

PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

Creating A Uniform Standard Across States to Combat Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WASHINGTON

FRAMEWORK ISSUE 1: CRIMINALIZATION OF DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING

Legal Components:

- 1.1 *The state human trafficking law addresses sex trafficking and clearly defines a human trafficking victim as any minor under the age of 18 used in a commercial sex act without regard to use of force, fraud, or coercion, aligning to the federal trafficking law.*
- 1.2 *Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is identified as a separate and distinct offense from general sexual offenses, which may also be used to prosecute those who commit commercial sex offenses against minors.*
- 1.3 *CSEC or prostitution statutes refer to the sex trafficking statute to identify the commercially sexually exploited minor as a trafficking victim.*

Legal Analysis¹:

- 1.1 *The state human trafficking law addresses sex trafficking and clearly defines a human trafficking victim as any minor under the age of 18 used in a commercial sex act without regard to use of force, fraud, or coercion, aligning to the federal trafficking law.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1)(a) (Trafficking) states that one may be found guilty of human trafficking in the first degree if

(i) Such person:

(A) Recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, provides, obtains, or receives by any means another person knowing that force, fraud, or coercion² as defined in RCW 9A.36.070 will be used to cause the person to engage in forced labor, involuntary servitude, or a commercial sex act;³ or

¹ Unless otherwise specified, all references to Washington statutes were taken from the Revised Code of Washington (LEXIS through 2011 1st Special Sess.), and all federal statutes were taken from the United States Code (LEXIS through PL 112-54, approved 11/12/11).

² Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.36.070(1), (2) (Coercion) states,

(1) A person is guilty of coercion if by use of a threat he or she compels or induces a person to engage in conduct which the latter has a legal right to abstain from, or to abstain from conduct which he or she has a legal right to engage in.

- (B) Benefits financially or by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that has engaged in acts set forth in (a)(i)(A) of this subsection; and
- (ii) The acts or venture set forth in (a)(i) of this subsection:
 - (A) Involve committing or attempting to commit kidnapping;
 - (B) Involve a finding of sexual motivation under RCW 9.94A.835 [Special allegation—sexual motivation—procedures];⁴
 - (C) Involve the illegal harvesting or sale of human organs; or
 - (D) Result in a death.

While human trafficking in the first degree under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1)(a) (Trafficking) requires that “the acts or venture” that constitutes human trafficking be sexually motivated or involve kidnapping, the illegal sale of organs, or death, under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(2)(a), human trafficking in the second degree has no similar requirement. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(2)(a) states,

- A person is guilty of trafficking in the second degree when such person:
- (i) Recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, provides, obtains, or receives by any means another person knowing that force, fraud, or coercion as defined in RCW 9A.36.070 will be used to cause the person to engage in forced labor, involuntary servitude, or a commercial sex act; or
 - (ii) Benefits financially or by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that has engaged in acts set forth in (a)(i) of this subsection.

Washington’s human trafficking statute requires proof of knowledge that force, fraud or coercion were used to cause the victim to engage in involuntary servitude, and there are a number of key terms that are not defined, including involuntary servitude. A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1) is punishable as Class A felony, seriousness level XIV, by imprisonment for 123–397⁵ months and a possible fine up to \$50,000, while a conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(2) is punishable as Class A felony, seriousness level XII, by imprisonment for 93–318 months, a possible fine up to \$50,000, or both imprisonment and a fine.

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- (2) “Threat” as used in this section means:
- (a) To communicate, directly or indirectly, the intent immediately to use force against any person who is present at the time; or
 - (b) Threats as defined in RCW 9A.04.110(27) (a), (b), or (c) [Definitions].

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.04.110 was amended by 2011 Wash. Sess. Laws 166, which changed subsection (27) to subsection (28).

³ Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.010(2) commercial sex act is defined as “any act of sexual contact or sexual intercourse for which something of value is given or received.”

⁴ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.835 (Special allegation—sexual motivation—procedures) states,

- (1) The prosecuting attorney shall file a special allegation of sexual motivation in every criminal case, felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor, other than sex offenses as defined in RCW 9.94A.030 when sufficient admissible evidence exists, which, when considered with the most plausible, reasonably foreseeable defense that could be raised under the evidence, would justify a finding of sexual motivation by a reasonable and objective fact finder.
- (2) In a criminal case wherein there has been a special allegation the state shall prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused committed the crime with a sexual motivation. The court shall make a finding of fact of whether or not a sexual motivation was present at the time of the commission of the crime, or if a jury trial is had, the jury shall, if it finds the defendant guilty, also find a special verdict as to whether or not the defendant committed the crime with a sexual motivation. This finding shall not be applied to sex offenses as defined in RCW 9.94A.030.
- (3) The prosecuting attorney shall not withdraw the special allegation of sexual motivation without approval of the court through an order of dismissal of the special allegation. The court shall not dismiss this special allegation unless it finds that such an order is necessary to correct an error in the initial charging decision or unless there are evidentiary problems which make proving the special allegation doubtful.

⁵ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.510 lists a range of imprisonment terms. Each prison term is dependent on a specific offender score rated from 0–9. Several factors, including prior convictions, are considered in determining each defendant’s offender score. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.525. The sentencing range used throughout this report encompasses the entire offender score range of 0–9.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100(1)(b), (2)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550, 9A.20.021.⁶ No separate provision or enhanced penalties apply to the sex trafficking of minors.

- 1.1.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Human trafficking) to differentiate between the trafficking of a minor and that of an adult and eliminate the requirement to prove force, fraud, or coercion in the sex trafficking of a minor.⁷

1.2 *Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is identified as a separate and distinct offense from general sexual offenses, which may also be used to prosecute those who commit commercial sex offenses against minors.*

The following laws make CSEC distinct crime in Washington:

1. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(1) (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) states,

A person is guilty of commercial sexual abuse of a minor if:

- (a) He or she pays a fee to a minor or a third person as compensation for a minor having engaged in sexual conduct⁸ with him or her;
- (b) He or she pays or agrees to pay a fee to a minor or a third person pursuant to an understanding that in return therefore such minor will engage in sexual conduct with him or her; or
- (c) He or she solicits, offers, or requests to engage in sexual conduct with a minor in return for a fee.

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(1) is punishable as a Class B felony, seriousness level VIII, by imprisonment for 21 months to 10 years, a possible fine up to \$20,000, or both imprisonment and a fine.⁹ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.100(2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9A.20.021.¹⁰

⁶ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.64.025(1) states, “A defendant who has been found guilty of a felony and is awaiting sentencing shall be detained unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant is not likely to flee or to pose a danger to the safety of any other person or the community if released.” The offenses of human trafficking in the first or second degree are two of the felonies for which a defendant “shall be detailed pending sentencing.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.64.025(2).

⁷ Subsequent recommendations in this report referring to the state human trafficking law(s) are predicated upon the recommendations contained in Section 1.1 being previously or simultaneously implemented.

⁸ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(4) defines “sexual conduct” as “sexual intercourse or sexual contact, both as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW [Sex offenses].” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.010(1) (Definitions) explains that “sexual intercourse”

- (a) has its ordinary meaning and occurs upon any penetration, however slight, and
- (b) Also means any penetration of the vagina or anus however slight, by an object, when committed on one person by another, whether such persons are of the same or opposite sex, except when such penetration is accomplished for medically recognized treatment or diagnostic purposes, and
- (c) Also means any act of sexual contact between persons involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another whether such persons are of the same or opposite sex.

While Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.010(2) defines “sexual contact” as “any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a person done for the purpose of gratifying sexual desire of either party or a third party.”

⁹ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.130 (Additional requirements) states,

- (1) When sentencing or imposing conditions on a person convicted of, or receiving a deferred sentence or deferred prosecution for, violating RCW 9A.88.110 [Patronizing a prostitute] or 9.68A.100, the court must impose a requirement that the offender:
 - (a) Not be subsequently arrested for patronizing a prostitute or *patronizing a juvenile prostitute; and
 - (b) Remain outside the geographical area, prescribed by the court, in which the person was arrested for violating RCW 9A.88.110 or 9.68A.100, unless such a requirement would interfere with the person’s legitimate employment or residence or otherwise be infeasible.
- (2) This requirement is in addition to the penalties set forth in RCW 9A.88.110, 9A.88.120 [Additional fee assessment], and 9.68A.100.

2. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101(1) (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor) makes it a crime when a person “knowingly advances commercial sexual abuse of a minor or profits from a minor engaged in sexual conduct.”¹¹ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101(3) states,

(a) A person “advances commercial sexual abuse of a minor” if, acting other than as a minor receiving compensation for personally rendered sexual conduct or as a person engaged in commercial sexual abuse of a minor, he or she causes or aids a person to commit or engage in commercial sexual abuse of a minor, procures or solicits customers for commercial sexual abuse of a minor, provides persons or premises for the purposes of engaging in commercial sexual abuse of a minor, operates or assists in the operation of a house or enterprise for the purposes of engaging in commercial sexual abuse of a minor, or engages in any other conduct designed to institute, aid, cause, assist, or facilitate an act or enterprise of commercial sexual abuse of a minor.

(b) A person “profits from commercial sexual abuse of a minor” if, acting other than as a minor receiving compensation for personally rendered sexual conduct, he or she accepts or receives money or other property pursuant to an agreement or understanding with any person whereby he or she participates or will participate in the proceeds of commercial sexual abuse of a minor.

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101(1) is punishable as a Class A felony, seriousness level XII, by imprisonment for 93–318 months, a possible fine up to \$50,000, or both imprisonment and a fine. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.101(2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550.¹²

3. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102(1) (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor) states,

A person commits the offense of promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor if he or she knowingly sells or offers to sell travel services¹³ that include or facilitate travel for the

The asterisk in the statute refers to a reviser’s note, which states “The term ‘patronizing a juvenile prostitute’ was changed to ‘commercial sexual abuse of a minor’ by 2007 c 368 § 2.”

Additionally, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140 (Vehicle impoundment—fees and fine) states,

(1)(a) Upon an arrest for a suspected violation of patronizing a prostitute, promoting prostitution in the first degree, promoting prostitution in the second degree, promoting travel for prostitution, the arresting law enforcement officer may impound the person’s vehicle if (i) the motor vehicle was used in the commission of the crime; (ii) the person arrested is the owner of the vehicle or the vehicle is a rental car as defined in RCW 46.04.465; and (iii) either (A) the person arrested has previously been convicted of one of the offenses listed in this subsection or (B) the offense was committed within an area designated under (b) of this subsection.

