing Fee:** Money to compensate to the original pimp when the victim chooses up to another pimp. **Aka Changing Fee.**
- **Choosing Up:** If a victim makes eye contact with a pimp, the pimp takes ownership. This can be done on purpose or accidentally. **Aka Coming Through A Pimp Door.**
- **Choozy Suzy:** A person who continually chooses up, going from pimp to pimp.
- **Chuleo:** Spanish for pimp.
- **Circuit:** A series of tracks within cities amongst which victims are moved. **"Working the "Circuit"** is when a pimp has a victim travel to other tracks across the country. The person will work a track until they stop making enough money or the police notice, aka **"heat is turned up"**
- **Client:** aka John aka Trick.
- **Combat Zone:** Cities try to confine sex business to one area.
- **Couch Dancing:** Strip club performance in a club area or private booth. John is clothed while victim is nude.
- **Cousins In Law:** Victims of pimp partners working together.
- **CREAM:** Cash Rules Everything Around Me.
- **Curb (Kerb) Crawling:** Driving down the street, looking for a "date".

- **Daddy:** Pimp/exploiter/trafficker (male or female). Aka PI, Mack, Boyfriend/Girlfriend.
- **Dates:** Interaction with Johns, Tricks (buyers of sex).
- **Dommes:** Female dominatrix.
- **Double Breasted:** When a pimp has other entrepreneurial duties (drug dealing, thievery)
- **Escort:** Paid “companion”. Dates arranged by telephone or Internet. Can be outcall (victim travels), or in-call (buyer travels). Not all escort services involve sex.
- **Exit Fee:** An outrageously large amount of money demanded by the exploiter for the victim to leave the life. (Most exploiters do not let their victims leave.)
- **Family or Folks:** The other members of the stable involved in “the life”.
- **Finesse Pimp (aka Romeo Pimp):** Controls others through psychological manipulation (“love”, friendship, guilt)
- **Fleek:** Looking good.
- **Flexing:** Lying.
- **Follow Your Money:** Pimps warn victims to take care of the money they are given. Losing money will result in punishment.
- **Fresh or Fresh Work:** An inexperienced person.
- **Fronts:** Small amount of money a pimp gives to a victim while working (cabs, condoms).
- **Frosted Flakes:** a fake, “sugar coated” pimp.
- **Get Burned:** Catch an STD.
- **Head Cut:** Victim beat down by the pimp.
- **Hooker:** Solicits johns on public places.
- **Household:** A stable of three or more.
- **House Mom:** Organizes, hires, works with women who strip at strip clubs.
- **Hurt:** Unattractive.
- **In Pocket:** Not speaking to other pimps, or paying other pimps (controlled).
- **Gorilla Pimp:** Controls through force and humiliation and pain.
- **Jakes:** Police.
- **John (Buyer, Trick):** Trades something of value for sex.
- **Kiddie Stroll:** Area that has younger victims.
- **Knock:** Trying to lure a victim from a pimp.
- **Lady:** Polite term used for female victim.
- **Lap Dance:** Strip club act where a woman will grind her body into the lap of a trick.
- **Long Green:** Big Money.
- **Lit:** Excited or intoxicated.

