

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

Maine Report Card 2016

Maine's sex trafficking law does not require proof of force, fraud, or coercion when the victim is a minor. The state allows victims who prove compulsion to assert an affirmative defense to prostitution charges but provides low penalties for buyers and facilitators.

Final Score

61

Final Grade

D



7.5

10



15

25



12.5

15



6

10



12.5

27.5



7.5

15



Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Maine's sex trafficking law does not require proof of force, fraud, or coercion when the victim is a minor. The state commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws include: patronizing prostitution of minor or person with mental disability, sexual exploitation of a minor under 16 years of age through pornography, endangering the welfare of a child by allowing the child to enter or remain in a house of prostitution, and solicitation of a child to commit a prohibited act, including sexual exploitation. Maine's prostitution law refers to the sex trafficking law through an affirmative defense for victims of sex trafficking, if they prove they were compelled to commit the prostitution offense. Maine has not enacted a racketeering statute that could be used to prosecute sex trafficking enterprises.



Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

Limited options exist to prosecute demand under Maine law. The plain language of the sex trafficking law does not criminalize the purchase of commercial sex with minors. A separate CSEC law, patronizing prostitution of a minor, includes the crime of buying sex with a minor and makes the solicitation of prostitution with a minor distinct from solicitation of an adult and provides higher penalties, but buyers convicted of patronizing prostitution with a minor still face a low penalty that does not reflect the seriousness of the offense. Buyers may be prosecuted for patronizing prostitution of minor without regard to their knowledge of the age of the minor, but enhanced liability applies if the offender knew the victim was under 18. The state has no statute or heightened penalties for using the Internet to purchase commercial sex acts from a minor. Buyers could be subject to restitution for economic losses of the victim and forfeiture of all computer equipment for child pornography offenses. Buyers of sex with minors are required to register as sex offenders if convicted of patronizing prostitution of a minor or any offense requiring registration under the federal Adam Walsh Act.



Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

Sex trafficking is a Class D crime punishable by up to 1 year imprisonment and a possible fine not to exceed \$2,000, and aggravated sex trafficking is a Class B crime punishable by imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine not to exceed \$20,000. Sexual exploitation of a minor under 16 years of age in child pornography is a felony punishable by 5-10 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$20,000. Permitting a child under 16 to enter and remain in a house of prostitution is a felony punishable by up to 1 year imprisonment and a possible fine not to exceed \$2,000. Solicitation of a child to commit a prohibited act is a Class D crime punishable by up to 1 year and a possible fine not to exceed \$2,000. A trafficker is subject to restitution, civil liability, and in cases of child pornography crimes, asset forfeiture. Traffickers convicted of aggravated sex trafficking must register as sex offenders, and traffickers' parental rights may be terminated if the trafficker is convicted of sexual exploitation of a minor, sex trafficking or aggravated sex trafficking.

Demand | Selected Commercial Sex Crimes

Crime (name of law abridged)	Classification	Sentence	Fine (and/or)	Asset Forfeiture (available)
Patronizing prostitution of minor (tit. 17-A, § 855)	Class D	Max. 1 year	Max. \$2,000	○
	Class C if knows not 18	Max. 5 years	Max. \$5,000	
Possession or transportation of child pornography (tit. 17-A, § 284(1)(A))*	Class D	Max. 1 year	Max. \$2,000	●

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



Protective Provisions for the Child Victims

Maine's sex trafficking law does not include all commercially sexually exploited children. Victims of domestic minor sex trafficking and CSEC in Maine are vulnerable due to gaps in the laws. The sex trafficking laws and CSEC offenses are silent as to a defense based on consent, and Maine law has a general consent defense to crimes. 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. Therefore, victims may enter the justice system as delinquents and lack statutory avenues to access specialized services. A victim may be found to be abused or neglected—defined to include sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and aggravated sex trafficking—and receive protection through child welfare, but the definitions of “custodian” and “person responsible for the child” are narrowly defined to only include persons with legal custody of the child or responsibility for the health and welfare of the child,” presenting a barrier to child welfare intervention in non-familial trafficking cases.. While CSEC victims would likely be eligible for state crime victims’ compensation, several eligibility criteria may limit their ability to recover, including a bar to recovery for contributory conduct or not cooperating with law enforcement. Requirements also exist to report the crime within five days and file a claim within three years reduction unless good cause is shown, which could include that the child was the victim and an adult reported the crime. Victim-friendly court procedures may be available to CSEC victims, and the “rape shield law” includes all cases of sexual misconduct to limit traumatizing cross-examination of testifying victims. Juvenile records are not expunged in Maine, but the records may be sealed from public inspection if three years have passed since the crime, the juvenile has not been adjudicated of another crime, and no adjudicatory proceedings are pending for the juvenile. Restitution for economic loss is available to all CSEC victims. Civil remedies are available to sex trafficking victims. A civil cause of action for sex trafficking must be brought within 10 years of the time that the victim was freed from the trafficking situation. Criminal actions must be brought within three or six years depending on the classification of the offense, and CSEC crimes do not have extended statutes of limitations.



Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution

There is no mandated or expressly authorized law enforcement training on human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children in Maine. Single party consent to audiotaping is permitted; however, Maine does not authorize wiretapping for any offenses. The sex trafficking statute and several CSEC laws do not expressly prohibit a defense to the use of a law enforcement decoy in the investigation of child sex trafficking and exploitation, however it may be unavailable for other CSEC offenses. No law authorizes use of the Internet to investigate buyers and traffickers. Maine requires a statewide reporting and response system for missing children.



Criminal Provisions for Facilitators

Facilitators who benefit from the prostitution of a minor may be guilty of aggravated sex trafficking and subject to imprisonment up to 10 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$20,000. Disseminating child pornography is a felony punishable by a maximum of 5 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$5,000. Though not mandatory, the facilitator may be ordered to pay restitution to the victim. For violations of child pornography, a facilitator is subject to asset forfeiture however asset forfeiture does not apply to other facilitator crimes. No laws in Maine 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.