(2) Upon an arrest for a suspected violation of commercial sexual abuse of a minor, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor, the arresting law enforcement officer shall impound the person’s vehicle if (a) the motor vehicle was used in the commission of the crime; and (b) the person arrested is the owner of the vehicle or the vehicle is a rental car as defined in RCW 46.04.465.

¹⁰ Sexual offenses and human trafficking under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. ch. 9A.44 (Sex offenses) and ch. 9.68A (Sexual exploitation of children) are punishable under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. ch. 9A.20 (Classification of crimes), which lays out the maximum penalties for these crimes. The sentencing guidelines outlined in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.510 (Table 1—sentencing grid), as informed by seriousness levels outlined in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.515 (Table 2—crimes included within each seriousness level), provide the minimum sentence and the range depending on the offender score.

¹¹ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101(4) defines “sexual conduct” as “sexual intercourse or sexual contact, both as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW.” See *supra* note 8 for the definition of “sexual conduct” and “sexual intercourse.”

¹² Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.64.025(1) states, “A defendant who has been found guilty of a felony and is awaiting sentencing shall be detained unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant is not likely to flee or to pose a danger to the safety of any other person or the community if released.” The offense of promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor is one of the felonies covered by this statute. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.64.025(2).

¹³ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102(3) states, “‘travel services’ has ‘the same meaning as defined in RCW 19.138.021 [Definitions].” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 19.138.021(7) defines “travel services” as “transportation by air, sea, or ground, hotel or

purpose of engaging in what would be commercial sexual abuse of a minor or promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor, if occurring in this state.

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102(1) is punishable as a Class C felony by imprisonment for up to 12 months, a possible fine up to \$10,000, or both imprisonment and a fine.¹⁴ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.102(2), 9.94A.505(2)(b), 9.94A.550.

4. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.103(1) (Permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor) states,

A person is guilty of permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor if, having possession or control of premises which he or she knows are being used for the purpose of commercial sexual abuse of a minor, he or she fails without lawful excuse to make reasonable effort to halt or abate such use and to make a reasonable effort to notify law enforcement of such use.

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.103(1) is punishable as a gross misdemeanor by imprisonment for up to 364 days, a possible fine up to \$5,000, or both imprisonment and a fine. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.103(2), 9.92.020.

5. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.040(1) (Sexual exploitation of a minor) states,

A person is guilty of sexual exploitation of a minor if the person:

- (a) Compels a minor by threat or force to engage in sexually explicit conduct, knowing that such conduct will be photographed or part of a live performance;
- (b) Aids, invites, employs, authorizes, or causes a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct, knowing that such conduct will be photographed or part of a live performance; or
- (c) Being a parent, legal guardian, or person having custody or control of a minor, permits the minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct, knowing that the conduct will be photographed or part of a live performance.¹⁵

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68.040(1) is punishable as a Class B felony, seriousness level IX, by imprisonment of 31 months to 10 years, a fine up to \$20,000, or both imprisonment and a fine. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.040(2), 9A.20.021(1)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510.

Other crimes against children that are not specifically commercial in nature but may be used in a case of domestic minor sex trafficking include the following:

1. Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.073 (Rape of a child in the first degree) states,

(1) A person is guilty of rape of a child in the first degree when the person has sexual intercourse with another who is less than twelve years old and not married to the perpetrator and the perpetrator is at least twenty-four months older than the victim.

any lodging accommodations, package tours, or vouchers or coupons to be redeemed for future travel or accommodations for a fee, commission, or other valuable consideration.”

¹⁴ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.505(2)(b) (Sentences) explains,

If a standard sentence range has not been established for the offender’s crime, the court shall impose a determinate sentence which may include not more than one year of confinement; community restitution work; a term of community custody under RCW 9.94A.702 [Community custody—offenders sentenced for one year or less] not to exceed one year; and/or other legal financial obligations. The court may impose a sentence which provides more than one year of confinement and a community custody term under RCW 9.94A.701 [Community custody—offenders sentenced to the custody of the department] if the court finds reasons justifying an exceptional sentence as provided in RCW 9.94A.535.

¹⁵ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.011(6) defines a “live performance” as “any play, show, skit, dance, or other exhibition performed or presented to or before an audience of one or more, with or without consideration.”

(2) Rape of a child in the first degree is a class A felony.

Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.073 is a Class A felony offense, seriousness level XII, punishable by imprisonment for 93–123 months, a possible fine up to \$50,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.44.073(2), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

2. Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.076 (Rape of a child in the second degree) states,

(1) A person is guilty of rape of a child in the second degree when the person has sexual intercourse with another who is at least twelve years old but less than fourteen years old and not married to the perpetrator and the perpetrator is at least thirty-six months older than the victim.

(2) Rape of a child in the second degree is a class A felony.

Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.076 is a Class A felony offense, seriousness level XI, punishable by imprisonment for 78–102 months, a possible fine up to \$50,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.44.076(2), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

3. Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.079 (Rape of a child in the third degree) states,

(1) A person is guilty of rape of a child in the third degree when the person has sexual intercourse with another who is at least fourteen years old but less than sixteen years old and not married to the perpetrator and the perpetrator is at least forty-eight months older than the victim.

(2) Rape of a child in the third degree is a class C felony.

Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.079 is a Class C felony offense, seriousness level VI, punishable by imprisonment for 12–14 months, a possible fine up to \$10,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.44.079(2), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

4. Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.083 (Child molestation in the first degree) states,

(1) A person is guilty of child molestation in the first degree when the person has, or knowingly causes another person under the age of eighteen to have, sexual contact with another who is less than twelve years old and not married to the perpetrator and the perpetrator is at least thirty-six months older than the victim.

(2) Child molestation in the first degree is a class A felony.

Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.083 is a Class A felony offense, seriousness level X, punishable by imprisonment for 51–68 months, a possible fine up to \$50,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.44.083(2), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

5. Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.086 (Child molestation in the second degree) states,

(1) A person is guilty of child molestation in the second degree when the person has, or knowingly causes another person under the age of eighteen to have, sexual contact with another who is at least twelve years old but less than fourteen years old and not married to the perpetrator and the perpetrator is at least thirty-six months older than the victim.

(2) Child molestation in the second degree is a class B felony.

Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.086 is a Class B felony offense, seriousness level VII, punishable by imprisonment for 15–20 months, a possible fine up to \$20,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.44.086(2), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

6. Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.089 (Child molestation in the third degree) states,

(1) A person is guilty of child molestation in the third degree when the person has, or knowingly causes another person under the age of eighteen to have, sexual contact with another who is at least fourteen years old but less than sixteen years old and not married to the perpetrator and the perpetrator is at least forty-eight months older than the victim.

(2) Child molestation in the third degree is a class C felony.

Wash. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9A.44.089 is a Class C felony offense, seriousness level V, punishable by imprisonment for 6–12 months, a possible fine up to \$10,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.44.089(2), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

1.3 *CSEC or prostitution statutes refer to the sex trafficking statute to identify the commercially sexually exploited minor as a trafficking victim.*

None of the Washington CSEC laws refer to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking). They also do not clarify that CSEC victims are sex trafficking victims. However, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.219 (Arrest for prostitution or prostitution loitering), within the Juvenile Justice Act of 1977, states,

In any proceeding under this chapter related to an arrest for prostitution or prostitution loitering, there is a presumption that the alleged offender meets the criteria for a certification as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons as defined in section 7105 of Title 22 of the United States code [the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended], and that the alleged offender is also a victim of commercial sex abuse of a minor.¹⁶

Also, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.001 (Legislative findings, intent) expresses the legislative finding that the prevention of child sexual exploitation and abuse is a key concern of the government.¹⁷

1.3.1 Recommendation: Specifically refer to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) in the CSEC and juvenile prostitution arrest statutes to identify prostituted minors as victims of sex trafficking.

¹⁶ However, reference to the federal definition of “severe forms of trafficking” in 22 U.S.C. § 7105, combined with the term “certification” in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.219, could prove problematic in application of this presumption. 22 U.S.C. § 7105(b)(1)(C), which applies to victims in the United States, provides a definition of “victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons” to include a person “subjected to an act or practice” defined in 22 U.S.C. § 7102(8) who is a minor under 18 or subject to certification under subsection (E). Subsection (E) requires the person to be willing to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the trafficker and to have made an application for a T visa that has not been denied or be “a person whose continued presence in the United States the Attorney General the Secretary of Homeland Security is ensuring in order to effectuate prosecution of traffickers in persons.” Clarification is needed that the use of the word “certification” in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.219 does not mean that the victim must have the certification in 22 U.S.C. § 7105(b)(1)(E).

¹⁷ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.001 (Legislative findings, intent) states in part that

The care of children is a sacred trust and should not be abused by those who seek commercial gain or personal gratification based on the exploitation of children. . . .

. . . It is the intent of the legislature to encourage these children to engage in prevention and intervention services and to hold those who pay to engage in the sexual abuse of children accountable for the trauma they inflict on children.

Legal Components:

- 2.1 *The state sex trafficking law can be applied to the buyers of commercial sex acts with a victim of domestic minor sex trafficking.*
- 2.2 *Buyers of commercial sex acts with a minor can be prosecuted under CSEC laws.*
- 2.3 *Solicitation laws differentiate buying sex acts with an adult and buying sex acts with a minor under 18.*
- 2.4 *Penalties for buyers of commercial sex acts with minors are as high as federal penalties.*
- 2.5 *Using the Internet to lure, entice, or purchase, or attempt to lure, entice, or purchase commercial sex acts with a minor is a separate crime or results in an enhanced penalty for buyers.*
- 2.6 *No age mistake defense is permitted for a buyer of commercial sex acts with any minor under 18.*
- 2.7 *Base penalties for buying sex acts with a minor are sufficiently high for all minors under 18 and not reduced for older minors.*
- 2.8 *Financial penalties for buyers of commercial sex acts with minors are sufficiently high to make it difficult for buyers to hide the crime.*
- 2.9 *Buying and possessing child pornography carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.*
- 2.10 *Convicted buyers of commercial sex acts with minors and child pornography are required to register as sex offenders.*

Legal Analysis:

- 2.1 *The state sex trafficking law can be applied to the buyers of commercial sex acts with a victim of domestic minor sex trafficking.*

Washington’s human trafficking law, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking), makes it a crime when a person “obtains . . . by any means another person knowing that force, fraud, or coercion . . . will be used to cause the person to engage in . . . a commercial sex act.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) might apply to buyers of sex with victims of domestic minor sex trafficking through the term “obtain.” Federal prosecutors, under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA),¹⁸ have applied the crime of human trafficking to attempted buyers of commercial sex with minors by charging that the buyers attempted to “obtain”¹⁹ a person under 18 to engage in commercial sex.²⁰ It is unsettled whether the courts will uphold this interpretation of the TVPA. It is arguable, therefore, that the term “obtain” in Washington’s trafficking statute may be similarly applied, and could, therefore, implicate buyers under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100. Even if applied, however, the placement of the word “obtain” in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100, requires the buyer know “that force, fraud, or coercion as defined in RCW 9A.36.070 will be used to cause the person to engage in forced labor, involuntary servitude, or a commercial sex act.” This requirement makes it less likely that Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 would be applicable against buyers.

