



Rhode Island State Facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. Under Rhode Island law, domestic minor sex trafficking is a criminal offense, and there is no requirement to show that the minor was forced, coerced, or deceived into committing the commercial sex act.
2. Prostitution, as long as it occurred indoors, was legal in Rhode Island until late 2009.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

1. Rhode Island Attorney General Luther Strange 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

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

1. Anyone who commits sex trafficking of a minor is guilty of a felony and can face up to 40 years imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$40,000. This includes traffickers and buyers of commercial sex with minors.
2. In April 2011, the first prosecution under the state human trafficking law led to Andy Fakhoury being sentenced to 20 years in prison with 10 years to serve on three counts of human trafficking under state law. Fakhoury and another man ran a prostitution ring in Providence with victims aged 16 to 19.²
3. A conviction for sex trafficking does not require registration as a sex offender, leaving children at potential risk from sex traffickers.

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

² <http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2011/apr/13/5/man-sentenced-human-trafficking-case-ar-452803/>