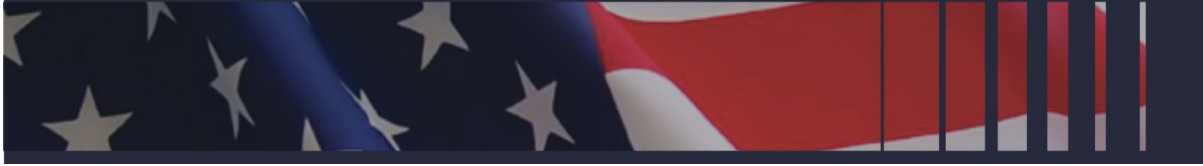


PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.



Louisiana state facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. In March, 2010, local law enforcement announced that human trafficking is on the rise in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area.¹
2. Louisiana's law on the sex trafficking of minors applies to all minors under 18 and does not require the proof that force, fraud or coercion was used to cause the minor to engage in commercial sex acts. However, the prostitution of a minor law only makes it a crime to buy or sell sex with a minor under 17, leaving 17 year olds who are not identified as sex trafficking victims without the same level of protection from exploitation or justice against their perpetrators.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

3. Louisiana Attorney General James D. Buddy Caldwell 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

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

4. Traffickers prosecuted under Louisiana's sex trafficking of a minor law or human trafficking for forced commercial sexual exploitation of a minor face hefty fines, extended prison time, asset forfeiture, and must register as sex offenders. Traffickers may also face money laundering and racketeering charges.
5. In January 2011, Baton Rouge police arrested and charged Erick Banks with child sex trafficking under the state law after holding a 15-year-old runaway girl in a hotel for six days and selling her for sex online.³
6. Benson Coriolant faces life in federal prison after selling a 14-year-old girl for sex in New Orleans. He used online classified ads to solicit customers, gave the teen drugs to numb her senses and collected all the proceeds earned through her prostitution.⁴
7. A federal grand jury indicted "Moe Betta," aka Jerald Bland, in October 2011 on federal sex trafficking charges for transporting a minor from Texas to Louisiana to engage in prostitution.⁵

Protective Provisions for Child Victims

8. Prostitution offenses are not limited in application to adults, leaving prostituted minors vulnerable to arrest and detention for prostitution and without specific protective provisions.

1 <http://www.wwtv.com/news/Authorities-on-alert-for-human-trafficking-in-NO-area-89481647.html>

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

3 <http://www.fox8live.com/news/local/story/Baton-Rouge-man-jailed-for-human-trafficking/YapZD5AxX0umpWGwKBpwCg.csp>

4 http://www.justice.gov/usao/lae/news/2011/2011_10_24_benson_coriolant_ind.html

5 <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Houston-man-indicted-on-sex-trafficking-charges-2206351.php>