- 2.1.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) to expressly apply to buyers of commercial sex with minors.

¹⁸ Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464, 1466 (codified in scattered sections of 18 and 22 U.S.C.).

¹⁹ 18 U.S.C. § 1591(a).

²⁰ See, e.g., Indictment at 1, United States v. Oflyng, No. 09-00084-01-CR-W-SOW (W.D. Mo. Mar. 10, 2009); see also News Release, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, Human Trafficking Rescue Project, Operation Guardian Angel, Final Defendant Pleads Guilty to Sex Trafficking of a Child, (Dec. 18, 2009), <http://www.justice.gov/usao/mow/news2009/mikoloyck.ple.htm>.

2.2 *Buyers of commercial sex acts with a minor can be prosecuted under CSEC laws.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(1) (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) includes the crime of buying sex with a minor.²¹ A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(1) is punishable as a Class B felony, seriousness level VIII, by imprisonment for 21 months to 10 years, a possible fine up to \$20,000, or both imprisonment and a fine.²² Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.100(2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550, 9A.20.21.

Several sexual offenses could be used to prosecute certain buyers of commercial sex acts with a minor but do not specifically criminalize the commercial sexual exploitation of a child and do not refer to the human trafficking statute to bring these criminal offenses within the ambit of human trafficking under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking).²³

2.3 *Solicitation laws differentiate buying sex acts with an adult and buying sex acts with a minor under 18.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(1) (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) specifically criminalizes paying for commercial sex with a minor. A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(1) is punishable as a Class B felony, seriousness level VIII, by imprisonment for 21 months to 10 years and a possible fine up to \$20,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.100(2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. Washington's general solicitation law, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.110 (Patronizing a prostitute), is age neutral and does not differentiate between paying for sex with adults and paying for sex with minors. The penalty is a misdemeanor.

- 2.3.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.110 (Patronizing a prostitute) to distinguish the solicitation of a minor by referring cases involving minors to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor), and Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.100 (Trafficking).

2.4 *Penalties for buyers of commercial sex acts with minors are as high as federal penalties.*

Penalties for buyers of commercial sex with minors prosecuted for Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) are not as high as federal penalties for offenders of domestic minor sex trafficking prosecuted under the federal child sex trafficking law. A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(1) (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) is punishable as a Class B felony, seriousness level VIII, by imprisonment for 21 months to 10 years, a possible fine up to up to \$20,000, or both imprisonment and a fine. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550, 9A.20.21.

In comparison, if the victim is under the age of 14, a conviction under the TVPA for child sex trafficking is punishable by 15 years to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(b)(1), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). If the victim is between the ages of 14–17, a conviction is punishable by 10 years to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(b)(2), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). A conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment, however, if the buyer has a prior conviction for a federal sex offense²⁴ against a minor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(1). To the

²¹ See *supra* Section 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

²² See *supra* note 9.

²³ See *supra* Section 1.2 for a full description of the sexual offense laws that may be used to prosecute certain buyers.

²⁴ Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(2), “federal sex offense” is defined as

an offense under section 1591 [18 USCS § 1591] (relating to sex trafficking of children), 2241 [18 USCS § 2241] (relating to aggravated sexual abuse), 2242 [18 USCS § 2242] (relating to sexual abuse), 2244(a)(1) [18 USCS § 2244(a)(1)] (relating to abusive sexual contact), 2245 [18 USCS § 2245] (relating to sexual abuse resulting in death), 2251 [18 USCS § 2251] (relating to sexual exploitation of children), 2251A [18 USCS § 2251A] (relating to selling or buying of children), 2422(b) [18 USCS § 2422(b)] (relating to coercion and enticement of a minor into prostitution), or 2423(a) [18 USCS § 2423(a)] (relating to transportation of minors).

extent buyers can be prosecuted under other federal CSEC laws,²⁵ a conviction is punishable by penalties ranging from a fine not to exceed \$250,000 to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.²⁶

2.5 *Using the Internet to lure, entice, or purchase, or attempt to lure, entice, or purchase commercial sex acts with a minor is a separate crime or results in an enhanced penalty for buyers.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(1) (Communication with minor for immoral purposes) makes it illegal when a person “communicates with a minor for immoral purposes, or . . . communicates with someone the person believes to be a minor for immoral purposes.” A first conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(1) is punishable as a gross misdemeanor. Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(2), it is a Class C felony “if the person has previously been convicted under this section or of a felony sexual offense under chapter 9.68A [Sexual exploitation of children], 9A.44 [Sex offenses], or 9A.64 [Family offenses] RCW or of any other felony sexual offense in [Washington] or any other state . . .” The penalty is also increased to a Class C felony if the communication is done “through the sending of an electronic communication,” which could include email or Internet communications. This statute does not specifically address commercial sex acts.

2.6 *No age mistake defense is permitted for a buyer of commercial sex acts with any minor under 18.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.110(3) (Certain defenses barred, permitted) states that “it is not a defense that the defendant did not know the alleged victim’s age” for prosecutions under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.040 (Sexual exploitation of a minor), § 9.68A.090 (Communication with minor for immoral purposes), § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor), § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor), or § 9.68A.102 (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor). However, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.110(3) states,

It is a defense, which the defendant must prove by a preponderance of the evidence, that at the time of the offense, the defendant made a reasonable bona fide attempt to ascertain the true age of the minor by requiring production of a driver’s license, marriage license, birth certificate, or other governmental or educational identification card or paper and did not rely solely on the oral allegations or apparent age of the minor.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.110(2) states in part that “it is not a defense that the defendant did not know the age of the child depicted in the visual or printed matter” for prosecutions involving child pornography under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.050 (Dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct), § 9.68A.060 (Sending, bringing into state depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct), § 9.68A.070 (Possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct), or § 9.68A.080 (Reporting of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct—civil immunity). However, “It is a defense, which the defendant must prove by a preponderance of the evidence, that at the time of the offense the defendant was not in possession of any facts on the basis of which he or she should reasonably have known that the person depicted was a minor.” Other defenses based on age exist for non-commercial sex offenses under chapter 9A.44 (Sex offenses) and are listed in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.030 (Defenses to prosecution under this chapter).

²⁵ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251A(b) (Selling or buying of children), 2251(a) (Sexual exploitation of children), 2423(a) (Transportation of a minor with intent for minor to engage in criminal sexual activity), 2422(a) (Coercion and enticement), 2252(a)(2), (a)(4) (Certain activities relating to material involving the sexual exploitation of minors).

²⁶ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251A(b) (conviction punishable by imprisonment for 30 years to life and a fine), 2251(e) (conviction punishable by imprisonment for 15–30 years and a fine), 2423(a) (conviction punishable by imprisonment for 10 years to life and a fine), 2422(a) (conviction punishable by a fine, imprisonment up to 20 years, or both), 2252(a)(2), (4) (stating that a conviction under subsection (a)(2) is punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine, while a conviction under subsection (a)(4) is punishable by imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine, or both); *see also* 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559(a)(1) (classifying all of the above listed offenses as felonies), 3571(b)(3) (providing a fine up to \$250,000 for any felony conviction).

2.7 *Base penalties for buying sex acts with a minor are sufficiently high for all minors under 18 and not reduced for older minors.*

Penalties for buying sex with a minor under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sex abuse of a minor) are not staggered according to the victim’s age—all minors under 18 who are commercially sexually abused are protected equally.

2.8 *Financial penalties for buyers of commercial sex acts with minors are sufficiently high to make it difficult for buyers to hide the crime.*

Buyers may be required to pay fines. A buyer convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) is subject to a possible fine up to \$50,000, while one convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(1) (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) may be required to pay a possible fine up to \$20,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100 (1)(b), (2)(b), 9.68A.100(2), 9.94A.550.

Additionally, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.105(1)(a) (Additional fee assessment) mandates a fine of \$5,000 for

a person who is either convicted or given a deferred sentence or a deferred prosecution or who has entered into a statutory or nonstatutory diversion agreement as a result of an arrest for violating RCW 9.68A.100 [Commercial sexual abuse of a minor], 9.68A.101 [Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor], or 9.68A.102 [Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor], or a comparable county or municipal ordinance

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140(2) (Vehicle impoundment—fees and fines) states,

Upon an arrest for a suspected violation of commercial sexual abuse of a minor, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor, the arresting law enforcement officer shall impound the person’s vehicle if (a) the motor vehicle was used in the commission of the crime; and (b) the person arrested is the owner of the vehicle or the vehicle is a rental car as defined in RCW 46.04.465 [Rental car].

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140(4) sets a \$2,500 fine to the impounding agency to redeem the vehicle.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) and Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) are subject to forfeiture. Wash. Rev. Code § 10.105.900. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.105.010(1) (Seizure and forfeiture) states in part,

The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture and no property right exists in them: All personal property, including, but not limited to, any item, object, tool, substance, device, weapon, machine, vehicle of any kind, money, security, or negotiable instrument, which has been or was actually employed as an instrumentality in the commission of, or in aiding or abetting in the commission of any felony, or which was furnished or was intended to be furnished by any person in the commission of, as a result of, or as compensation for the commission of, any felony, or which was acquired in whole or in part with proceeds traceable to the commission of a felony. No property may be forfeited under this section until after there has been a superior court conviction of the owner of the property for the felony in connection with which the property was employed, furnished, or acquired.

