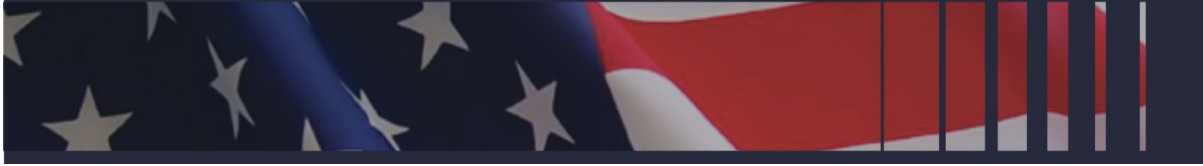


PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.



Kansas state facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. The human trafficking law in Kansas includes sex trafficking and defines a minor under the age of 18 used in a commercial sex act as a trafficking victim without regard to use of force, fraud or coercion in the commission.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

2. Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt 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. The state human trafficking law could be applied to buyers who “obtain” a minor for commercial sex, carrying penalties of up to life in prison and a \$500,000 fine if convicted. However, laws against commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) do not prohibit a mistake of age defense, making these convictions more difficult.
4. In October 2011, seven men, including a high school football coach, were arrested in Wichita for attempting to purchase sex with a minor. The arrests were made through a sting operation in response to a surge in the number of human trafficking cases reported this year.²
5. Donald Davis and James Cochran were charged with rape and human trafficking of a 13-year-old child. It is the first case in Wichita where both a pimp and a buyer have been charged.³

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

6. In October 2011, Brandon Dennis was charged with federal crimes of attempting to recruit and entice a 17-year-old and an undercover officer posing as a minor to engage in prostitution in Wichita. He used the social networking site, Facebook, to recruit the teen who reported the solicitation to a school resource officer. Dennis faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years and a possible \$250,000 fine.⁴
7. In August 2011, a Kansas City mother was charged with ten counts of rape and human trafficking after transporting her two young daughters to Wichita to sell for sex with a registered sex offender.⁵

Protective Provisions for Child Victims

8. Protective provisions are not statutorily mandated for child victims of sex trafficking, leaving some minor victims to enter the juvenile justice system on prostitution-related offenses.

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

2 <http://www.kansascity.com/2011/10/24/3227140/seven-including-high-school-football.html>

3 <http://www.kansas.com/2011/03/13/1761061/men-charged-with-rape-human-trafficking.html>

4 <http://www.kansas.com/2011/10/27/2079122/man-arrested-after-high-school.html>

5 http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/Woman_Collapses_While_Hearing_Criminal_Charges_Against_Her_127613428.html