

SEX TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

While human trafficking is a transnational crime within every country, trafficking for sexual exploitation continues to be the most detected form of human trafficking.¹

Financial gains from criminal activity outweigh potential risks and high profits drive the traffickers' actions. Technology makes it difficult to identify traffickers.

Green Dot® or Vanilla gift cards and casino vouchers--discovered during traffic stops or when working a case--should be investigated as possible indicators of sex trafficking.

CURRENCY

Prepaid/reloadable credit cards not linked to bank accounts, as well as gift cards, are common forms of payment used by sex traffickers and their customers to avoid traditional banking systems and remain anonymous. During an investigation into a multi-state sex trafficking ring, detectives discovered that Vanilla gift cards were used to purchase online advertising to attract customers. Traffickers also use these cards to pay for items and services associated with sex trafficking, including hotel rooms and clothing for victims.

Prepaid Green Dot Visa cards:

- are reloadable with cash at retailers nationwide
- allow anonymity
- are issued with no credit checks
- allow balances and transactions to be viewed 24/7
- can be used wherever MasterCard or Visa debit or gift cards are accepted in the U.S.

Vanilla Prepaid gift cards are not reloadable but offer these features:

- allow anonymity
- issued with no credit checks
- never expire
- can be used in-store and online at millions of locations
- provide a summary of transactions

Balance Summary	
Available Balance	\$0.31
Original Value	\$50.00
Transactions	-\$50.38
Checks	\$50.00
Available Balance	\$0.31

Transaction	Amount
10/07/2016 04:47 AM PERMIL	-\$49.63
10/07/2016 04:47 AM PERMIL	-\$49.63
10/07/2016 04:47 AM PERMIL	-\$49.63
10/08/2016 08:10 PM INCOMM	+\$50.00



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CASINOS

Casinos with an affiliated hotel can be used by criminal organizations and traffickers as cover from law enforcement. Sex traffickers will send their customers to a casino and have the customer put money in a gaming machine and play for a brief time. The customer will “cash-out” and head to a pre-arranged hotel room, using the cash-out certificate to pay for services. Traffickers will redeem the cash-out certificates at different cash machines to avoid raising the suspicion of casino security or law enforcement.

¹ UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018*

Resources:

<https://www.vanillagift.com/home?country=US>

<https://www.greendot.com/law-enforement>

<https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking-and-financial-services-industry>

“Don’t look at prostitution as a victimless crime. Look further and see if you have a human trafficking violation. If you look below the surface, it’s likely you could be saving a trafficking victim.”

~Jeff Basterrechea,
RMIN Law Enforcement
Information Coordinator, Idaho



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