. . . .

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120 (Seizure and forfeiture of property) applies specifically to

(1) All visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

(2) All raw materials, equipment, and other tangible personal property of any kind used or intended to be used to manufacture or process any visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and all conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels that are used or intended for use to transport, or in any manner to facilitate the transportation of, visual or printed matter in violation of RCW 9.68A.050 [Dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct] or 9.68A.060 [Sending, bringing into state depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct] . . .

(3) All personal property, moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other tangible or intangible property furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for visual or printed matter depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, or constituting proceeds traceable to any violation of this chapter.

2.9 *Buying and possessing child pornography carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.*

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070(1) (Possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct) in the first degree is punishable as a Class B felony, seriousness level VI, by imprisonment for 12–102 months and a possible fine up to \$20,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.070(1)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070(1)(c), “For the purposes of determining the unit of prosecution . . . each depiction or image of visual or printed matter constitutes a separate offense.” When committed in the second degree a conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070(2) is punishable as a Class C felony, seriousness level IV, by imprisonment for 3–60 months, a possible fine up to \$10,000, or both imprisonment and a fine. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550, 9A.020.021. Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070(2), “For the purposes of determining the unit of prosecution . . . each incident of possession of one or more depictions or images of visual or printed matter constitutes a separate offense.” A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.075 (Viewing depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct) in the first degree is punishable as a Class B felony, seriousness level IV, by imprisonment for 3–84 months, a possible fine up to \$20,000, or both imprisonment and a fine. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. When committed in the second degree it is punishable as a Class C felony, currently unranked in seriousness level, by imprisonment of no more than 12 months and a possible fine up to \$20,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.94A.505(2)(b), 9.94A.550. Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.075(4), “For the purposes of this section, each separate internet session of intentionally viewing over the internet visual or printed matter depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct constitutes a separate offense.”²⁷ Additionally, under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.075(3),

For the purposes of determining whether a person intentionally viewed over the internet a visual or printed matter depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct in subsection (1) or (2) of this section, the trier of fact shall consider the title, text, and content of the visual or printed matter, as well

²⁷ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.001(Legislative findings, intent) expresses legislative intent by stating in part,

By amending current statutes governing depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, it is the intent of the legislature to ensure that intentional viewing of and dealing in child pornography over the internet is subject to a criminal penalty without limiting the scope of existing prohibitions on the possession of or dealing in child pornography, including the possession of electronic depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. It is also the intent of the legislature to clarify, in response to *State v. Sutherby*, 204 P.3d 916 (2009), the unit of prosecution for the statutes governing possession of and dealing in depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. It is the intent of the legislature that the first degree offenses under RCW 9.68A.050 [Dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct], 9.68A.060 [Sending, bringing into state depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct], and 9.68A.070 [Possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct] have a per depiction or image unit of prosecution, while the second degree offenses under RCW 9.68A.050, 9.68A.060, and 9.68A.070 have a per incident unit of prosecution as established in *State v. Sutherby*, 204 P.3d 916 (2009). Furthermore, it is the intent of the legislature to set a different unit of prosecution for the new offense of viewing of depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct such that each separate session of intentionally viewing over the internet of visual depictions or images of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct constitutes a separate offense.

as the internet history, search terms, thumbnail images, downloading activity, expert computer forensic testimony, number of visual or printed matter depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, defendant's access to and control over the electronic device and its contents upon which the visual or printed matter was found, or any other relevant evidence. The state must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the viewing was initiated by the user of the computer where the viewing occurred.

In comparison, a federal conviction for possession of child pornography²⁸ is generally punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.²⁹ Subsequent convictions, however, are punishable by imprisonment up to 40 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.³⁰

2.10 *Convicted buyers of commercial sex acts with minors and child pornography are required to register as sex offenders.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.130(1)(a) (Registration of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders) requires adults residing in Washington, among others, who have been “convicted of any sex offense or kidnapping offense” to register for the sex offender registry. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.128(10) (Definitions applicable to RCW 9A.44.130 through 9A.44.145, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 70.48.470, and 72.09.330), with its cross reference to the definition of “sex offense” in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.030 (Definitions), defines “sex offense” to include, by reference felony violations of chapter 9.68A (Sexual exploitation of children) (with the exception of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.080). As a result, buyers convicted of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100 are required under to register as sex offenders. In addition, those convicted for possessing and viewing child pornography under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070 and § 9.68A.075, are required to register as sex offenders. However, buyers convicted of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) are not expressly required to register, though a special allegation of sexual motivation in a sex trafficking of a minor crime will result in a requirement to register as a sex offender. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.94A.030(46)(c), 9.94A.835, 9A.44.128(10), 9A.44.130.

- 2.10.1 Recommendation: Add Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) to the list of sex offenses in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.128 (Definitions applicable to RCW 9A.44.130 through 9A.44.145, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 70.48.470, and 72.09.330) for which offenders must register to ensure sex trafficking is identified as a crime requiring registration as a sex offender.

²⁸ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(2), (a)(4) (Certain activities relating to material involving the sexual exploitation of minors), 2252A(a)(2)–(3) (Certain activities relating to material constituting or containing child pornography), 1466A(a), (b) (Obscene visual representations of the sexual abuse of children).

²⁹ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(b) (stating that a conviction under subsection (a)(2) is punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine, while a conviction under subsection (a)(4) is punishable by imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine, or both), 2252A(b)(1) (a conviction is punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine), 1466A(a), (b) (stating that a conviction under subsection (a) is “subject to the penalties provided in section 2252A(b)(1),” imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine, while a conviction under subsection (b) is “subject to the penalties provided in section 2252A(b)(2),” imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine, or both); *see also* 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559(a)(1) (classifying all of the above listed offenses as felonies), 3571(b)(3) (providing a fine up to \$250,000 for any felony conviction).

³⁰ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(b) (stating if a person has a prior conviction under subsection (a)(2), or a list of other statutes, a conviction is punishable by a fine and imprisonment for 15–40 years, but if a person has a prior conviction under subsection (a)(4), or a list of other statutes, a conviction is punishable by a fine and imprisonment for 10–20 years), 2252A(b)(1) (stating if a person has a prior conviction under subsection (a)(2), (a)(3), or a list of other statutes, a conviction is punishable by a fine and imprisonment for 15–40 years), 1466A(a), (b) (stating that the penalty scheme for section 2252A(b) applies); *see also* 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559(a)(1) (classifying all of the above listed offenses as felonies), 3571(b)(3) (providing a fine up to \$250,000 for any felony conviction).

Legal Components:

- 3.1 Penalties for trafficking a child for sexual exploitation are as high as federal penalties.
- 3.2 Creating and distributing child pornography carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.
- 3.3 Using the Internet to lure, entice, recruit or sell commercial sex acts with a minor is a separate crime or results in an enhanced penalty for traffickers.
- 3.4 Financial penalties for traffickers, including asset forfeiture, are sufficiently high.
- 3.5 Convicted traffickers are required to register as sex offenders.
- 3.6 Laws relating to termination of parental rights for certain offenses include sex trafficking or CSEC offenses in order to remove the children of traffickers from their control and potential exploitation.

Legal Analysis:

- 3.1 Penalties for trafficking a child for sexual exploitation are as high as federal penalties.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1)(a) (Trafficking)³¹ in the first degree is punishable as a Class A felony, seriousness level XIV, by imprisonment for 123–397 months and a possible fine up to \$50,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100(1)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. Convictions for human trafficking in the second degree, under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(2)(a) and for Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor) are also punishable as Class A felonies, with a seriousness level of XII, by imprisonment for 93–318 months and a possible fine up to \$50,000.³² Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100(2)(b), 9.68A.101(2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102 (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse) is punishable as a Class C felony, unranked on the sentencing grid, by imprisonment up to 12 months and a possible fine up to \$10,000.³³ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.102(2), 9.94A.505(2)(b), 9.94A.550.

A trafficker could be convicted under the racketeering statute, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.080 (Use of proceeds of criminal profiteering), which states,

(1) (a) It is unlawful for a person who has knowingly received any of the proceeds derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of criminal profiteering³⁴ activity³⁵ to use or invest, whether directly or

³¹ See *supra* Section 1.1 for the relevant provisions.

³² See *supra* Sections 1.1 and 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

³³ See *supra* Section 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

³⁴ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.010(4) states,

“Criminal profiteering” means any act, including any anticipatory or completed offense, committed for financial gain, that is chargeable or indictable under the laws of the state in which the act occurred and, if the act occurred in a state other than this state, would be chargeable or indictable under the laws of this state had the act occurred in this state and punishable as a felony and by imprisonment for more than one year, regardless of whether the act is charged or indicted, as any of the following:

-
- (s) Leading organized crime, as defined in RCW 9A.82.060;
- (t) Money laundering, as defined in RCW 9A.83.020;
-
- (x) Sexual exploitation of children, as defined in RCW 9.68A.040, 9.68A.050, and 9.68A.060;
- (y) Promoting prostitution, as defined in RCW 9A.88.070 and 9A.88.080;
-

³⁵ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.010(12) states, “‘Pattern of criminal profiteering activity’ means engaging in at least three acts of criminal profiteering, one of which occurred after July 1, 1985, and the last of which occurred within five years, excluding any period of imprisonment, after the commission of the earliest act of criminal profiteering. In order to constitute a pattern, the three acts must have the same or similar intent, results, accomplices, principals, victims, or methods of commission, or be otherwise

indirectly, any part of the proceeds, or the proceeds derived from the investment or use thereof, in the acquisition of any title to, or any right, interest, or equity in, real property or in the establishment or operation of any enterprise.

(b) A violation of this subsection is a class B felony.

(2) (a) It is unlawful for a person knowingly to acquire or maintain, directly or indirectly, any interest in or control of any enterprise or real property through a pattern of criminal profiteering activity.

(b) A violation of this subsection is a class B felony.

A conviction for use of racketeering proceeds is punishable as a Class B felony, seriousness level IV, by imprisonment for 3-9 months, a fine of \$20,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.82.080(1), (2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550.

