

10.8 INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

10.8.1 General

- A. The principal goal of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Human Trafficking (HT) Task Force is the successful prosecution of criminal violators. Successful prosecution requires close coordination with prosecuting authorities, both in the State and Federal courts.
- B. The Internet Crimes Against Children Human Trafficking (HT) Task Force of SID is responsible for the investigation and enforcement of Internet Crimes Against Children, all Child Pornography laws, and all domestic Child Sex Trafficking laws of minors in the State of Florida.
- C. This Unit is designed to work investigations cooperatively with the Federal, State and Municipal law enforcement agencies, as well as other divisions of the Broward Sheriff's Office. This unit will be involved in pro-active investigations directed toward specific targeted figures and situations which involve Child Pornography and Child Sex Trafficking within the State of Florida or having a nexus to the State of Florida.
- D. The Internet Crimes Against Children Human Trafficking (HT) Task Force conducts long term in depth investigations into the activities of those who produce, distribute and possess Child Pornography. The unit also conducts long term in depth investigations into the activities of those who induce by fraud, force, coercion, recruitment, harbor, or transport children for the purpose of sex trafficking. The unit will also investigate, on a case by case, adults involved in sex trafficking along with the federal partners who may ask them to join in on these priority investigations.

- E. The Internet Crimes Against Children Human Trafficking (HT) Task Force will assist with all training sessions and public functions pertaining to cyber safety presentations, at risk children, protecting children on line and sex trafficking.
- F. It is mandatory for any person within the Broward Sheriff's Office receiving information or coming into contact with suspect Child Pornography, or Child Sex Trafficking information to make immediate notification with the Internet Crimes Against Children Human Trafficking Task Force to investigate the case.

10.8.2 Selection and Retention of ICAC / HT Task Force Personnel

- A. Supervisors should evaluate prospective candidates for work history that indicates prior investigative experience, court testimony skills, ability to handle sensitive information prudently, and a genuine interest in the protection of children, and an understanding of the harmful effects of unlawful images. It is highly recommended that prior to any selection of personnel to the unit that an internship of a minimum of six (6) months is completed to ascertain that the prospect completely understand the effect of the harmful images. The ICAC / HT Commander or designee must ensure that each Task Force members work and internal affairs file are reviewed and approved prior to any recommendation or deputization into the Broward Sheriff's Office Internet Crimes Against Children Human Trafficking (HT) Task Force.
- B. Given the graphic nature of evidence routinely encountered in related investigations, the mental health of all personnel involved in such cases are of the highest concern. Supervisors are encouraged to make reasonable efforts to inform assigned personnel about the departmental employee assistance program, procedures, and services available to them. The Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Program also provides service (S.H.I.F.T. / Supporting Heroes in Foundation Mental Health Training) to personnel in the mental health well being of officers. S.H.I.F.T. will be introduced to newly assigned personnel and will also be part of an ongoing training. The ICAC / HT Commander or designee must ensure that S.H.I.F.T. is routinely scheduled for Task Force members at a minimum of every two years and at best yearly.

- C. Supervisors and/or his/her designee should work to ensure the long term well being of any individuals involved with ICAC / HT related child sexual exploitation investigations.
- D. The following recommendations are encouraged and are considered a “Safety Plan” for all personnel to decrease the chance in experiencing secondary/vicarious trauma such as:
- *Workspace considerations* - The physical location in an office should be conducive to feeling comfortable while at work. Offices with windows are best.
 - *Preparation for new employees* - Develop an interview process in that the potential candidate is educated about the true nature of the crime. Introduce S.H.I.F.T. training awareness and MHP availability.
 - *Work flexibility* - Allowing detectives and others who are exposed to unlawful images, contraband images, images depicting the sexual exploitation of minors to have flexibility.
 - Taking a break from exposure
 - Having an open-door policy to supervisors and MHP
 - Not view images within an hour of arriving to work
 - Not view images one hour prior to leaving work
 - Participate 2-3 times a week on on-duty fitness if authorized
 - Participate in after work hobbies
 - Allow participation of members in off hours job related interests (e.g. dive team, academy instructor)
 - *Educating colleagues* - Colleagues should be aware that viewing of child sexual abuse images should be treated as serious, restricted and stressful. New personnel will be assigned to a senior mentor within the unit.
 - *Work with Mental Health Providers (MHP)* – In compliance with local agency guidelines work with MHP to make recommendations for care of unit staff and provide education/training regarding self-care and stress management, etc.
 - *Best Practices* - ICAC Commanders and Supervisors are encouraged to share or seek out any daily office practices used by them or other ICAC Task Forces that can promote mental health and wellbeing.

- *Training* – Encourage attendance at trainings that discuss the specific stressors associated with exposure to images or videos depicting child sexual abuse (ie S.H.I.F.T.).

