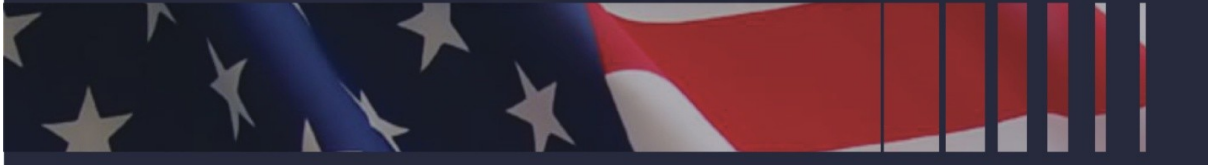


PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.



Kentucky State Facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. According to Kentucky Rescue and Restore, 57 cases of human trafficking have been identified in various areas of Kentucky since June 2008—46 percent was sex trafficking.¹
2. The Kentucky human trafficking law specifically includes the exploitation of minors in commercial sexual activity without regard to use of force, fraud, or coercion. Human trafficking is a Class B felony if a child is involved, punishable by 10–20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

3. Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway 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.²
4. Buyers of commercial sex acts with minors are likely to be prosecuted for unlawful transaction with a minor in the third degree. The penalty for this offense is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by one year in prison and/or a fine of up to \$500 and does require the offender to register as a sex offender. Unlawful transaction with a minor in the first degree—a more serious crime—specifically excludes offenses involving commercial sexual activity from its scope.

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

5. Rebecca Goodwin, 36, of Shepherdsville and Justin Ritter, 22, of Louisville arranged a deal with an undercover officer to have sex with a 17-year-old girl for \$75 in a car in the parking lot of a strip club and are now facing state human trafficking and unlawful transaction with a minor.³

¹ http://pathnky.weebly.com/uploads/6/1/3/9/6139971/program_information_and_statistics-_january_2011nky.pdf

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

³ <http://www.wlky.com/r/28892003/detail.html>

Criminal Justice Tools for investigation and Prosecution

6. Under Kentucky law, law enforcement officers may use the Internet to investigate buyers and traffickers of domestic minor sex trafficking. However, there is no specific statutory authority for or protection from a defense based on law enforcement decoys in investigating live domestic minor sex trafficking.
7. There are six human trafficking task forces operating in Kentucky: Louisville Metro, Northern Kentucky, Lexington, Bowling Green, Lake Cumberland Area, and Hazard, demonstrating collaboration essential to combat human trafficking.
8. The state Division of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Services in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services conducts victim services and responder training and recently helped organize a meeting of victim advocates, law enforcement, legal services and prosecutors in the Lexington area to address the human trafficking problem. State government also is collaborating with the University of Kentucky to conduct a trafficking victims needs assessment. Findings from the assessment will be used to both measure the scope of the problem in Kentucky and develop strategies to combat it.⁴

⁴ <http://chfs.ky.gov/news/Human+Trafficking+Op-ed.htm>