A trafficker may face penalties under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.060 (Leading organized crime) if the trafficker is guilty of “[i]ntentionally organizing, managing, directing, supervising, or financing any three or more persons with the intent to engage in a pattern of criminal profiteering activity,” which is punishable as a Class A felony, seriousness level X, by imprisonment for 51-68 months, a fine of \$50,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.82.060(1)(a), (2)(a), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. A trafficker could also be guilty of “[i]ntentionally inciting or inducing others to engage in violence or intimidation with the intent to further or promote the accomplishment of a pattern of criminal profiteering activity,” which is punishable as a Class B felony by imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine of \$20,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.82.060(1)(b), (2)(b), 9A.20.021(1)(b).

A trafficker could also be convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.83.020 (Money laundering), which states,

(1) A person is guilty of money laundering when that person conducts or attempts to conduct a financial transaction involving the proceeds³⁶ of specified unlawful activity³⁷ and:

(a) Knows the property is proceeds of specified unlawful activity; or

(b) Knows that the transaction is designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the proceeds, and acts recklessly as to whether the property is proceeds of specified unlawful activity; or

(c) Knows that the transaction is designed in whole or in part to avoid a transaction reporting requirement under federal law.

A conviction for money laundering is punishable as a Class B felony by imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine of \$20,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.83.020(4), 9A.20.021(1)(b).

In comparison, if the victim is under the age of 14, a conviction under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)³⁸ for child sex trafficking is punishable by 15 years to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(b)(1), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). If the victim is between the ages of 14–17, a conviction is punishable by 10 years to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000. 18 U.S.C.

interrelated by distinguishing characteristics including a nexus to the same enterprise, and must not be isolated events.” See *supra* note 34 for a list of relevant criminal profiteering acts.

³⁶ Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.83.010(5), “‘Proceeds’ means any interest in property directly or indirectly acquired through or derived from an act or omission, and any fruits of this interest, in whatever form.”

³⁷ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.83.010(7) states, “‘Specified unlawful activity’ means an offense committed in this state that is a class A or B felony under Washington law or that is listed as ‘criminal profiteering’ in RCW 9A.82.010, or an offense committed in any other state that is punishable under the laws of that state by more than one year in prison, or an offense that is punishable under federal law by more than one year in prison.”

³⁸ Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464, 1466 (codified in scattered sections of 18 and 22 U.S.C.).

§§ 1591(b)(2), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). A conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment, however, if the trafficker has a prior conviction for a federal sex offense³⁹ against a minor.

3.2 *Creating and distributing child pornography carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.*

Creating child pornography is illegal under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.040 (Sexual exploitation of a minor),⁴⁰ which is punishable as a Class B felony, seriousness level IX, by imprisonment for 31 months to 10 years, a possible fine up to \$20,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.040(2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550, 9A.20.021. Acts related to the distribution of child pornography is illegal under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.050 (Dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct) and § 9.68A.060 (Sending, bringing into state depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.050(1)(a), (2)(a) states,

(1)(a) A person commits the crime of dealing in depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct in the first degree when he or she:

- (i) Knowingly develops, duplicates, publishes, prints, disseminates, exchanges, finances, attempts to finance, or sells a visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in an act of sexually explicit conduct as defined in RCW 9.68A.011(4)(a) through (e) [Definitions]; or
- (ii) Possesses with intent to develop, duplicate, publish, print, disseminate, exchange, or sell any visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in an act of sexually explicit conduct as defined in RCW 9.68A.011(4)(a) through (e).

.....
(2)(a) A person commits the crime of dealing in depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct in the second degree when he or she:

- (i) Knowingly develops, duplicates, publishes, prints, disseminates, exchanges, finances, attempts to finance, or sells any visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in an act of sexually explicit conduct as defined in RCW 9.68A.011(4)(f) or (g); or
- (ii) Possesses with intent to develop, duplicate, publish, print, disseminate, exchange, or sell any visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in an act of sexually explicit conduct as defined in RCW 9.68A.011(4)(f) or (g).

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.060(1)(a), (2)(a) states,

(1)(a) A person commits the crime of sending or bringing into the state depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct in the first degree when he or she knowingly sends or causes to be sent, or brings or causes to be brought, into this state for sale or distribution, a visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct as defined in RCW 9.68A.011(4)(a) through (e).

.....
(2)(a) A person commits the crime of sending or bringing into the state depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct in the second degree when he or she knowingly sends or causes to be sent, or brings or causes to be brought, into this state for sale or distribution, any visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct as defined in RCW 9.68A.011(4)(f) or (g).

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.050(1)(a) and § 9.68A.060(1)(a) are punishable as Class B felonies, seriousness level VII, by imprisonment for 15–116 months and a possible fine up to \$20,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.050(1)(b), 9.68A.060(1)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.050(2)(a) and § 9.68A.060(2)(a) are punishable as Class C felonies, seriousness level of V, by imprisonment for 6–60 months, a fine up to \$10,000, or both imprisonment and a fine. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.050(2)(b), 9.68A.060(2)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550, 9A.20.021.

³⁹ See *supra* note 24.

⁴⁰ See *supra* Section 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

In comparison, if the victim is under the age of 14, a conviction under the TVPA for child sex trafficking is punishable by 15 years to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(b)(1), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). If the victim is between the ages of 14–17, a conviction is punishable by 10 years to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(b)(2), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). A conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment, however, if the trafficker has a prior conviction for a federal sex offense⁴¹ against a minor. Additionally, a federal conviction for distribution of child pornography⁴² is generally punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁴³ Subsequent convictions, however, are punishable by imprisonment up to 40 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁴⁴

3.3 *Using the Internet to lure, entice, recruit or sell commercial sex acts with a minor is a separate crime or results in an enhanced penalty for traffickers.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090 (Communication with minor for immoral purposes)⁴⁵ prohibits communication with a minor or someone one believes to be a minor for immoral purposes. While this is a gross misdemeanor, it is increased to a Class C felony in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(2) when the communication is done through “the sending of an electronic communication,” such as by email or over the Internet. This statute does not specifically address commercial sex acts.

3.4 *Financial penalties for traffickers, including asset forfeiture, are sufficiently high.*

Traffickers may be required to pay fines. Traffickers convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1)(a), (2)(a) (Trafficking) or § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor) may be required to pay possible fines up to \$50,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100(1)(b), (2)(b), 9.68A.101(2), 9.94A.550. Those convicted of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.040 (Sexual exploitation of a minor) may be required to pay a possible fine up to \$20,000, while traffickers convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102 (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse) may be required to pay a possible fine up to \$10,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.040(2), 9.68A.102(2), 9.94A.550.

Additionally, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140(2) states,

Upon an arrest for a suspected violation of commercial sexual abuse of a minor, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor, the arresting law enforcement officer shall impound the person’s vehicle if (a) the motor vehicle was used in the commission of the crime; and (b) the person arrested is the owner of the vehicle or the vehicle is a rental car as defined in RCW 46.04.465.

⁴¹ See *supra* note 24.

⁴² 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3) (Certain activities relating to material involving the sexual exploitation of minors), 2252A(a)(2), (a)(3) (Certain activities relating to material constituting or containing child pornography), 1466A(a) (Obscene visual representations of the sexual abuse of children).

⁴³ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(b) (stating that a conviction under subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) is punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine), 2252A(b)(1) (a conviction is punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine), 1466A(a), (b) (stating that a conviction under subsection (a) is “subject to the penalties provided in section 2252A(b)(1),” imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine, while a conviction under subsection (b) is “subject to the penalties provided in section 2252A(b)(2),” imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine, or both); see also 18 U.S.C.

§§ 3559(a)(1) (classifying all of the above listed offenses as felonies), 3571(b)(3) (providing a fine up to \$250,000 for any felony conviction).

⁴⁴ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(b) (stating if a person has a prior conviction under subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) or a list of other statutes, a conviction is punishable by a fine and imprisonment for 15–40 years), 2252A(b)(1) (stating if a person has a prior conviction under subsection (a)(2), (a)(3), or a list of other statutes, a conviction is punishable by a fine and imprisonment for 15–40 years), 1466A(a), (b) (stating that the penalty scheme for section 2252A(b) applies); see also 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559(a)(1) (classifying all of the above listed offenses as felonies), 3571(b)(3) (providing a fine up to \$250,000 for any felony conviction).

⁴⁵ See *supra* Section 2.5 for the relevant provisions.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140(4) sets a \$2,500 fine to be paid to the impounding agency prior in order to redeem the vehicle. In addition, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.105 imposes a non-discretionary \$5,000 penalty for any conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor).

Property forfeiture options include the following: (1) Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.105.010 (Seizure and forfeiture), which applies to most felonies, including Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) and § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor); (2) Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120 (Seizure and forfeiture of property), which applies in part to “[a]ll personal property, moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other tangible or intangible property furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for visual or printed matter depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, or constituting proceeds traceable to any violation of this chapter,” which includes crimes under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. 9.68A (Sexual exploitation of children); and (3) Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(4)(f) provides asset forfeiture through the criminal profiteering statute for traffickers convicted under 9A.40.100 (Trafficking). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(1)(a) (Remedies and procedures) also provides a cause of action for damages and possible treble damages at the court’s discretion. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(1)(a), (4)(d). A trafficker could also face an action to prevent, restrain, or remedy a pattern of human trafficking under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(1)(d) in which the court may impose a civil penalty not exceeding \$250,000, in addition to the cost of the suit, which includes reasonable investigative and attorney’s fees. A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.080(1), (2) could result in a fine of \$20,000, while a conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.060(1)(a) and § 9A.82.060(1)(b) for leading organized crime could result in a fine of \$50,000 or \$20,000, respectively. A conviction for money laundering could also result in a fine of \$20,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.83.020(4), 9A.20.021(1)(b). Any proceeds obtained through money laundering are also subject to seizure and forfeiture under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.83.030(1).

3.5 *Convicted traffickers are required to register as sex offenders.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.130(1)(a) (Registration of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders) requires adults residing in Washington, among others, who have been “convicted of any sex offense or kidnapping offense” to register for the sex offender registry. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.128(10) (Definitions applicable to RCW 9A.44.130 through 9A.44.145, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 70.48.470, and 72.09.330), with its cross reference to the definition of “sex offense” in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.030 (Definitions), defines “sex offense” to include, by reference to felony violations of chapter 9.68A (Sexual exploitation of children), Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor), § 9.68A.102 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor), § 9.68A.103 (Permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor), § 9.68A.040 (Sexual exploitation of a minor), § 9.68A.050 (Dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct), and § 9.68A.060 (Sending, bringing into state depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct). Traffickers convicted of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Human trafficking) are not expressly required to register, however, a special allegation of sexual motivation in a sex trafficking of a minor crime will result in a requirement to register as a sex offender. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.94A.030(46)(c), 9.94A.835, 9A.44.128(10), 9A.44.130.

