

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

Arizona Report Card 2016

Arizona law provides substantial penalties for sex trafficking and gives law enforcement critical investigative tools to pursue demand but buyers of commercial sex acts may claim mistake of age in offenses against older minors, shifting the burden to prosecutors to obtain meaningful penalties. Criminal liability for prostitution has not been eliminated for minors who may face barriers to treatment and victims' compensation to fund their recovery.

Final Score

84

Final Grade

B



10

10

21

25

15

15

7.5

10

15.5

27.5

15

15



Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Arizona's sex trafficking law clearly defines a minor under the age of 18 used in a commercial sex act as a human trafficking victim without regard to use of force, fraud, or coercion. The state has several commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) statutes, including child prostitution, taking a child for purpose of prostitution, and commercial sexual exploitation of a minor. The prostitution offense refers to the trafficking statute to provide an affirmative defense for trafficking victims. The state racketeering law is available to prosecute enterprises that commit sex trafficking, child prostitution and sexual exploitation of children offenses.



Criminal Provisions for Demand

Arizona's sex trafficking law may apply to buyers who "obtain" a minor for commercial sex acts, following federal precedent. The CSEC child prostitution law includes the crime of buying sex with a minor. While enhanced sentencing provides sufficient penalties when the victim is under 15, the penalty for buying sex with a minor drops to a Class 6 felony when the minor is 15 or older and the prosecution does not prove the buyer knew or had reason to know the victim was a minor. When the victim is 15, 16 or 17 years old, buyers may assert an age mistake defense to avoid the higher penalty under the child prostitution law. Aggravated luring a child into sexual conduct and unlawful age misrepresentation may provide a means of prosecuting buyers who use the Internet to solicit sexual conduct with minors. Buyers convicted of sex trafficking face mandatory restitution, while those convicted of other crimes may be required to make restitution if they cause economic loss to the victim. Buyers of sex with minors must register as sex offenders if convicted of sex trafficking or child prostitution involving a minor under 15 or an older minor who the buyer knew or had reason to know was 15, 16 or 17 years old.



Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

Sex trafficking and most CSEC offenses are Class 2 felonies punishable by 3–12½ years imprisonment, child prostitution offenses are a Class 2 felony punishable by 10 to 24 years imprisonment, and taking a child for purpose of prostitution is a Class 4 felony punishable by 1–3¾ years imprisonment (child 15–17) or as a Class 2 felony by 13–27 years imprisonment (child under 15). Any equipment used by a trafficker in the commission of CSEC is subject to mandatory criminal asset forfeiture and asset forfeiture is available in most felony violations. The offense of child prostitution also applies to traffickers and is punishable by 13–27 years imprisonment (child under 15), 7–21 years (child known to be 15–17), or 4 months–2 years (child 15–17). Traffickers convicted of any felony face a possible fine up to \$150,000. Additionally, aggravated luring a child into sexual conduct and unlawful age misrepresentation may provide a means of prosecuting traffickers who use the Internet for sexual conduct with minors, which could include selling commercial sex acts with a minor. Traffickers convicted of sex trafficking face mandatory restitution. A trafficker convicted of sex trafficking or CSEC offenses must register as a sex offender. Grounds for termination of parental rights include a conviction for commercial sexual exploitation of a child or that a trafficker's child suffered abuse, defined to include child prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation of a child.

Demand | Selected Commercial Sex Crimes

Crime (name of law abridged)	Classification	Sentence	Fine (possible)	Asset Forfeiture (available)
Sex trafficking (§ 13-1307)	Class 2 Felony	3-12.5 years	Max. \$150,000	○
Child prostitution—minor under 15 (§ 13-3212(E))	Class 2 felony	13–27 years	Max. \$150,000	○
Child prostitution—defendant knew/ had reason to know minor was 15–17 (§ 13-3212(F))	Class 2 felony	7–21 years	Max. \$150,000	○
Child prostitution—minor 15–17 (§ 13-3212(G))	Class 6 felony	.33–2 years	Max. \$150,000	○
Sexual exploitation of a minor—pos- sessing child pornography of victim 15 or older (§ 13-3553)	Class 2 felony	3–12.5 years	Max. \$150,000	●

All criminal penalties are statutory; many states also have sentencing guidelines that are not codified which affect sentencing.



