

The background of the slide features a large, semi-transparent Maricopa County Sheriff's Office badge. The badge is shield-shaped with a banner at the top that reads "SHERIFF" in blue capital letters. Below the banner is a circular seal containing the text "THE STATE OF ARIZONA" and "1912". Inside the seal is a landscape with a sun, mountains, and a river. The words "MARICOPA COUNTY" are written in blue capital letters along the bottom edge of the badge. A vertical blue dashed line runs through the center of the badge.

Chief Deputy
Russ Skinner

Maricopa County
Sheriff's Office

MCSO's Mission and
Partnership of
Education, Detection,
and Investigation of
Crimes involving Sex
and Human
Trafficking.



AZDEMA Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund

- MCSO worked in collaboration with the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (ASU STIR) to secure the AZDEMA Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund, which provides:
 - \$495k of Grant Funding over a three-year period for the partnership.
 - Creation of a dedicated Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEaT) Investigator.
 - The HEaT Investigator will be part of the East Valley Human Trafficking Task Force (EVHTTF) housed under Mesa PD.
 - MCSO will also augment current Special Victims Unit Detectives with enhanced training in Human Trafficking Detection and Investigation.
 - Assigned to work on trafficking cases developed from within the jail system and community cases where MCSO has primary jurisdiction.
 - Dedicated office space in the east valley for investigators and victim interviews.



MCSO Special Victims Unit – East

- **East Valley Human Trafficking Unit**
 - **Moved into an off-site location at 40 N. Center St. in Mesa in September 2023**
 - **3025 sq. foot professional workspace with proximity to MCSO's east side areas of responsibility**
 - **Neutral environment for victims to interact with detectives**
 - **Victim focused interview room**
 - **Waiting areas for child victims and adult victims of sex crimes**
 - **Winged Hope, a non-profit, donated furnishings to the lobby, play space, interview room, and kitchen**

Special Victims Unit – East





MCSO Custody Bureau

- **4th Largest Jail system in the nation (Harris County, TX, Cook County, IL and Los Angeles County, CA)**
 - **6 Jails plus the Intake Transfer & Release Facility (ITR)**
 - **Over 30 individual Divisions and Units make up the Custody Bureau**
 - **MCSO currently employs 2198 detention officers.**
- **Jail Statistics**
 - **Over 90,000 bookings average per year.**
 - **Average daily jail population, 7000 inmates.**

MCSO Jail Facilities



4th Avenue



Watkins Jail



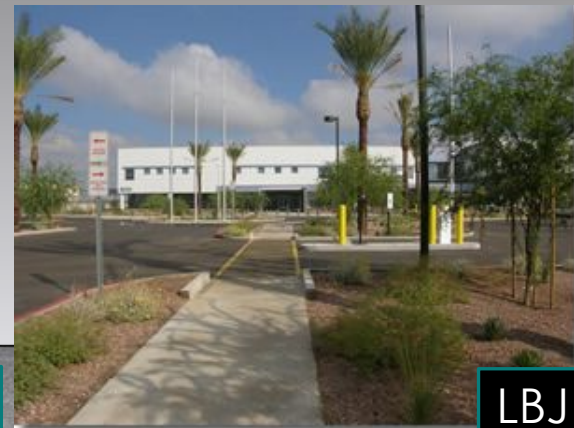
Intake, Transfer, and Release (ITR)



Estrella



Towers



LBJ



512 Facility

Identifying Victims in Custody

In 2023, ASU STIR, MCSO, sex trafficking survivors, and community partners developed a screening tool for inmates at Estrella Jail.

The screening tool is a set of 12 questions via inmate tablet.

The answers help identify if the inmates have been a victim of human sex trafficking.

The screening provides the inmates an opportunity to request services while in custody and when they are released from custody.

MCSO created sex trafficking awareness flyers directing inmates at the Estrella Jail to the screening tool.

Identifying Victims in Custody (cont'd)

- Since July 1, 2023:
 - 126 inmates have completed the screening that have been identified as a victim of sex trafficking.
 - 99 of the inmates were interviewed by one of 6 Detention Human Trafficking liaisons and were connected to community providers for services.
 - 71 phone calls to the Arizona Human Trafficking Tip Line have been made from MCSO Jails.
 - 4 inmates have been placed into housing for trafficking survivors and provided other services once released.
- Since 2019, four traffickers have been identified through tablet activity and turned over to Law Enforcement Detectives for further investigation.

