



## Washington State Facts

### Criminalization of DMST

1. Washington's human trafficking law does not differentiate between the trafficking of adults and minors, but it requires proof of force, fraud, or coercion used to traffic all victims.

### Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

2. Washington Attorney General Rob McKenna was one of 48 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.<sup>1</sup>
3. Buyers convicted of commercial sexual abuse of a minor face prison sentences of 21 months to 10 years, a mandatory \$5,000 fine, and possible vehicle impound with a \$2,500 fee to redeem the vehicle. Convicted buyers must register as sex offenders.

### Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

4. Sex trafficking has been actively prosecuted through the U.S. Attorney's Office resulting in federal prosecutions of traffickers in Washington. In July 2010, Sterling Hospedales, a Joint Base Lewis-McChord Army Sergeant, pled guilty to child sex trafficking. He exploited two runaways, advertising them as prostitutes on *Craigslist.com*<sup>2</sup> and in February 2011, two Tacoma men pled guilty to the sex trafficking of two teen aged girls.<sup>3</sup>
5. In April 2010, Darius Yancey became the first person convicted of promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor in Clark County. He held hostage a 15-year-old girl and forced her into prostitution in Bellevue, advertising her on the Internet.<sup>4</sup>
6. On November 24, 2009, Deshawn "Cash Money" Clark was found guilty on two counts of commercial sexual abuse of a minor, one count of second-degree human trafficking, one count of first-degree promoting prostitution, one count of unlawful imprisonment and one count of conspiracy. Clark, a West Side Street Mobb gang member, prostituted two girls and a young woman. To keep his victims under his control, Clark used promises of love, threats, and violence.<sup>5</sup>
7. FBI Operation Cross Country rescued 23 minors from commercial sexual exploitation in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties in November 2010<sup>6</sup> and in September 2011, the Seattle High Risk Victims Unit rescued three girls being sold for prostitution on *Backpage.com* in the Seattle-Tacoma area.<sup>7</sup> A review of 1,528 case files from six agencies identified 238 prostitution-involved youth in 2007 and the annual prevalence estimate of prostituted youth is 300-500 in Seattle.<sup>8</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fbi.gov/seattle/press-releases/2010/se072310.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.justice.gov/usao/waw/press/2011/feb/lewis.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.columbian.com/news/2010/apr/23/man-receives-10-years-in-child-prostitution-case/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.sharedhope.org/Portals/0/Documents/WashingtonRA.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.thenewtribune.com/2010/11/09/1416164/area-teens-rescued-in-pimp-sting.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://mynorthwest.com/11/554086/Three-girls-rescued-in-SeaTac-after-Backpagecom-advertisement>

<sup>8</sup> Debra Boyer, *Who Pays the Price? Assessment of Youth Involvement in Prostitution in Seattle* (2008)

### **Criminal Provisions for Facilitators**

8. Washington is one of a few states with a sex tourism law—promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor statute makes it a crime to sell travel services that include or facilitate travel for the purpose of engaging in commercial sexual abuse of minor.

### **Protective Provisions for Child Victims**

9. Minors are not immune from prosecution for prostitution; however, a first offense requires diversion preventing detention, and any child identified as a victim of commercial sexual abuse may be taken directly to a secure or semi-secure crisis residential center and held up to 15 days without criminal charges.
10. Nine of the 226 minors arrested and brought before the juvenile court in Las Vegas, Nevada on charges of prostitution between August 2005 and May 2007 were from Washington State.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Shared Hope International Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Assessment—Las Vegas, Nevada (2007).  
[http://www.sharedhope.org/Portals/0/Documents/LasVegas\\_PrinterFriendly.pdf](http://www.sharedhope.org/Portals/0/Documents/LasVegas_PrinterFriendly.pdf).