3.5.1 Recommendation: Add Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Human trafficking) to the list of sex offenses in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.128 for which offenders must register to ensure sex trafficking is identified as a crime requiring registration as a sex offender.

3.6 *Laws relating to termination of parental rights for certain offenses include sex trafficking or CSEC offenses in order to remove the children of traffickers from their control and potential exploitation.*

Grounds and procedures for termination of parental rights are limited and do not apply specifically to crimes of human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children through prostitution or pornography. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.132 (Petition seeking termination of parent-child relationship) and § 13.34.180 (Order

terminating parent and child relationship) outline the grounds for terminating parental rights. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.132 sets out the requirements for termination of parental rights, and one prong states, “Because of the existence of aggravated circumstances, reasonable efforts to unify the family are not required. Notwithstanding the existence of aggravated circumstances, reasonable efforts may be required if the court or department determines it is in the best interests of the child. . . .” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.132(4). According to this provision, “In determining whether aggravated circumstances exist by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence, the court shall consider one or more” items. The list includes a court finding that the parent is a sexually violent predators under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.132(4)(f) and a “[c]onviction of the parent, when a child has been born of: (A) A sex offense under chapter 9A.44 RCW.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.132(4)(i). However, convictions for Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Human trafficking), § 9.68A.102 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor), or § 9.68A.040 (Sexual exploitation of a minor) are not listed. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.180(3) sets out convictions that may be alleged as part of a petition seeking to terminate parental rights, but Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100, § 9.68A.102, and § 9.68A.040 are not included in the list.

- 3.6.1 Recommendation: Add the crimes of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Human trafficking), § 9.68A.102 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor), and § 9.68A.040 (Sexual exploitation of a minor) to the list of grounds for termination of parental rights in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.132.

FRAMEWORK ISSUE 4: CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR FACILITATORS

Legal Components:

- 4.1 *The acts of assisting, enabling, or financially benefitting from child sex trafficking are included as criminal offenses in the state sex trafficking statute.*
- 4.2 *Financial penalties, including asset forfeiture laws, are in place for those who benefit financially from or aid and assist in committing domestic minor sex trafficking.*
- 4.3 *Promoting and selling child sex tourism is illegal.*
- 4.4 *Promoting and selling child pornography is illegal.*

Legal Analysis:

- 4.1 *The acts of assisting, enabling, or financially benefitting from child sex trafficking are included as criminal offenses in the state sex trafficking statute.*

If knowledge of force, fraud, or coercion used to cause the forced labor or involuntary servitude can be proven, then Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Human trafficking) applies to facilitators.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1)(a)(i) states,

(1)(a) A person is guilty of trafficking in the first degree when:

(i) Such person:

- (A) Recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, provides, obtains, or receives by any means another person knowing that force, fraud, or coercion as defined in RCW 9A.36.070 will be used to cause the person to engage in forced labor, involuntary servitude, or a commercial sex act; or
- (B) Benefits financially or by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that has engaged in acts set forth in (a)(i)(A) of this subsection

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1)(a)(ii) states,

[t]he acts or venture set forth in (a)(i) of this subsection:

- (A) Involve committing or attempting to commit kidnapping;
- (B) Involve a finding of sexual motivation under RCW 9.94A.835 [Special allegation—sexual motivation—procedures];
- (C) Involve the illegal harvesting or sale of human organs; or
- (D) Result in a death.

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1) is punishable as a Class A felony, seriousness level XIV, by imprisonment for 123–397 months and a possible fine up to \$50,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100(1)(b), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(2) states,

- (i) Recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, provides, obtains, or receives by any means another person knowing that force, fraud, or coercion as defined in RCW 9A.36.070 will be used to cause the person to engage in forced labor, involuntary servitude, or a commercial sex act; or
- (ii) Benefits financially or by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that has engaged in acts set forth in (a)(i) of this subsection.

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(2) is punishable as a Class A felony, seriousness level XII, by imprisonment for 93–318 months and a possible fine up to \$50,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100(2)(b), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102 (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor)⁴⁶ may apply to facilitators, and a conviction is punishable as a Class C felony, unranked on the sentencing grid, by imprisonment up to 12 months and a possible fine up to \$10,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102(2), 9.94A.505(2)(b), 9.94A.550. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.103 (Permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor) is also available for prosecution of certain facilitators.⁴⁷ A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.103(1) is punishable as a gross misdemeanor by imprisonment for up to 364 days, a possible fine up to \$5,000, or both imprisonment and a fine. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.103(2), 9.92.020.

A facilitator could be convicted under the racketeering statute, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.080 (Use of proceeds of criminal profiteering), which states,

- (1) (a) It is unlawful for a person who has knowingly received any of the proceeds derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of criminal profiteering⁴⁸ activity⁴⁹ to use or invest, whether directly or indirectly, any part of the proceeds, or the proceeds derived from the investment or use thereof, in the acquisition of any title to, or any right, interest, or equity in, real property or in the establishment or operation of any enterprise.
 - (b) A violation of this subsection is a class B felony.
- (2) (a) It is unlawful for a person knowingly to acquire or maintain, directly or indirectly, any interest in or control of any enterprise or real property through a pattern of criminal profiteering activity.
 - (b) A violation of this subsection is a class B felony.

A conviction for use of racketeering proceeds is punishable as a Class B felony by imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine of \$20,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.82.080(1), (2), 9A.20.021(1)(b).

⁴⁶ See *supra* Section 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

⁴⁷ See *supra* Section 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

⁴⁸ See *supra* note 34.

⁴⁹ See *supra* note 35.

A facilitator could also be convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.83.020 (Money laundering), which states,

- (1) A person is guilty of money laundering when that person conducts or attempts to conduct a financial transaction involving the proceeds⁵⁰ of specified unlawful activity⁵¹ and:
- (a) Knows the property is proceeds of specified unlawful activity; or
 - (b) Knows that the transaction is designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the proceeds, and acts recklessly as to whether the property is proceeds of specified unlawful activity; or
 - (c) Knows that the transaction is designed in whole or in part to avoid a transaction reporting requirement under federal law.

A conviction for money laundering is punishable as a Class B felony by imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine of \$20,000, or both. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.83.020(4), 9A.20.021(1)(b).

4.2 *Financial penalties, including asset forfeiture laws, are in place for those who benefit financially from or aid and assist in committing domestic minor sex trafficking.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.105.010 (Seizure and forfeiture) applies to most felonies, including Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) and Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102 (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse). Also, if charged under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking), a facilitator faces asset forfeiture, an action for damages, and possible treble damages at the court’s discretion through the criminal profiteering statute, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100 (Remedies and procedures). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(1)(a), (4)(d), (f). A facilitator could also face an action to prevent, restrain, or remedy a pattern of human trafficking, in which the court may impose a civil penalty not exceeding \$250,000, in addition to the cost of the suit, which includes reasonable investigative and attorney’s fees. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(1)(d).

Specific forfeiture provisions in cases of sexual exploitation of a minor under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120 (Seizure and forfeiture of property) apply to seizure and forfeiture of “[a]ll visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120(3) further permits the forfeiture of “[a]ll personal property, moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other tangible or intangible property furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for visual or printed matter depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, or constituting proceeds traceable to any violation of this chapter.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120(2) states that the following may be seized and forfeited:

- All raw materials, equipment, and other tangible personal property of any kind used or intended to be used to manufacture or process any visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and all conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels that are used or intended for use to transport, or in any manner to facilitate the transportation of, visual or printed matter in violation of RCW 9.68A.050 [Dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct] or 9.68A.060 [Sending, bringing into state depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct], but:
- (a) No conveyance used by any person as a common carrier in the transaction of business as a common carrier is subject to forfeiture under this section unless it appears that the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance is a consenting party or privy to a violation of this chapter;
 - (b) No property is subject to forfeiture under this section by reason of any act or omission established by the owner of the property to have been committed or omitted without the owner’s knowledge or consent;

⁵⁰ See *supra* note 36..

⁵¹ See *supra* note 37.

(c) A forfeiture of property encumbered by a bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission; and

(d) When the owner of a conveyance has been arrested under this chapter the conveyance may not be subject to forfeiture unless it is seized or process is issued for its seizure within ten days of the owner's arrest.

4.3 *Promoting and selling child sex tourism is illegal.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102(1) (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor) makes it a Class C felony if a person “knowingly sells or offers to sell travel services that include or facilitate travel for the purpose of engaging in what would be commercial sexual abuse of a minor or promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor, if occurring in [Washington].” A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102(1) is punishable as a Class C felony, unranked on the sentencing grid, by imprisonment for up to 12 months and a possible fine up to \$10,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.102(2), 9.94A.505(2)(b), 9.94A.550.

- 4.3.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102 (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor) to provide a stronger penalty to reflect the egregious nature of the crime and to better align the penalty with the penalty for a conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor).

4.4 *Promoting and selling child pornography is illegal.*

While promoting child pornography is not expressly made illegal, the distribution of child pornography is illegal under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.050 (Dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct) and § 9.68A.060 (Sending, bringing into state depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct).⁵² Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.050(1)(a) and § 9.68A.060(1)(a) are punishable as Class B felonies, seriousness level VII, by imprisonment for 15–116 months and a possible fine up to \$20,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.050(1)(b), 9.68A.060(1)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.050(2)(a) and § 9.68A.060(2)(a) are punishable as Class C felonies, seriousness level of V, by imprisonment for 6–60 months and a possible fine up to \$10,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.050(2)(b), 9.68A.060(2)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550.

⁵² See *supra* Section 3.2 for the relevant provisions.

