



IT'S ALL ABOUT STRENGTH

SUCCEED THROUGH RESILIENCE

EMPOWER NEW GROWTH THROUGH HOPE

HISTORY OF STRENGTH COURT

- ▶ Collaborative existed long before the Court opened
- ▶ Meetings with juvenile presiding judge, Mercy Care, the McCain Institute, ASU and stakeholders.
- ▶ First STRENGTH Court in August 2018

What is the STRENGTH Court?

- ▶ It is a court designed to help victims of sex trafficking. We address all aspects of their case including: counseling; safe and appropriate housing; education and any other barriers to success
- ▶ Involvement in our court is voluntary. Juveniles are not prosecuted for trafficking related offenses in our court
- ▶ We use a victim centered, trauma informed approach. It is very important to build trust and a good rapport with the juvenile
- ▶ It's all about collaboration
- ▶ Who is in the Court? Attorneys, child and parents, survivor mentor, DCS case manager, high needs case manager, Lisa Luchessi, probation officer (delinquency cases) and CASA if one is appointed
- ▶ Staffing cases. This is a key component

IDENTIFYING CONFIRMED SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS


- ▶ Police
- ▶ Mental health providers
- ▶ Department of Child Safety
- ▶ Probation officers

Collaborative

- ▶ Also, some victims will deny even if they have been trafficked. Some may not realize they have been trafficked. Survivor mentors can be extremely helpful.
- ▶ If we suspect a juvenile has been trafficked, but we cannot confirm, they will not be seen in the STRENGTH Court. We routinely communicate to see if a juvenile goes from being a suspected to confirmed victim.

WHAT DO WE DO IN COURT?

- ▶ Every victim is different. Knowing their story is critical to helping them.
- ▶ Staffing occurs before the case is called on the record
- ▶ My approach is different given the dynamics of a case
- ▶ Typically we don't talk about trafficking in court. We talk about keeping the victim safe, making different choices, staying away from neighborhoods or people who can trigger them and so forth
- ▶ Key is to get them help to heal and let them know we are here to help in any way we can. Entire team working to help them go from victims to survivors to thrivers



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