



Pennsylvania State Facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. Pennsylvania's human trafficking law does not include the crime of trafficking adults or minors for commercial sex acts, leaving the state to rely instead on commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws to prosecute offenders.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

2. Pennsylvania Attorney General Linda Kelly 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.¹
3. The CSEC crime of unlawful contact with a minor is the only criminal statute to prosecute buyers of child sex trafficking and includes contacting a minor through a computer to engage in prostitution. It is punishable by a maximum of 7 years imprisonment and possible fine of \$15,000.
4. In January 2011, the federal Operation Predator caught Jonathan Binns, 36, of Shenandoah producing images of child pornography and using a computer to download and distribute images of child pornography between February and October 2010. If Binns is convicted of the charges, he faces a mandatory 15 year prison sentence and up to 30 years in prison on each count of producing child pornography, and a mandatory 5 year prison sentence and up to 20 years in prison on the receiving and distributing child pornography charges.²

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

5. In 2005, over two dozen prostituted minors, the youngest just 12 years old, from Toledo, Ohio were found at truck stops northeast of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania as a result of a federal Innocence Lost investigation known as Precious Cargo which led to the conviction of 14 pimps who used violence and intimidation to recruit and control the women and girls; one pimp, Derek Maes, allegedly broke the nose of a prostituted woman and later threatened her family. The Gables of Harrisburg truck stop, just off the major highway I-81 in Linglestown, was popular with truck drivers looking for quick and cheap sex: about \$40 for sex with one of these minor victims.³

Protective Provisions for Child Victims

6. Domestic minor sex trafficking victims are vulnerable due to gaps in the law. They are not protected from being charged or prosecuted for prostitution and CSEC laws do not expressly define them as victims.

¹ <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/cases/backpage/backpageletter.pdf>

² <http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1101/110125harrisburg.htm>.

³ http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2005/December/05_crm_677.html.