Legal Components:

- 5.1 *A victim of domestic minor sex trafficking or CSEC is defined as a victim for purposes of qualifying for crime victims' compensation and other victim benefits.*
- 5.2 *The state sex trafficking statute expressly prohibits a defendant from raising consent of the minor to the commercial sex acts as a defense.*
- 5.3 *Prostitution laws apply only to adults, making minors under 18 specifically immune from this offense.*
- 5.4 *Commercially sexually exploited children are provided with a child protection response, including specialized shelter and services, and are not detained in juvenile detention facilities.*
- 5.5 *Commercial sexual exploitation is identified as a type of abuse and neglect within child protection statutes.*
- 5.6 *The definition of "caregiver" (or similar term) in the child welfare statutes is broad enough to include a trafficker who has custody or control of a child in order to bring a trafficked child into protection of child protective services.*
- 5.7 *Crime victims' compensation is specifically available to a child victim of sex trafficking or CSEC without regard to ineligibility factors.*
- 5.8 *Victim-friendly procedures and protections are provided in the trial process for minors under 18.*
- 5.9 *Expungement or sealing of juvenile arrest or criminal records resulting from arrests or adjudications for prostitution-related offenses committed as a result of, or in the course of, the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor is available within a reasonable time after turning 18.*
- 5.10 *Victim restitution and civil remedies are authorized by law for minor victims of sex trafficking or CSEC.*
- 5.11 *Statutes of limitations for civil and criminal actions for child sex trafficking or CSEC offenses are eliminated or lengthened sufficiently to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal actions and legal remedies.*

Legal Analysis:

- 5.1 *A victim of domestic minor sex trafficking or CSEC is defined as a victim for purposes of qualifying for crime victims' compensation and other victim benefits.*

A commercially sexually exploited child is defined as a victim throughout Washington's laws. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.68.060(6)(b) (Applications for benefits—accrual of rights) was amended in 2010 to clarify that

[a] person identified as the "minor" in the charge of commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.100, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102 is considered a victim of a criminal act for the purpose of the right to benefits under this chapter even if the person is also charged with prostitution under RCW 9A.88.030.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.030(17) (Definitions—regulating leave from semi-secure facility) contains a specific provision defining a "sexually exploited child" to mean "any person under the age of eighteen who is a victim of the crime of commercial sex abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.100, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102." Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.219 (Arrest for prostitution or prostitution loitering), while implicitly allowing juveniles to be arrested for prostitution, specifies,

In any proceeding under this chapter [Juvenile Justice Act of 1977] related to an arrest for prostitution or prostitution loitering, there is a presumption that the alleged offender meets the criteria for a certification as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons as defined in section 7105 of Title 22 of the United States code [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000], and that the alleged offender is

also a victim of commercial sex abuse of a minor.

Although the provision does not prohibit the arrest of a minor who is actually a victim, the presumption further defines a prostituted child as a victim of domestic minor sex trafficking.⁵³

5.2 *The state sex trafficking statute expressly prohibits a defendant from raising consent of the minor to the commercial sex acts as a defense.*

The age of consent in Washington is not explicitly stated in the Code. Sexual intercourse with a minor 16 or older does not constitute rape of a child under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.073 (Rape of a child in the first degree), § 9A.44.076 (Rape of a child in the second degree), § 9A.44.079 (Rape of a child in the third degree), nor does it constitute molestation of a child under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.083 (Child molestation in the first degree), § 9A.44.086 (Child molestation in the second degree), or § 9A.44.089 (Child molestation in the third degree). However, consensual sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person that is 16 or 17 is illegal under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.093 (Sexual misconduct with a minor in the first degree), subject to defenses outlined in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.030 (Defenses to prosecution under this chapter). Other than those situations, absent forcible compulsion, incapacity to consent, a clear lack of consent, or incest, having sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a minor who is 16 or 17 is not a crime. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.44.040, 9A.44.050, 9A.44.060, 9A.64.020. Consent of the minor to a commercial sex act appears to be immaterial to the crimes of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor), § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor), § 9.68A.102 (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor), or § 9.68A.103 (Permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor), and is not indicated to be a defense for the perpetrator of any of the range of commercial sexual exploitation crimes.

5.2.1 Recommendation: Specify in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.100 (Trafficking), § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor), § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor), § 9.68A.102 (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor), and § 9.68A.103 (Permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor) that consent of the minor shall not be a defense in any prosecution of an alleged offender.

5.3 *Prostitution laws apply only to adults, making minors under 18 specifically immune from this offense.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.030 (Prostitution) is age neutral and fails to specifically make minors immune from prosecution for prostitution. However, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.070(7) (Complaints—screening—filing information—diversion) and § 13.40.213 (Juveniles alleged to have committed offenses of prostitution or prostitution loitering—diversion) provide for diversion in cases of prostitution offenses for juveniles.⁵⁴ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.070(7) mandates diversion for a juvenile’s first offense, and Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.213(1), (2) sets forth optional diversion for subsequent offenses if a county has a comprehensive program in place, which means that after the first offense, minors may be charged with a prostitution crime. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.070(7) states that “[w]here a case is legally sufficient to charge an alleged offender with either prostitution or prostitution loitering and the alleged offense is the offender’s first

⁵³ See *supra* note 6.

⁵⁴ House Bill 1505 passed in the 61st Regular Session in 2009, which enacted Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.213, makes the following statement in Section 1:

The legislature finds that juveniles involved in the commercial sex trade are sexually exploited and that they face extreme threats to their physical and emotional well-being. In order to help them break out of the isolation, fear, and danger of the commercial sex trade and to assist them in their recovery from the resulting mental and physical harm and in the development of skills that will allow them to become independent and achieve long-term security, these juveniles are in critical need of comprehensive services, including housing, mental health counseling, education, employment, chemical dependency treatment, and skill building. The legislature further finds that a diversion program to provide these comprehensive services, working within existing resources in the counties which prosecute juveniles for prostitution and prostitution loitering, may be an appropriate alternative to the prosecution of juveniles involved in the commercial sex trade.

prostitution or prostitution loitering offense, the prosecutor shall divert the case.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.213(1) states,

When a juvenile is alleged to have committed the offenses of prostitution or prostitution loitering, and the allegation, if proved, would not be the juvenile’s first offense, a prosecutor may divert the offense if the county in which the offense is alleged to have been committed has a comprehensive program

5.3.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.030 (Prostitution) to make minors under 18 specifically immune from prosecution for the offense.

5.4 *Commercially sexually exploited children are provided with a child protection response, including specialized shelter and services, and are not detained in juvenile detention facilities.*

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.050,⁵⁵ when a report is received concerning possible “abuse or neglect, the law enforcement agency or the department of social and health service must investigate and provide the protective services section with a report in accordance with chapter 74.13 RCW, and where necessary to refer such report to the court.” Law enforcement officers are permitted to “take, or cause to be taken, a child into custody without a court order if there is probable cause to believe that the child is abused or neglected and that the child would be injured or could not be taken into custody if it were necessary to first obtain a court order pursuant to RCW 13.34.050.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.050. For purposes of Title 26, “abuse or neglect” is defined in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(1) as “sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or injury of a child by any person under circumstances which cause harm to the child’s health, welfare, or safety, excluding conduct permitted under RCW 9A.16.100; or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for or providing care to the child. An abused child is a child who has been subjected to child abuse or neglect as defined in this section.” “Sexual exploitation” is defined as including, “(a) Allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution by any person; or (b) allowing, permitting, encouraging, or engaging in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child by any person.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(20).

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.050(1),

(1) The court may enter an order directing a law enforcement officer, probation counselor, or child protective services official to take a child into custody if: (a) A petition is filed with the juvenile court alleging that the child is dependent and that the child’s health, safety, and welfare will be seriously endangered if not taken into custody; (b) an affidavit or declaration is filed by the department in support of the petition setting forth specific factual information evidencing reasonable grounds that the child’s health, safety, and welfare will be seriously endangered if not taken into custody and at least one of the grounds set forth demonstrates a risk of imminent harm to the child. “Imminent harm” for purposes of this section shall include, but not be limited to, circumstances of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation as defined in RCW 26.44.020 and a parent’s failure to perform basic parental functions, obligations, and duties as the result of substance abuse; and (c) the court finds reasonable grounds to believe the child is dependent and that the child’s health, safety, and welfare will be seriously endangered if not taken into custody.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.060 further provides that a child taken into custody under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.050 or Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.050 can be taken immediately to shelter care. Shelter care is limited to 72 hours unless a court order extends the shelter care. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.060.

⁵⁵ Title 26 addresses “Domestic Relations” and chapter 26.44 is entitled, “Abuse of Children.”

Senate Bill 6476, which was signed into law on April 1, 2010, amended Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.030 (effective July 1, 2011) to add “sexually exploited child” to the definition of “child in need of services” (CHINS). It also added to this section a new definition of “sexually exploited child,” which defines that term as “any person under the age of eighteen who is a victim of the crime of commercial sex abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.100, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102.”

RCW § 13.32A.050(1) states,

- (1) A law enforcement officer shall take a child into custody:
 - (a) If a law enforcement agency has been contacted by the parent of the child that the child is absent from parental custody without consent; or
 - (b) If a law enforcement officer reasonably believes, considering the child’s age, the location, and the time of day, that a child is in circumstances which constitute a danger to the child’s safety or that a child is violating a local curfew ordinance; or
 - ...
 - (d) If a law enforcement agency has been notified by the juvenile court that the court finds probable cause exists to believe that the child has violated a court placement order issued under this chapter or chapter 13.34 RCW or that the court has issued an order for law enforcement pick-up of the child under this chapter or chapter 13.34 RCW.

If a child is taken into custody for a reason specified under subsection (a) or (b), the child must be transported to “his or her home or to a parent at his or her place of employment, if no parent is at home,” although the parent may request for the child to be taken shelter or other places specified in the statute. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.060(1)(a). Otherwise, the officer may take the child to a shelter if he has attempted to notify the parent and if, among other things, the “child expresses fear or distress at the prospect of being returned to his or her home which leads the officer to believe there is a possibility that the child is experiencing some type of abuse or neglect.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.060(1)(b)(i). If a child is taken into custody under subsection (c) or (d), the child “may [be] release[d] . . . to the supervising agency, or shall [be] take[n] . . . to a designated crisis residential center’s secure facility” for a subsection (c) custodial situation or taken to a detention facility for a subsection (d) custodial situation. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.060(2). Furthermore, under RCW § 13.32A.050(6), “If a law enforcement officer has a reasonable suspicion that a child is being unlawfully harbored in violation of RCW 13.32A.080, the officer shall remove the child from the custody of the person harboring the child and shall transport the child to one of the locations specified in RCW 13.32A.060.”

