

HYDE COUNTY HOTLINE, INC.

We are committed to promoting dignity, respect and safety at home resulting in safer community.

Visit us at: Website: HydeCounty-Hotline.org Facebook: [Hyde County Hotline](https://www.facebook.com/HydeCountyHotline)

May Community Newsletter 2019

NC teen runaway forced to become a sex slave after meeting man on Facebook, feds

[BY JOE MARUSAK](#)

APRIL 25, 2019

A Charlotte man is accused of turning a North Carolina teen runaway into a sex slave in Charlotte and Miami after meeting her on Facebook, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

The teen thought the man was taking her on a road trip to Miami, “where she would just smoke and walk on the beach,” according to an April 16 criminal complaint filed by an FBI agent in Miami. Instead, he forced her into prostitution at Charlotte and Miami hotels, the agent said.

The victim met up with the man after she ran away from her foster home in Greensboro on Feb. 24 and went with a friend to Columbus, North Carolina, the FBI agent said. Columbus is about 85 miles west of Charlotte in Polk County.

The complaint charges Willie Dishon Matthew Obadiah with sex trafficking of children by force, fraud or coercion, which carries a sentence of up to life in prison. On Thursday, U.S. Magistrate Judge David Cayer in Charlotte ordered U.S. marshals to take Obadiah to Miami.

The victim told Obadiah she was 18, although she is 17, according to the complaint. Obadiah told her she was now “part of his family,” the agent said in the complaint.

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Obadiah is accused of first driving the victim to a Charlotte hotel on Feb. 28, where he told her he would post online ads of her “for prostitution services,” according to documents in U.S. District Court in Charlotte. She was forced to take three prostitution “in-calls” for sexual intercourse, court records show.

On March 1, Obadiah left for Miami with the victim and three other females, according to the complaint. The teen was forced to use cocaine along the way, the FBI agent said in the complaint. In the Miami area, she was forced to take opioid pills, according to the complaint.

The teen was forced to perform sexual intercourse with four men at a Miami hotel and was sexually assaulted by Obadiah, the FBI agent said. When the teen escaped the hotel room, Obadiah caught up with her and took her to South Beach to stay with the other females who’d traveled with them from North Carolina.

When the teen told the other females she was only 17 and that Obadiah assaulted her, the other females “drove her to a relative’s home in the Miami area and left her there,” according to the complaint.

[The News & Observer](#)



- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner
- On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls, approximately 15 calls every minute
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.
- 72% of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner; 94% of the victims of these crimes are female.

DV Homicides in NC January 1 - March 21, 2019 (12 Homicides)

What is emotional abuse?

The parameters of emotional abuse — compared against simply arguing with your partner, being upset at something your parent did, or saying something that hurts your friend’s feelings (even if you yell it). These behaviors are all normal, and usually worked out when everyone involved gets to a cool calm.

So how do we define emotional abuse? Jeffrey A. Lieberman, the director of the New York State Psychiatric Institute, [describes it as](#) “a pervasive imbalance of power in a relationship.” The [Australian Institute of Family Studies](#) identifies 5 “behavioral forms” that can cause this imbalance of power:

1. Rejection
2. Isolation
3. Terrorizing
4. Ignoring
5. Corrupting



This can play out in a number of different ways. It might be emotional abuse if someone in your life is:

1. Constantly criticizing what you do, say, or look like
2. Shaming or blaming you for your behavior, either subtly or implicitly
3. Calling you names — even when you ask them to stop
4. Humiliating you at home and in public
5. Threatening you or those you care for if you don’t do what they want
6. Threatening to hurt themselves if you don’t do what they want
7. Using ultimatums to get you to do or say what they want
8. On the flip side, withholding communication or affection from you if you don’t do what they want (e.g., giving you the silent treatment)
9. Logging into your email, phone, or social media profiles without your permission
10. Discouraging you from spending time with other people, going to work or school, or other necessary appointments
11. Controlling your finances or other assets
12. Deflecting blame or their responsibility for any of the above actions, leaving you to feel like you’re the one at fault (aka, gaslighting) [Source](#)

Hyde County Hotline

Crisis Intervention, Advocacy and Prevention

Confidential Emergency Shelter

24 Hour Crisis Line 252-925-2500

PO Box 335

Engelhard, NC 27824

Tel: (252-)925-2502

Fax: (252)925-2501

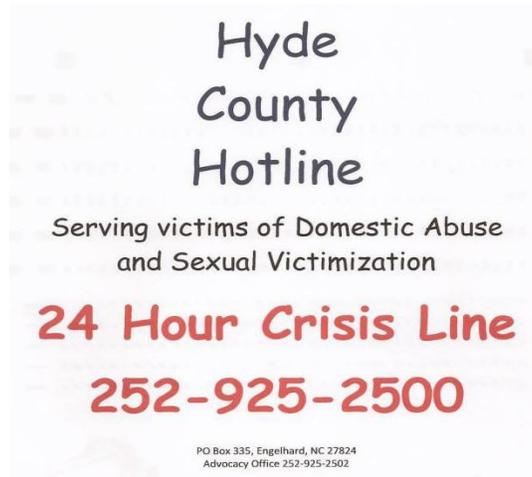
WHAT WE DO

- Crisis Intervention
- Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy
 - Human Trafficking Advocacy
 - Survivor Services
 - Safe Shelter
 - Support Groups
 - Referrals
 - Programs and Presentations
- Participates with DSS Work First Program

We serve victims of sexual victimization, domestic violence and human trafficking and we do not discriminate regardless of race, color, sex or sexual orientation.

OUR MISSION

The purpose of Hyde County Hotline, Inc. is to work to eliminate domestic abuse, sexual victimization and Human Trafficking and provide safe shelter in Hyde County, North Carolina through the collaborative efforts of a compassionate community. We promote dignity, respect and safety at home resulting in safer communities.



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**Thank you to the family Violence Prevention Services Program
US DHHS, and NC Council for Women for financial support.**