

PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

Iowa state facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. Iowa's human trafficking law includes the sex trafficking of minors and does not require force, fraud, or coercion be used to cause minors to engage in commercial sex acts.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

2. Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller 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
3. Although the sex trafficking law could potentially be applied to buyers who "obtain" a minor for commercial sex following federal precedent, but none of the laws against commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) include the crime of purchasing sex with a minor.

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

4. In 2008, Leonard Russell was the first person to be convicted under the Iowa human trafficking law, sentenced to 25 years in prison. Russell recruited and harbored two teen runaways, who he forced to work in strip clubs and prostitution.²
5. Daron Jungers was convicted in federal court of commercial sex trafficking of a minor in October 2011 after arranging to purchase sex with an 11 year old girl in Sioux Falls through an online advertisement posted by an undercover officer as part of Operation Crossing Guard. He faces a minimum of 15 years up to life in prison.³

Protective Provisions for Child Victims

6. Iowa's human trafficking and CSEC laws do not prohibit a defense based on consent of a minor, nor are prostitution offenses limited to adults. As a result, minors who cannot prove compulsion was used to cause them to engage in prostitution could be charged and prosecuted in conflict with their status as sex trafficking victims.

Criminal Justice Tools for investigation and Prosecution

7. Iowa law directs the law enforcement academy to develop and provide training on human trafficking and allows single party consent to audiotaping, providing critical investigative tools for local law enforcement.

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

2 <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,471307,00.html>

3 <http://www.keloland.com/NewsDetail6162.cfm?Id=122760>