



North Carolina State Facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. The North Carolina human trafficking law makes sex trafficking of a minor a distinct crime but minors identified as a victim of commercial sexual exploitation of children laws may not receive the same level of protection and justice.
2. 40% of the trafficking victims identified in North Carolina during 2010 were minors.¹

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

3. North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper 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. The state human trafficking law may be used to prosecute buyers, but it does not prohibit a mistake of age defense to prosecution allowing offenders to claim they did not know the prostituted person was a minor.
5. In August 2010, Michael Grant was charged with promoting the prostitution of a minor when he used *Craigslist.com* to arrange to purchase sex with a 14-year-old girl from undercover officers posing as her parents.³

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

6. In July 2011, Antoinette Davis was indicted for sex trafficking her 5-year-old daughter, Shaniya, as payment for a drug debt. Shaniya's body was found in a ditch in Lee County a few days after Davis reported her daughter as missing.⁴
7. North Carolina's sex offender registry does not require persons convicted of sex trafficking a minor to register.

Criminal Provisions for Facilitators

8. There is no state law prohibiting child sex tourism, allowing sex tour operators to promote commercial sex with children in North Carolina as part of travel.

Protective Provisions for Child Victims

9. Some domestic minor sex trafficking victims may be eligible for a child protective services response as the definition of abuse includes prostitution or exploitation for pornography of a child and traffickers may be deemed caregivers, but there is no mandatory response for specialized shelter or services to meet their complex needs. Also, sex trafficking is not listed as a form of abuse.

¹ North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking

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

³ <http://www.wyff4.com/r/24729014/detail.html>

⁴ <http://fayobserver.com/articles/2011/07/06/1106653?sac=Home>