- **Loose Bitch:** Keeps choosing different pimps.
- **Lot Lizard:** Exploited at truck stops.
- **Mack:** Pimp/exploiter/trafficker (male or female). Aka PI, Daddy, Boyfriend/Girlfriend. A “Mack” Pimp is an upper-level pimp. Aka acronym for "Man Acquiring Cash through Knowledge".
- **Madam:** Manages a brothel, escort service or other trafficking house.
- **OG:** Original Gangster (old school).
- **On Blast:** Telling someone’s business to everyone.
- **Outcall:** A booking that does not occur on-site.
- **Out of Pocket:** when an exploited breaks the rules and makes eye contact with another pimp, or when an unaffiliated trafficked individual is harassed to force him/her to select a pimp.
- **Overnight:** A booking that includes an overnight stay.
- **P:** Pimp.
- **Party:** A sex act (as in “do you want to party?”).
- **Party Booking:** Hiring a group for an event.
- **Peeled:** When a pimp loses a victim to another pimp.
- **Peel a Trick:** When an item is stolen from a John.
- **Peep Show:** Live sex show behind a glass wall.
- **PIMP:** Exploiter who persuades and manipulates a person into sexual victimization. Aka acronym for Provided Income from Managing Prostitutes or Prostitutes In My Possession
- **Pimp Circle:** humiliation and intimidation by pimps swarming and hissing insults around the exploited, forcing the victim to make eye contact and thereby choose up.
- **Pimp Party:** Several pimps get together to abuse a victim for disrespect, trying to leave the life, or reporting the pimp to the police. The pimps gang rape, beat, urinating, defecate, and/or perform other forms of abuses on the person.
- **Pimp Stick aka Pimp Cane:** Item used by a pimp to beat a victim. Can be any material.
- **Pimps Up, Hos Down:** Victims need to be in the street, while pimps are on the sidewalk.
- **PI:** Someone else’s pimp.
- **Pipeline:** a chain of states through which victims are moved through a series of locations to markets.
- **Prostitute:** A person over the age of 18 who is paid for sex, and is not forced or defrauded or coerced.
- **Quota:** The amount an exploited must make before returning home.
- **Rabbit:** Goes from one pimp to another, frequently.
- **Reckless Eyeballing:** Looking around instead of looking down, especially at another pimp.
- **Renegade:** Without a pimp. **Aka Outlaw.**
- **Roll a Trick:** Robbing a trick with force.
- **Salty:** Upset or angry.

- **Scooby Snack:** When a pimp has sex with a victim but does not receive money from that victim.
- **Scratch:** Money.
- **Senior Citizen:** A victim older than 24 or a pimp in his 30s.
- **Seasoning:** Actions to break resistance and maintain compliance. Can include psychological manipulation, physical violence, rape, sleep or food deprivation, threatening a victim's family.
- **Sex Worker:** A person over the age of 18 who is paid for sex, and is not forced or defrauded or coerced.
- **Strip Club:** Paid entry club with "exotic" dancers. Some have back rooms for brothel activities or lap dances.
- **Romeo Pimp (aka Finesse Pimp):** Controls through psychological manipulation.
- **SIMP:** Fake pimp.
- **SOOB:** Small owner operated brothel or self-operated brothel.
- **Square/Squaring Up:** trying to get out of "the life" or "the game"
- **Stable:** The group controlled by the pimp.
- **Stack:** \$1,000.
- **Strip Club:** Establishment where which women and men take off their clothes off for the sexual stimulation of customers.
- **Stroll: aka The Blade, The Track.** Area where sex work actively occurs.
- **Sugar Daddy:** A john who pays a person's bills, buys things, and takes care of the person instead of just paying each time he has sex with the person.
- **Survival Sex:** Exchanging sex for basic needs to survive.
- **Sweatin' a Bitch:** When a pimp pressures a victim to choose him as her pimp. This can involve emotional and physical actions.
- **The Game or The Life:** The culture of exploitation.
- **Track: aka The Blade, The Stroll.** Area where sex work actively occurs.
- **Trading Up or Trading Down:** Exchanging victims like objects.
- **Trap:** Money earned and stored. A pimp may empty a trap several times a day.
- **Trap House:** Originally used to describe a place where drugs were sold, it has been extended to exploitation, meaning a location where there is only one exit which is heavily guarded. Victims are trapped inside and sex is exchanged for drugs.
- **Trick or Turning a Trick:** Act of exploitation.
- **Turn out:** Newly involved, or to be forced into exploitation.
- **Whip:** A flashy car.
- **Wifey or Wife in Law:** the other female "family" or "folks" of the stable. **Aka Sister Wife.**
- **Wire:** A pimp phone tree to share information, or a victim sending money to a pimp long distance.
- **Working:** Actively engaged in sex work or exploitation.