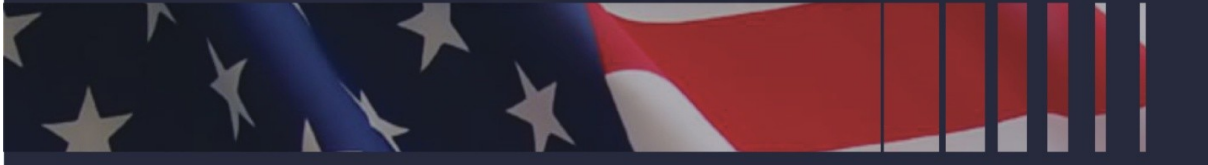


PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.



Minnesota State Facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan area is one of the fifteen worst areas for sex trafficking in the country.¹ It also is the second largest urban Indian community in the country and the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center reported evidence of disproportionately high rates of sex trafficking in American Indian communities.² A 2007 survey identified a total of 342 American Indian victims of sex trafficking.³
2. Federal prosecutions of child sex trafficking have resulted in several convictions. Darryl Taylor, of Nevada, pled guilty in 2007, to sex trafficking juveniles as young as fifteen from 1998 to 2005 between Minnesota and Nevada for the purpose of prostitution. He enticed the victims from locations in Minnesota and Wisconsin to come to the Twin Cities where they were then taken to Las Vegas for sexual performance and prostitution.⁴ In September 2007, Justine Alex Reisdorf, age 19, pled guilty to federal charges of using the Internet to promote prostitution. Between November 2006 and March 2007, Reisdorf ran a prostitution ring in Burnsville knowingly exploiting minors from Minnesota School District 191 in prostitution and advertising on *Craigslist.com*.
3. According to a study released by the Women's Funding Network, 124 girls were sex trafficked in Minnesota in August 2010—up from 80 in February 2010. In August 2011, 112 girls in Minnesota were trafficked through ads posted on Internet classifieds.⁵

¹ U.S. Attorney's Office, Dist. Of Minn., Annual Report (2007).
<http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/oesw/hearings/MNar2007.pdf>.

² Suzanne Koeplinger, Sex Trafficking of American Indian Women and Girls In Minnesota, University of St. Thomas Law Journal, vol. 6:1, pg. 134.
http://www.stthomas.edu/law/programs/journal/Volume6num1/Koeplinger_final_pd.pdf.

³ Minn. Office Of Justice Programs & Minn. Statistical Analysis Ctr., Human Trafficking In Minnesota: A Report to The Minnesota Legislature (2007), pg. 20. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/statistical-analysis-center/Documents/2007%20Final%20Report.pdf>.

⁴ U.S. Attorney's Office, Dist. Of Minn., Annual Report (2007).
<http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/oesw/hearings/MNar2007.pdf>.

⁵ <http://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/about/news/press-releases/six-month-report-domestic-sex-trafficking-up-in-key-states>

4. Domestic minor sex trafficking is more prevalent in Minnesota than the monthly number of reported incidents of teen girls who died by suicide, homicide and car accidents, infants who died from SIDS or women of all ages murdered in one year.⁶

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

5. Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson 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.⁷
6. Minnesota's sex trafficking law specifically excludes buyers from prosecution, focusing on the trafficker who solicits or induces an individual under the age of 18 to practice prostitution without requiring proof of force, fraud or coercion in the inducement.
7. State law makes the purchase of commercial sex acts with a minor a crime. Penalties are staggered according to whether the prostituted minor was under 18, 16 or 13 resulting in a sentence of 5 years/\$10,000, 10 years/\$20,000 or 20 years/\$40,000, respectively, for patronizing prostitution of a minor.

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

8. A trafficker faces a maximum sentence of 20 years and/or a maximum fine of \$50,000.

Protective Provisions for Child Victims

9. Recent legislative amendments have introduced greater protection from criminalization for minors victimized through commercial sexual exploitation but specialized services and shelter are still needed.

⁶ <http://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/about/news/press-releases/six-month-report-domestic-sex-trafficking-up-in-key-states>

⁷ <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/cases/backpage/backpageletter.pdf>