



South Carolina State Facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. The South Carolina human trafficking statute requires victims under the age of 18 to prove the trafficker used force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

2. South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson 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. Mark Cornish, a Columbia police officer, was fired and charged with one count of prostitution after being accused of having sex with a prostituted minor. The 17-year-old victim was also charged with prostitution. Cornish had been a school resource officer.²
4. Individuals convicted of purchasing sex with a child will receive 2-5 years imprisonment and be eligible for parole after two years.
5. In South Carolina, buyers and traffickers convicted of various offenses related to domestic minor sex trafficking are required to register as a sex offenders.

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

6. The first case of sex trafficking discovered in South Carolina was in 2007 and involved a 14-year-old girl. Three Mexican nationals faced federal charges of sex trafficking and related crimes. Jesus Perez-Laguna was sentenced to 14 years in prison and ordered to pay restitution; Ciro Bostos-Rosales was sentenced to five-and-a-half years and ordered to pay restitution to the victims of his crimes in an amount of \$52,500; and Guadalupe Reyes-Rivera is a fugitive.³
7. Parents or guardians found guilty of trafficking minors will not have their parental rights terminated unless the physical abuse of the child results in death or admission to the hospital.

Criminal Provisions for Facilitators

8. There is no established law in South Carolina to prohibit sex tourism.

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

² <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/oct/27/columbia-officer-fired-after-prostitution-charge/>

³ http://media.charleston.net/2011/pdf/humantraffickingbrief_01052011.pdf

http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2007/September/07_crt_745.html