

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

Alaska Report Card 2016

Alaska's sex trafficking laws protect victims up to age 20 and the human trafficking law criminalizes exploitation through forced sexual performance, but demand is expressly excluded and handled instead as prostitution. Victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses can pursue civil remedies at any time and are provided mandatory restitution, and law enforcement has critical wiretap tools.

Final Score

75.5

Final Grade

C



7.5

10



17

25



15

15



9.5

10



12.5

27.5



14

15



Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Alaska's sex trafficking law makes it a crime for certain individuals to induce or cause another person who is under 20 to engage in prostitution. The human trafficking laws go further to include exploitation through "adult entertainment," but require proof of force, threat of force, or deception even when a minor is involved. The state has three commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws: prostitution of a minor, unlawful exploitation of a minor, and online enticement of a minor. Alaska's prostitution statute refers to the sex trafficking statute, acknowledging the intersection of prostitution with trafficking victimization. Alaska has not enacted a racketeering statute, but its criminal street gang law may reach some trafficking networks.



Criminal Provisions for Demand

The state sex trafficking law expressly excludes buyers from its reach, and the human trafficking laws likely do not apply because the offender must "compel or induce" the victim to engage in sexual conduct. Patronizing prostitution of a minor makes buying sex acts with a minor a Class C felony. The online enticement statute makes it a crime to use the Internet to engage a minor under 16 to produce a live or recorded sexual performance. The prostitution statute specifically provides an affirmative defense based on mistake of age, and the human trafficking and unlawful exploitation of a minor statutes are silent as to availability of this defense. Buyers who engage in prostitution with a minor face criminal asset forfeiture and restitution at sentencing. Buyers of sex acts with minors are required to register as sex offenders if convicted of patronizing prostitution with a minor or possession of child pornography.

Demand | Selected Commercial Sex Crimes

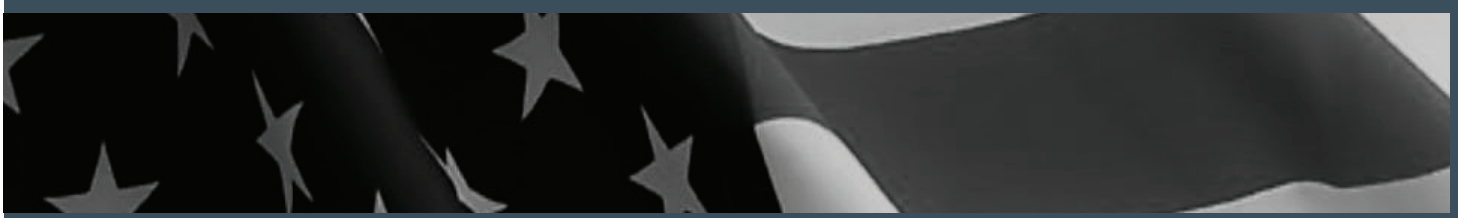
Crime (name of law abridged)	Classification	Sentence	Fine (possible)	Asset Forfeiture (available)
Patronizing prostitution with a minor (§ 11.66.100(a))	Class C felony	Max. 5 years	Max. \$50,000	●
Possession of child pornography (§ 11.61.127)	Class C felony	2-12 years	Max. \$50,000	●
Viewing indecent photography of minor under 16 (§ 11.61.123)	Class C felony	0-18 months	Max. \$50,000	●
Online enticement of a minor (§ 11.41.452)	Class B felony	5-15 years	Max. \$100,000	●

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



Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

The human trafficking offenses are Class A felonies punishable by 3-6 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$250,000 while sex trafficking of a minor is an unclassified felony punishable by 20-35 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$500,000. A first offense of creating child pornography is a Class B felony punishable by imprisonment for 5-15 years and a possible fine up to \$100,000. Producing a pornographic photographic image of a minor under 16 is a Class C felony punishable by imprisonment for up to eighteen months and a possible fine up to \$50,000. Traffickers face mandatory criminal asset forfeiture for sex trafficking convictions, but not human trafficking convictions, and discretionary asset forfeiture for child pornography convictions. The crime of online enticement to engage in a live or recorded sexual performance is a means of prosecuting traffickers who use the Internet to recruit or entice minors under 16 for sexual exploitation. Restitution is mandatory at sentencing. Traffickers are required to register as sex offenders if convicted of sex trafficking of a minor and pornography offenses, but not if convicted of human trafficking. Sex trafficking and CSEC crimes are not expressly enumerated grounds for termination of parental rights.