10.8.3 Responsibilities and Objectives

- A. To investigate individuals, who produce, distribute or posses Child Pornography, and those individuals who are involved with Child Sex Trafficking investigations determined by the State and Federal laws.
- B. To investigate any sexual exploitation of children through the use of technology or for the purpose of producing Child Pornography Videos or Photos, and those exploiting children in Child Sex Trafficking venues.
- C. To compile and maintain intelligence data pertaining to individuals engaged in this criminal activity where geographically feasible.
- D. To investigate the criminal activity associated with Child Pornography, Child Sex Trafficking, along with any manufacturing, advertisements, distribution and possession of these materials, using sound investigative practices.
- E. To conduct examinations of computers and any media by certified Computer Forensic Technicians.
- F. Child pornography is contraband and should be maintained pursuant to our policy and procedures. The transfer of evidence containing child pornography amongst law enforcement shall be done in a secure manner and the use of chain of custody documentation. Methods of transfer may include hand delivery, transmission of digitally protected file, delivery via a service which tracks the shipment, USPS, or other methods consistent with the agencies policy and procedures.
- G. Equipment (digital media, computers, laptops, external drives, thumb drives, etc.) will be reserved for the exclusive use of agency and/or designated personnel. When possible, undercover equipment and online accounts shall be purchased covertly. No personally owned equipment shall be used in ICAC / HT investigations and all software shall be properly acquired and licensed.

- F. Personnel will not use undercover computers, software, or online accounts for personal use. Absent exigent or unforeseen circumstances, all investigations should be conducted in a professional and ethical manner in an approved workspace as designated by a Supervisor. Alternative workspace policies may be developed and approved by the Commander (in consultation with OJJDP when appropriate) to allow for investigations to continue during event driven instances where the physical location of the investigator may vary. Any equipment removed from the designated work location will have prior approval from a supervisor.

10.8.4 Investigative Procedures

This section is to standardize investigative procedures and ensure that each investigation is conducted in a carefully managed system. The following procedures are outlined and will be adhered to, unless the circumstances of the investigation render them impractical. The investigator will consider these procedures as basic essential steps in an investigation.

- A. Obtain all available information from victims and witnesses.
- B. Document and utilize required memos and reports for case management.
- C. Due to the extreme sensitivity of Child Pornography and Human Trafficking (Child Sex Trafficking) cases, investigators will ensure the security of intelligence and avoid discussing investigations with anyone who is not directly involved in the investigation.
- D. The unit supervisor will be advised of the progress of each case, and will make the proper notifications via chain of command.

10.8.5 Undercover Investigations

Carefully managed undercover operations conducted by well-trained officers are among the most effective techniques available to law enforcement. Investigations will be conducted in a manner consistent with the principles of due process. Investigators will avoid unlawful inducement of any individual and will not engage in conduct that is shocking or offensive to fundamental fairness. Investigators will always be aware that their actions in addition to the offenders' may be an issue in deciding the validity of the investigation.

- A. Only sworn on-duty investigators of the Internet Crimes Against Children / Human Trafficking Task Force will conduct investigations in an undercover capacity.
- B. Private Citizens will not be asked to seek out investigative targets nor act as police agents in an online undercover capacity.
- C. Investigators will not under any circumstances, upload, transmit or forward Child Pornography images or videos. Investigators will not use minors to facilitate an investigation while working in an undercover capacity.
- D. Other than 10.8.5 C, images considered for uploading (undercover profile photo) will be approved by the South Florida ICAC Task Force Commander and reviewed by a State or Federal prosecutor. Images uploaded for investigative purposes will be nonhuman and encrypted. Sexually suggestive titles will not be used.
- E. During online dialogue, undercover officers should allow the investigative target to set the tone, pace, and subject matter of the online conversation.
- F. All online conversations with a suspect must be electronically logged and presented as part of the case file.

10.8.6 Unit Supervisor

The Internet Crimes Against Children / Human Trafficking Task Force supervisor is responsible for all Administrative, Operational, and Computer Forensic Unit issues. The responsibilities will be accomplished by assuming the following guidelines.

- A. Ensuring compliance of unit personnel with the Broward Sheriff's Office and SID investigative procedures.
- B. Evaluating overtime utilization.
- C. Ensuring maintenance of the liaisons with other concerned entities and criminal justice agencies sharing mutual concerns.
- D. Selecting and evaluating personnel.

- E. Acquiring pertinent knowledge related to Child Pornography and Child Sex Trafficking court decisions which may affect future operations.
- F. Maintaining operational and undercover controls.
- G. Evaluating and providing assignments to the unit detective and the computer forensic technician when necessary or needed.
- H. Participate in formulating investigative plans and establishing investigative priorities.