Sex Trafficking Programs for Inmates

- As part of the AZDEMA Grant, MCSO and ASU STIR will offer sex trafficking programs and classes to MCSO's inmate population.
- On January 11th, 2024, ASU STIR will begin group classes at the Estrella Jail called, "Sex Trafficking Awareness and Recovery (STAR)".
- ASU STIR and the MCSO Programs Division are working on developing self-help classes related to sexual trauma that will be posted on the inmate tablets.

Screening Questions for Sexual Exploitation

Are you in the “life” and want help?

- Do you work where it may be common to be pressured into performing sex acts for money, such as a strip club, illicit cantina, or massage business?
- Have you ever been or are you currently being forced or tricked into trading sex for something of value like a place to stay, protection, drugs, clothing, or food?
- Has any other inmate asked you about doing sex work for them or their boyfriend, friend, pimp, manager, etc.?



Are you in the
“life” and want
help?

Are you a Sex Trafficking Victim?

Do you work where it may be common to be pressured into performing sex acts for money, such as a strip club, illicit cantina, or massage business?

Have you ever been or are you currently being forced or tricked into trading sex for something of value like a place to stay, protection, drugs, clothing, or food?

Has any other inmate asked you about doing sex work for them or their boyfriend, friend, pimp, manager, etc.?

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office strives to help end sex trafficking.

It is a common misconception that sex traffickers physically abduct their victims. Most sex trafficking occurs by the trafficker 'grooming' the victim, often convincing them that they will help in overcoming an obstacle or pretending to be a boyfriend or intimate partner. The trafficker uses abuse, trickery, and manipulation to convince the victim to engage in prostitution acts. It can then become very difficult to escape the situation.

While in our care, if you wish to get out of the 'life' or the 'game' or identify that you have been a victim of sex trafficking, we have resources available that can help you.

Please fill out the "Screening Questions for Sexual Exploitation" request form on the tablet under the Requests section and a Sex Trafficking Liaison will come speak with you.

Screening Questions Cont'd

- Is someone you don't know putting money on your inmate fund account and promising to take care of you once released from jail?
- Is someone you don't know sending you U.S. Mail, photos and/or messages on the tablet promising to take care of you and your basic needs once you get out of Jail?
- Are you ready to get out of the 'life' but feel scared or unable to leave the situation?
- When you are released from MCSO custody, would you like support services to get out of the 'life'?
- Would you like to speak to someone about this experience and be directed to services specific to victims of sex trafficking.



Internal Staff Training

- In 2018, MCSO partnered with ASU STIR and the McCain Institute to provide sex trafficking training to MCSO Civilian, Detention, and Sworn Staff.
 - Over 250 MCSO employees have completed sex trafficking training
- As part of the AZDEMA Grant, ASU STIR, and MCSO are in the process of developing a training video to present to all staff members.

Developed Industry Leading Training

- ASU STIR and MCSO developed a sex trafficking training session that is specific to jails and prisons entitled, “Sex Trafficking Behind Bars”.
 - Identifying victims in custody
 - Identifying how victims are recruited behind bars
 - Interviewing victims
 - Connecting victims with community services
 - Using jail intelligence to identify traffickers in custody
- ASU STIR and MCSO developed and published training pamphlet, “What You Need To Know: Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Training Tool For Adult and Juvenile Correctional Services”.

Sex Trafficking Behind Bars

- Sex Trafficking Behind Bars has been presented at:
 - [State Bar of Arizona Convention](#) in June 2023
 - [American Correctional Association Congress of Corrections](#) in August 2023
 - [Arizona Human Trafficking Summit](#) in October 2023
- Sex Trafficking Behind Bars is scheduled to be presented at:
 - [RISS Western Region Human Trafficking Summit](#) in April 2024
- Over **350** individuals nationwide have attended Sex Trafficking Behind Bars training.
- As part of the AZDEMA Grant, MCSO will present “Sex Trafficking Behind Bars” to MCSO and County Correctional Health Services at least **12 sessions over the next 24 months.**



MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Thank You!
Questions / Comments?