Protective Provisions for the Child Victims

Not all commercially sexually exploited children are defined as juvenile sex trafficking victims because the sex trafficking law does not protect minors who are exploited by buyers without an identified trafficker. Human trafficking, sex trafficking, and CSEC laws do not expressly prohibit a defense to prosecution based on willingness of the minor to engage in the commercial sex act. Prostitution laws apply to minors under 18. Additionally, juvenile sex trafficking victims face criminalization for commercial sex acts committed as a result of their victimization unless the victim reports the exploitation and cooperates with law enforcement personnel. A victim found to be abused or a child in need of aid—defined to include victims of prostitution-related offenses, unlawful exploitation of a minor and online enticement of a minor, but not human trafficking victims—might receive protection through child protective services. However, the definition of “person responsible for the child’s welfare” may present a barrier to child welfare intervention in non-familial trafficking cases. Sex trafficking and CSEC are not expressly included as crimes for which victims are eligible for compensation, and even if included, factors such as perceived consent of the victim to the crime and time reporting requirements, could prevent compensation. Victim-friendly court procedures may be available to certain child sex trafficking victims. Corroboration of a victim’s testimony is not required in sex trafficking cases. Victims may be permitted to testify through closed-circuit television and receive a guardian ad litem. Victims of unlawful exploitation of a minor, but not sex trafficking or other CSEC crimes, are protected by the “rape shield” law which may limit the trauma of cross examination for testifying victims. A court must order a minor’s criminal records sealed within 30 days of turning 18, or 30 days after the court releases jurisdiction of the minor. Restitution is available and victims of CSEC and trafficking have a statutory civil remedy which may be brought against the offender at any time. Criminal prosecutions for CSEC and trafficking may be brought at any time. Statutes of limitations for civil and criminal actions are eliminated for trafficking and CSEC offenses.



Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution

Training on domestic minor sex trafficking is not mandated or authorized for law enforcement although it could come under required training for child abuse and neglect. Single party consent to audiotaping is authorized, and wiretapping is expressly permitted in sex trafficking investigations. The use of a decoy in the investigation of prostitution or sex trafficking cases is not expressly authorized, but law enforcement may use the Internet to investigate the crime of online enticement of a minor, which includes soliciting a person the offender believes is under 16 to engage in certain sex acts for live or recorded performance; accordingly, the defendant would be prohibited from asserting a defense based on the fact that an actual minor was not involved. Alaska law requires statewide reporting of missing and rescued children.



Criminal Provisions for Facilitators

Alaska’s sex trafficking and human trafficking laws include the crime of benefitting from the trafficking. Sex trafficking in the second degree includes sex tourism by advertising, selling, offering, or facilitating travel for the purpose of commercial sexual conduct. Benefitting from sex trafficking and sex tourism are felonies punishable by imprisonment for 0–2 years and a possible fine up to \$100,000. Distributing child pornography is a felony punishable by 2–12 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$100,000. Aiding or facilitating a prostitution enterprise is a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to eighteen months years and a possible fine up to \$50,000, whereas aiding or facilitating prostitution that does not amount to an enterprise is a misdemeanor with up to 1 year imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$10,000. Facilitators face mandatory criminal asset forfeiture for sex trafficking and discretionary criminal asset forfeiture for child pornography offenses, but no asset forfeiture for benefitting from human trafficking. Facilitators must pay restitution to the victims of their crime.

The Report Card is based on the Protected Innocence Challenge Legislative Framework, an analysis of state laws performed by Shared Hope International, and sets a national standard of protection against domestic minor sex trafficking. To access the Protected Innocence Challenge Legislative Framework Methodology, all state Report Cards, and foundational analysis and recommendations, please visit: www.sharedhope.org/reportcards.