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Sex trafficker John Spencer convicted of trafficking, promoting prostitution, assault

[Gary Craig](#), @gcraig1 Published 7:14 p.m. ET March 13, 2018 | Updated 7:20 p.m. ET March 13, 2018



(Photo: Provided photo)

An Irondequoit man who assaulted women whom he sexually trafficked has been convicted of 22 criminal counts, including sex trafficking and promoting prostitution.

A jury in state Supreme Court Tuesday convicted John Spencer, 42, of 22 criminal counts. The crimes largely stemmed from Spencer's prostitution operation he ran out of a city home.

Three women whom Spencer trafficked testified at his trial, according to Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Buckley, who heads the sex crimes bureau at the DA's Office.

"The verdict would not have been possible without the courage of the victims and their bravery in testifying," Buckley said. "It's not easy to break the cycle of abuse."

The three women were all in their 20s, Buckley said.

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Among Spencer's criminal convictions were sex trafficking, promoting prostitution, the assaults of the victims, and unlawful imprisonment.

Spencer advertised the victims on prostitution websites. He was convicted of running a prostitution operation from April 2015 until October 2016.

Spencer took advantage of the women's use of drugs, Buckley said.

"He preyed on their vulnerabilities," she said.

Once a quiet secret, sex trafficking is now much more recognized as a community ailment. Buckley said residents who suspect an individual may be the victim of sex or labor trafficking should call law enforcement to report the suspicions.

"It's happening across our community," she said.

The case was investigated by the New York State Police special investigations unit.

Spencer is scheduled to be sentenced by state Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi on April 18.

GCRAIG@Gannett.com