10.8.7 Unit Detective

Detectives assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children / Human Trafficking Task Force will be responsible for the following areas:

- A. Assess information received and determine prioritization based on the following:
 - 1. A child is at immediate risk of victimization.
 - 2. A child is vulnerable to victimization by a known offender.
 - 3. Known suspect is aggressively soliciting a child or a Child Sex Trafficker "Pimp" advertising a child or minor for sex.
 - 4. Traders of images that appear to be home photography with domiciled children.
 - 5. Aggressive, high-volume child pornography traders who either are distributors, repeat offenders, or specialize in sadistic images.
 - 6. Traders and solicitors involved in high-volume trafficking or belong to an organized child pornography ring that operates as a criminal conspiracy.
 - 7. Distributors, traders, solicitors of images or digitally altered images of child pornography.

- 8. Any other form of child victimization.
- B. To assign an SID Intelligence number to each case. This number will be obtained by SID analytical personnel.
- C. Document all action taken on each case using the SID/ Activity Manager case management system.
- D. Provide SID analytical support with a copy of intelligence memos and reports for entry into the data base.
- E. Maintain monthly activity reports in detail. This report will contain all cases received, giving a current status of each investigation.
- F. Maintain chain of custody of all case evidence according to departmental policy.
- G. Update all case activity and documentation in a timely manner.
- H. Any referrals received by this unit will be documented on appropriate log sheets documenting critical elements of the case.
- I. Maintain the coordination and prioritizing the forensic analysis of the computer seized as a result of all investigations.
- J. Identify all equipment for technological needs of the unit.

10.8.8 Computer Forensic Technician

The primary purpose of the Computer Forensics Unit (CFU) is to provide computer evidence recovery services, forensic examination services, and expert testimony to Broward County's law enforcement agencies and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Human Trafficking task Force.

- A. To assign a forensic examination number to each case.
- B. Document all action taken on each case using the current assigned case management system.

- C. Provide investigators with a copy of information memos and reports for the forensic examination.
- D. Provide investigators with a disk(s) or other media storage device(s) containing just the image/video findings, separate from forensic reports, to be used to comply with NCMEC submissions procedures regarding NCMEC's review for identified children.
- E. Maintain monthly activity reports in detail. This report will contain all cases received, giving a current status of each investigation.
- F. Maintain chain of custody of all case evidence according to departmental policy.
- G. Update all case activity and documentation in a timely manner.
- H. Any referrals received by this unit will be documented on appropriate log sheets documenting critical elements of the case.
- I. Maintain the coordination and prioritizing the forensic analysis of computers seized as a result of all investigations.
- J. Identify all equipment for technological needs of the unit. Forensic systems will be licensed and validated.
- K. Follow all procedures set forth in the Computer Forensic Unit General Policy.

10.8.9 ICAC / HT Computer Forensics Unit (CFU)

A. Office Access;

Access to the CFU examination work areas is restricted to CFU, Broward County Sheriff's Office personnel and other authorized law enforcement personnel. Independent experts are not allowed to be present in the CFU during any analysis or re-analysis of evidence. They are not allowed to observe, photograph, make notations, or participate during CFU examinations. The independent experts will have an opportunity to review results and / or to later conduct their own independent exam when permitted by the courts.

B. Examination of Evidence

Examinations will be conducted in accordance with the Computer Forensic Unit General Policies

10.8.10 Court Related Issues

A. Independent Expert / Court Orders

All requests to view evidence, to review casework, or to examine evidence by independent experts will be prearranged through the State

Attorney's Office or prosecuting authority involved in the investigation in question. In addition, all requests must be accompanied by a court order or a written approval from the State Attorney's Office or the prosecuting authority prior to the independent expert or defense attorney visiting the Computer Forensic Unit.

Upon receipt of a court order to allow an independent expert to examine evidence containing child pornography contraband, the concerned examiner shall provide the prosecuting authority a copy of the **PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE REVIEW OF DIGITAL EVIDENCE CONTAINING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CONTRABAND (BSO CFU A1) SEE ATTACHMENT AA**

Any examiner who receives a court order to turn over child pornography contraband, or which contains language different supplied in BSO CFU A1, shall notify the CFU Supervisor.

B. Independent Experts in the Lab – Limits:

While the CFU acknowledges and complies with "court orders" which direct them to make evidence available to independent experts, the Division will impose certain limitations regarding independent experts working within the CFU. Any practice that is considered a detriment to the routine, efficient or accurate work of the CFU will not be condoned and all CFU representatives should solicit consideration for the court, or prospective prosecutor.

The CFU shall not supply computer equipment, operating system software, forensic software, communication equipment, additional media, or other supplies or peripherals needed for the independent's expert examination.