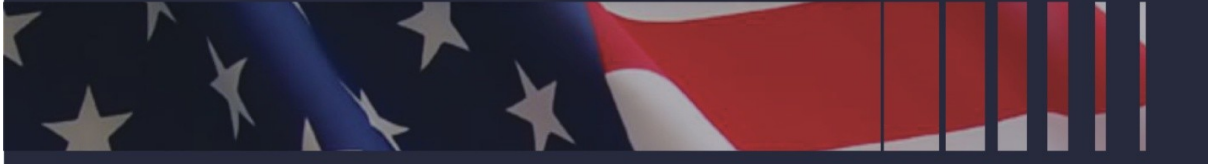


PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.



Colorado State Facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. Colorado's human trafficking law does not specify the use of a minor in a commercial sex act as a form of trafficking, although trafficking a minor under 18 without regard to use of force, fraud or coercion for an undetermined purpose is a crime.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

2. Colorado Attorney General John Suthers 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.¹

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

3. In 2010, four people were charged with child sex trafficking and two with purchasing sex with a child under state laws, when investigators rescued a 17-year-old runaway whose photos were posted on *Backpage.com* selling sex acts.²
4. The first successful prosecution under the state human trafficking law, five years after it went into effect, occurred in August 2011, resulting in an 8-year sentence for 19-year-old Dallas Cardenas for child sex trafficking after forcing a 17 and an 18-year-old girl in Denver to pose for *Craigslist.com* ads selling sex acts.³
5. A brother and sister were charged in April 2011 of sex trafficking, pimping and pandering under Colorado laws for running a prostitution ring that exploited at least one minor.⁴
6. A conviction under Colorado law for child sex trafficking or pandering a child is subject to a prison sentence of 8-24 years and fines of up to one million dollars.

Protective Provisions for Child Victims

7. At the same time that minors under 18 are victims under the child trafficking, pandering of a child, and patronizing a child for prostitution laws, the state prostitution law is not limited in application to adults, leaving prostituted minors vulnerable to arrest and detention for prostitution-related offenses.

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

2 http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/08/19/6-charged-with-child-prostitution/UPI-94681282275026/

3 http://www.denverpost.com/commented/cj_18696228?source=commented

4 <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article/194289/346/Brother-sister-accused-of-involvement-in-child-prostitution-ring-?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|t>