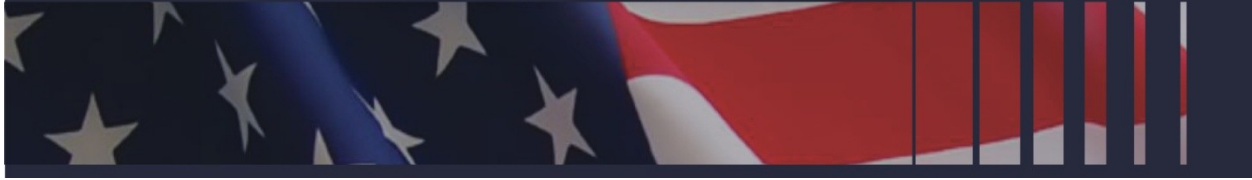


# PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.



## Alabama State Facts

### **Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking**

1. Alabama enacted a human trafficking law in 2010; however, it requires force, fraud or coercion to have been used to cause a minor under 18 to engage in commercial sex acts.

### **Criminal Provisions Addressing Buyers**

2. No state law makes the act of buying sex with a minor a specific crime, although several sexual offenses could be used to prosecute a buyer of commercial sex acts with a minor.
3. Nathaniel Russell Glass in February 2010 pleaded guilty to federal charges after being arrested for attempting to entice a teenage girl to engage in prostitution for \$75 at a Hoover hotel. The 14-year-old girl Glass expected to meet was really a federal agent. Glass was sentenced to 10 years in prison.<sup>1</sup>
4. Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange was one of 51 Attorneys General who signed a letter to Backpage.com calling on the company to disclose its efforts to identify and delete advertisements that facilitate sex trafficking, specifically of minors.<sup>2</sup>

### **Criminal Provisions Addressing Traffickers**

5. A mother and grandmother were charged with human trafficking under the Alabama statute in March 2011 when police learned they had sold sex with their 12-year-old for drugs at a Homewood motel.<sup>3</sup>
6. Alabama law does not enumerate human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, or sexual offenses as grounds for termination of parental rights, leaving children of traffickers at continuing risk.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2010/10/birmingham\\_man\\_charged\\_with\\_at\\_5.html](http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2010/10/birmingham_man_charged_with_at_5.html).

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/cases/backpage/backpageletter.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.myfoxdal.com/story/14368591/another-suspect-arrested-in-homewood-human-trafficking-case?redirected=true>

7. A June 2011 study on commercial sexual exploitation of children in Jefferson County (Birmingham) found 47% of the social service providers surveyed in Jefferson County said that the pimps of prostituted minors have been family members, more than any other type of trafficker.<sup>4</sup>

8. A Louisiana man was sentenced in federal court to nearly eight years in prison for trafficking 14 and 17-year-old minors in Birmingham hotels in 2010. He posted photos of them online, provided prepaid cell phones, and collected all of the money from their prostitution acts.<sup>5</sup>

### **Protective Provisions for Child Victims**

9. The Alabama prostitution law does not make minors immune from prosecution for prostitution, leaving them vulnerable to being charged as delinquents despite their status as victims.

### **Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution**

10. At present, the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission (APOSTC) does not specifically mandate that law enforcement officers complete training on human trafficking, a critical need to identify trafficking victims.

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<sup>4</sup> Invisibility: A Study of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Jefferson County (Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham: 2011), pg. 7. <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/42255851/Invisibility.final.revised.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.examiner.com/crime-in-atlanta/man-gets-seven-years-for-the-sex-trafficking-of-two-minor-girls>