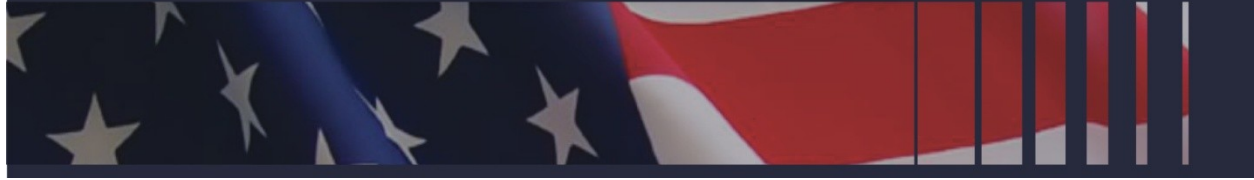


# PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.



## Arizona State Facts

### Criminalization of DMST

1. From 2005-09, law enforcement reported 136 juvenile arrests for prostitution with at least one arrest in the following counties: Maricopa, Pima, Navajo, Yuma and Yavapi.
2. The reported average age a juvenile is first exploited through prostitution in Phoenix is 14.83 years.

### Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

1. The child prostitution law makes the purchase or attempt to purchase sex with a minor under 15, or with a minor 15, 16 or 17 with knowledge of the minor's age, a Class 2 felony for a buyer. This is reduced to a Class 6 felony in cases involving 15-17 year-olds if the state cannot prove the buyer of child prostitution had knowledge of the minor's age, resulting in a jail sentence of 180 days or, if a first offense, 90 days in jail and probation.
2. Buyers convicted of Class 6 child prostitution (state unable to prove knowledge of age of the 15-17 year old) are not required to register as sex offenders.
3. Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne 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>1</sup>

### Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

4. The Maricopa County Attorney's Office tried over 82 cases of traffickers/pimps and 5 cases of buyers for sex with children between 2006 and 2010.
5. Sex trafficking and selling child prostitution are Class 2 felonies with a presumptive sentence of 5 years and up to \$150,000 fine, with an enhanced sentence if the victim is under 15 to a presumptive 20 years on the first offense.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/cases/backpage/backpageletter.pdf>

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

3. Victims of sex trafficking are not specifically accorded victim status or rights in the laws and CSEC statutes do not specifically identify the minor as a victim. Also, various ineligibility criteria threaten access to the crime victim compensation program.

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

4. An offender is unable to assert a defense that law enforcement used a “decoy” to catch the offender buying or selling sex with a child, or that the “minor” receiving Internet sexual solicitations from an offender is actually a law enforcement officer or agent assisting in the investigation.