Protective Provisions for the Child Victims

All commercially sexually exploited minors are identified as sex trafficking victims, as the means of force, fraud, or coercion are not required to prove the existence of trafficking, the core sex trafficking statute is applicable to buyers, and third party control is not required. However, victims of sex trafficking and CSEC are not fully protected. Sex trafficking and CSEC laws do not prohibit a defense based on consent of the minor, leaving this an issue in a victim's pursuit of justice. Prostitution laws apply to minors under 18 and juvenile sex trafficking victims face criminalization for commercial sex acts committed as a result of their victimization. A trafficking victim may enter the juvenile justice system either as an abused or a delinquent child, potentially facing detention for the latter pathway. A child victim of prostitution or pornography is considered by law an abused child and, if identified properly, could receive child protective services protection through temporary custody, dependency and removal proceedings; however, the definition of custodian could present a barrier to child welfare intervention on behalf of juvenile victims in non-familial trafficking cases. Crime victims' compensation is available for victims of CSEC offenses; however, participating in the conduct giving rise to the injury, failing to report the crime within 72 hours and to file a claim within two years (absent a finding of good cause), or failing to cooperate with law enforcement could prevent CSEC victims from receiving compensation. Child victim-witnesses have limited protections in the trial process. Minors under 15 may be permitted to testify via closed-circuit television and the "rape shield" law is limited to victims of sexual offenses, leaving testifying victims of sex trafficking or CSEC unprotected from the trauma of cross-examination at trials of their traffickers, although victims are afforded the right to keep identifying and locating information confidential during court proceedings. Juvenile records may be destroyed upon application of the person after the person turns 18, provided that the child has not committed additional offenses and all conditions of the disposition have been satisfied. In addition, prostitution convictions must be vacated upon providing evidence of being a victim of sex trafficking, and any associated penalties and disabilities must be lifted. Restitution is mandatory for victims of sex trafficking and may be awarded to victims of other crimes for economic loss. Prosecution for commercial sexual exploitation of children can be initiated at any time, but CSEC and sex trafficking prosecutions must be brought within seven years. Civil suits may be brought by a victim against an offender within the earlier of three years of discovering the violation or 10 years of the offense (tolled until 18 years old).



Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution

Training for law enforcement on human trafficking is authorized through the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board. Single party consent for audiotaping is permitted and wiretapping is allowed. The statute on child prostitution expressly prohibits a defense to prosecution based on the grounds "that the other person is a peace officer posing as a minor or a person assisting a peace officer posing as a minor" when the defendant knowingly attempted to engage in prostitution with a minor under 15 years of age or with a minor known to be 15, 16, or 17 years of age. Luring a minor also expressly prohibits the decoy defense and aggravated luring a minor for sexual exploitation prohibits a defense based on the "minor" contacted through electronic communications, such as the Internet, actually being a law enforcement officer. Arizona has a statewide reporting and response system that requires the reporting of missing and located children.



Criminal Provisions for Facilitators

Facilitators who benefit financially or receive anything of value from participating in the crime of sex trafficking are subject to prosecution under a separate trafficking in persons statute. Facilitating sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of a minor through transportation are Class 2 felonies punishable by 3–12½ years imprisonment. Child prostitution offenses may apply to facilitator actions and are Class 2 felonies punishable by 10–24 years imprisonment. Promoting and selling child pornography and commercial sexual exploitation of a minor through use of a visual depiction of a minor in an advertisement for prostitution also are punishable as Class 2 felonies. Facilitators convicted of any felony may face a possible fine up to \$150,000. Facilitators convicted of sex trafficking face mandatory restitution, while those convicted of other crimes may be required to pay restitution if they cause economic loss to the victim, and any equipment used by a facilitator in the commission of commercial sexual exploitation of a minor will be subject to mandatory criminal asset forfeiture. No laws in Arizona address sex tourism.

The Report Card is based on the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework, an analysis of state laws performed by the American Center for Law & Justice and Shared Hope International, and sets a national standard of protection against domestic minor sex trafficking. To access the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework Methodology, each completed Report Card, and foundational analysis and recommendations, please visit: www.sharedhope.org.