

University of Rhode Island

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Tattoos of Girls Under Pimp Control & Pimp Rules for the Control of Victims

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Tattoos of Girls Under Pimp Control & Pimp Rules for the Control of Victims

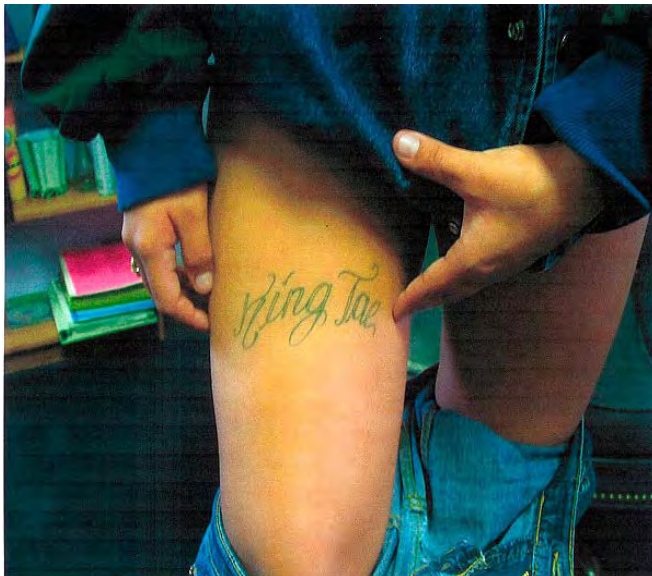
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I've read a few responses to the Citizens Against Trafficking Bulletin on "Prostitution in Strip-Clubs in Providence." Some people have expressed skepticism that girls and women are tattooed and branded by pimps.

I have been collecting evidence of pimps' practice of tattooing victims for several years. Tattooing, and sometimes branding or scarification, are marks of ownership. It is one of the ways that pimps maintain physical and psychological control over emotionally vulnerable girls.

The girls and young women are frequently tattooed with the initials or street names of pimps. Marks also include gang symbols and \$ signs or other symbols for the money the girls earn for the pimp.



In this image, the pimp's street name was "King Tae."



I took this photograph of the back of a young African-American woman's neck. Girls are required to call their pimps "Daddy."

The next images are tattoos on three girls, aged 14 to 17. A pimp in Arizona with the street name of "Lay Low" had these girls under his control. A variation of his name is tattooed on each girl.



"Lay Low"



"One and Only Lay Low"



"Lay Lows Property"



Teen girl being tattooed with the pimp's street name less than three weeks after she met him. The rectangles represent packets of cash. Note the apparent bruising on her hand. "Pimps Go Online to Lure Kids Into Prostitution, By Kevin Poulsen, February 25, 2009 | <http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2009/02/pimping.html>

Pimp Rules for the Control of Victims

In Citizens Against Trafficking's interview with Ruth, she said that pimps have a very strict "system" of unwritten rules that the girls have to follow. The following is an actual list of rules for girls controlled by a pimp.

'Rules to pimp home'

Police found this handwritten collection of "rules" in Carlton "Privilege" Simon's car when he was arrested on suspicion of promoting prostitution on Jan. 25, 2006. Simons and his girlfriend, Shernette Reevey, were convicted of forcing the 18-year-old to prostitute herself.

Rules to Pimp Home

- ① Never disrespect your pimp.
- ② Never let anyone disrespect your pimp.
- ③ Trust your pimp.
- ④ Stay loyal, ~~never~~ lie, stay honest with your pimp.
- ⑤ Never let black people see your face or eyes. Black only see the back of your head. Your pimp should be the one and only black person you ever see.
- ⑥ Respond and talk to your pimp with ^{manners and} respect at all times using "daddy" in each sentence.
- ⑦ Be down and dirty, side or die for your pimp even if involves sacrificing yourself. Your pimp is your priority, your primary and your #1 and you are to see to his every need.
- ⑧ When in doubt ask your pimp.
- ⑨ Always obey your pimp.