



Nebraska State Facts:

Criminalization of DMST

1. Nebraska's human trafficking law specifically includes as victims minors trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and does not require that force, fraud, or coercion was used to cause the exploitation.
2. Since January 2007, 93 people have been sentenced for federal child sexual exploitation crimes as a result of Project Safe Childhood, a US Department of Justice initiative to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children. Of those convicted, 54 received sentences between 5 and 10 years, and two received probation.¹
3. Nebraska laws making the commercial sexual exploitation of minors a specific crime are limited to child abuse by allowing or forcing a child to solicit or engage in prostitution and employing a child in pornography. General sex offenses may be used in some cases and generally carry higher penalties.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

4. Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning 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
5. Two men—John Haas, 58, of Papillion and Edward E. Kosiski, 45, of Omaha—were charged in state court with first-degree sexual assault of a child for their purchase of sex with one of the 15 year old victims; the victim's family agreed to a plea to a lesser charge by Haas to avoid having her testify leading to his sentence of 2–5 years.³

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

6. Human trafficking is a felony punishable by 1–20 years if the victim was older than 15, or 1–50 years imprisonment when the victim is under 15 or force was used to cause the trafficking. Traffickers are

¹ <http://www.omaha.com/article/20110513/NEWS01/70513992/0>

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

³ <http://www.omaha.com/article/20110520/NEWS97/705209891/0>

subject to mandatory victim restitution laws; however, asset forfeiture is not a financial penalty for trafficking crimes.

7. Federal prosecutions have led to convictions of four traffickers with sentences ranging from 36 months to 210 months for holding captive runaway girls as young as 13 in an Omaha sex trafficking ring, forced to engage in commercial sex acts through violent threats and beatings. The judge ordered asset forfeiture but delayed victim restitution.⁴

⁴ <http://www.omaha.com/article/20110206/NEWS97/702069896/0>.