

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOGNIZING, REPORTING AND ELIMINATING
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Adopted by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Board of Governors on March 25, 2021.

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) is an organization of highly regarded domestic relations attorneys, the mission of which is “to provide leadership that promotes the highest degree of professionalism and excellence in the practice of family law,” and consists of highly skilled negotiators and litigators who represent individuals in all facets of family law; and

WHEREAS the AAML provides leadership and guidance in family law policy matters, assisting states in evaluating, passing and enforcing just laws for the protection of children, prevention of domestic violence and sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS AAML recognizes that human trafficking is a crisis, leaving victims and families of victims with significant, life-altering, long-term wounds that may never heal. The United States Department of Justice defines human trafficking as “a crime that involves exploiting a person for labor, services, or commercial sex. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its subsequent reauthorizations define human trafficking as:

- a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- b) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. (22 U.S.C. § 7102(9)).ⁱ

WHEREAS the National Foster Youth Institute reports that “60% of all child sex trafficking victims have histories in the child welfare system.”ⁱⁱ According to Huffington Post’s Malika Saada Saar, in her article entitled, *Stopping the Foster Care To Child Trafficking Pipeline*, “in 2013, 60% of the child sex trafficking victims recovered as part of an FBI nationwide raid from over 70 cities were children from foster care or group homes.”ⁱⁱⁱ AAML acknowledges that many family law practitioners come into contact with children in the foster care system, as well as other potential victims of human trafficking.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers will strive to educate practitioners on how to recognize, report and eliminate human trafficking. It is the policy position of AAML that the human trafficking crisis deserves prompt attention, swift action and will assist legislators in formulating laws that prevent future victims and severely punish traffickers.

ⁱ Department of Justice; www.justice.gov/humantrafficking

ⁱⁱ National Foster Youth Institute, Sex Trafficking: Sex and human trafficking in the U.S. disproportionately affects foster youth

ⁱⁱⁱ HuffPost, *Stopping the Foster Care to Child Trafficking Pipeline*, Malika Saada Saar, January 23, 2014