



**Human trafficking** is a crime that involves exploiting a person for forced labor, services, or commercial sex. An Illicit Massage Business (IMB) is a massage establishment that serves as a front for a commercial sex operation, often involving victims of human trafficking.

## Human Trafficking **RED FLAGS** for Illicit Massage Businesses:

- Primarily female employees.
- Workers living at the business.
- Workers transported to the location by the owner or manager and all arriving and leaving at the same time.
- “Massage therapists” who are unlicensed.
- Mostly male customers.
- Customers parking away from the business, and watching for law enforcement.
- Business hours after 9 p.m.
- Massage prices below general market rates.
- Showers or shower tables.
- Multiple surveillance cameras.
- Window coverings that block the view of everything inside.
- Locked front door, must be buzzed in to enter; entrance is through side or back door of the establishment.
- Employee indicating a need for a large tip and showing distress when they don't get it.
- Employees working long hours, or always available “on demand.”
- Researching the phone number brings up illicit advertisements or reviews.

IMBs have an estimated **\$2.5 billion** annual revenue.



Report suspicious activity to the National Human Trafficking Hotline  
**Call (888) 373-7888 or TEXT “BE FREE” (23373)**

Learn more at: [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking)  
For questions, contact: [humantrafficking@oag.texas.gov](mailto:humantrafficking@oag.texas.gov)