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.130(1),

A child admitted to a secure facility located in a juvenile detention center shall remain in the facility for at least twenty-four hours after admission but for not more than five consecutive days. A child admitted to a secure facility not located in a juvenile detention center or a semi-secure facility may remain for not more than fifteen consecutive days. If a child is transferred between a secure and semi-secure facility, the aggregate length of time a child may remain in both facilities shall not exceed fifteen consecutive days per admission, and in no event may a child’s stay in a secure facility located in a juvenile detention center exceed five days per admission.

This provision also sets out guidelines for determining when to transfer children to semi-secure facilities. However, under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.128, “The department may take a runaway youth to a secure facility after attempting to notify the parent of the child’s whereabouts. The department may not take a child to a secure facility if the department has reasonable cause to believe that the reason for the child’s runaway status is the result of abuse or neglect.”

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.140 sets out the procedures for DSHS to file a CHINS petition for out of home placement. Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.060(4), “Whenever an officer transfers custody of a child to a crisis residential center or the department, the child may reside in the crisis residential center or may be placed by the department in an out-of-home placement for an aggregate total period of time not to exceed seventy-two hours excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Thereafter, the child may continue in out-of-home placement only if the parents have consented, a child in need of services petition has been filed, or an order for placement has been entered under chapter 13.34 RCW.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 74.15.255(2) requires each crisis residential center to have a staff member, or “access to, a person who has been trained to work with the needs of sexually exploited children.” Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 74.13.034(1), “A child taken into custody and taken to a crisis residential center established pursuant to RCW 74.13.032 may, if the center is unable to provide appropriate treatment, supervision, and structure to the child, be taken at department expense to another crisis residential center, the nearest regional secure crisis residential center, or a secure facility with which it is collocated under RCW 74.13.032. Placement in both locations shall not exceed fifteen consecutive days from the point of intake as provided in RCW 13.32A.130.”

Under the Becca bill (RCW § 13.32A.010, et seq.), the court can order an out of home placement of the child for up to 90 days. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.179(2). This disposition must be reviewed “within three months,” at which time the out-of-home placement can be continued for 180 additional days after the review hearing. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.190(1), (4). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.180(2) states, “No placement made pursuant to this section may be in a secure residence as defined by the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.”

An alternative response that also keeps the minor out of a juvenile detention facility is diversion. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.087 states that “[w]ithin available funding, when a youth who has been diverted under RCW 13.40.070 for an alleged offense of prostitution or prostitution loitering is referred to the department, the department shall connect that youth with the services and treatment specified in RCW 74.14B.060 and 74.14B.070.” There is no guarantee that a child will not be held in juvenile detention facility for prostitution and related offenses after a first offense.

5.5 *Commercial sexual exploitation is identified as a type of abuse and neglect within child protection statutes.*

For purposes of Washington’s child abuse reporting laws, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(1) (Definitions) defines “abuse or neglect” as

sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or injury of a child by any person under circumstances which cause harm to the child’s health, welfare, or safety, excluding conduct permitted under RCW 9A.16.100 [Use of force on children—policy—actions presumed unreasonable]; or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for or providing care to the child. An abused child is a child who has been subjected to child abuse or neglect as defined in this section.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(20) defines “sexual exploitation” as “(a) Allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution by any person; or (b) allowing, permitting, encouraging, or engaging in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child by any person.” Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.030 (Reports—duty and authority to make—duty of receiving agency—duty to notify), DSHS has jurisdiction to report and investigate most reported instances of abuse or neglect, which, under these definitions, would include situations of pimp-controlled domestic minor sex trafficking.

- 5.6 *The definition of “caregiver” (or similar term) in the child welfare statutes is broad enough to include a trafficker who has custody or control of a child in order to bring a trafficked child into protection of child protective services.*

The DSHS Practices and Procedures Guide defines a “caregiver” as

an adult living in the home permanently or semi-permanently and has routine responsibility for childcare. This may be the other legally responsible adult, another adult relative or a live-in partner. It may also be any other adult with regular ongoing time in the home and has routine responsibility for childcare.⁵⁶

- 5.6.1 Recommendation: Clarify that child protection laws reach traffickers by amending the definition of “caregiver” to include a person who physically possesses or controls a child.

- 5.7 *Crime victims’ compensation is specifically available to a child victim of sex trafficking or CSEC without regard to ineligibility factors.*

Washington’s crime victims’ compensation account is established by Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.68.045 (Crime victims’ compensation account) and set forth in chapter 7.68 (Victims of crimes—compensation, assistance). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.68.060(6)(b) (Applications for benefits—accrual of rights) clarifies,

A person identified as the “minor” in the charge of commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.100, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102 is considered a victim of a criminal act⁵⁷ for the purpose of the right to benefits under this chapter even if the person is also charged with prostitution under RCW 9A.88.030.

This amendment is designed to prevent domestic minor sex trafficking victims from being found ineligible to receive compensation for injuries suffered as a result of being a victim of commercial sexual exploitation. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.68.060 also outlines the application procedures and time limits. The time limit to receive applications is no later than two years after the crime is reported to law enforcement “or the date the rights of beneficiaries accrued, unless the director has determined that ‘good cause’ exists to expand the time permitted to receive the application.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.68.060(1)(a). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.68.060(1)(a) states, in part,

“Good cause” shall be determined by the department on a case-by-case basis and may extend the period of time in which an application can be received for up to five years after the date the criminal act was reported to a local police department or sheriff’s office or the date the rights of beneficiaries accrued.

However, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.68.060(5) states,

Because victims of childhood criminal acts may repress conscious memory of such criminal acts far beyond the age of eighteen, the rights of adult victims of childhood criminal acts shall accrue at the time the victim discovers or reasonably should have discovered the elements of the crime. In making determinations as to reasonable time limits, the department shall give greatest weight to the needs of the victim.

⁵⁶ Washington State Department of Social and Human Services, *Practices and Procedures Guide, Appendix A: Definitions*, http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/pubs/mnl_png/definitions.asp (last visited November 25, 2011).

⁵⁷ “Criminal act” is defined in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.68.020(5) and includes the crime of trafficking in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.68.070(1) (Benefits—right to and amount—limitations) limits the total compensation available to \$50,000.

5.8 *Victim-friendly procedures and protections are provided in the trial process for minors under 18.*

Several victim-friendly criminal justice procedures and protections are statutorily provided for certain minor victim-witnesses, such as, when possible, secure waiting areas, the presence of “an advocate⁵⁸ or support person . . . prior to and during any court proceedings,” the appointment of CASA and guardians ad litem,⁵⁹ and a prohibition (with some exceptions) on releasing names and addresses of the victim-witnesses without permission. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 7.69A.030(2)–(4), 13.34.100(1). However, closed circuit television testimony is limited to child victims under ten years of age and restrictions on reputation evidence (commonly called the “rape shield law”) is limited to trials of non-commercial sex offenses contained in chapter 9A.44. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.44.150(1), 9A.44.020(2),(3). Thus, the “rape shield law” does not apply to crimes related to the commercial sexual abuse of a minor under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. ch. 9.68A (Sexual exploitation of children) or to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking). Therefore, victims of these crimes may be subjected to cross-examination related to their sexual history and character in the trials of their traffickers, buyer-exploiters, or both.

- 5.8.1 Recommendation: Specify application of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.020 (Testimony—evidence—written motion—admissibility) to cases of testifying victims of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) with sexual motivation or Wash. Rev. Code Ann. ch. 9.68 (Sexual exploitation of children) and increase the age of a child permitted to use closed circuit television testimony pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.150 (Testimony of child by closed-circuit television).

5.9 *Expungement or sealing of juvenile arrest or criminal records resulting from arrests or adjudications for prostitution-related offenses committed as a result of, or in the course of, the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor is available within a reasonable time after turning 18.*

There is no automatic sealing or expungement of juvenile records.⁶⁰ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.050 (Records relating to commission of juvenile offenses) outlines the procedure and requirements for petitioning the court to seal juvenile records. A person must make a motion to the court to have his or her juvenile record sealed which, if granted, covers the juvenile court file, the social file, and other records relating to the case. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.050(11).

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.050(14)(a) explains that an order to seal means,

[T]he proceedings in the case shall be treated as if they never occurred, and the subject of the records may reply accordingly to any inquiry about the events, records of which are sealed. Any agency shall reply to any inquiry concerning confidential or sealed records that records are confidential, and no information can be given about the existence or nonexistence of records concerning an individual.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.050(17), (23) provide for destruction of certain records related to diversion only.

⁵⁸ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 7.69A.020(6) defines “advocate” as “any person, including a family member not accused of a crime, who provides support to a child victim or child witness during any legal proceeding.”

⁵⁹ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.100(1) (Appointment of guardian ad litem) provides for the appointment of guardians ad litem in actions under Wash. Rev. ch. 13.34 (Dependency and termination of parent-child relationship), “unless a court for good cause finds the appointment unnecessary.”

⁶⁰ Senate Bill 6561, introduced in 2009, included automatic sealing of eligible juvenile records. The bill was stripped in committee of this provision due to the high staff level of effort (up to 30 minutes per case) in automatically reviewing juvenile records for sealing. S. Comm. on Human Serv. & Corr. & S. Comm. on Ways & Means, S. Bill Rep. SB 6561, 2010 Reg. Sess. at 4 (Wash. 2010), <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2009-10/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/6561%20SBR%20WM%2010.pdf> (last visited November 25, 2011).

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.050(12) more generally states,

- (a) The court shall not grant any motion to seal records for class A offenses made pursuant to subsection (11)F⁶¹F of this section that is filed on or after July 1, 1997, unless:
 - (i) Since the last date of release from confinement, including full-time residential treatment, if any, or entry of disposition, the person has spent five consecutive years in the community without committing any offense or crime that subsequently results in an adjudication or conviction;
 - (ii) No proceeding is pending against the moving party seeking the conviction of a juvenile offense or a criminal offense;
 - (iii) No proceeding is pending seeking the formation of a diversion agreement with that person;
 - (iv) The person has not been convicted of a sex offense; and
 - (v) Full restitution has been paid.
- (b) The court shall not grant any motion to seal records for class B, C, gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor offenses and diversions made under subsection (11) of this section unless:
 - (i) Since the date of last release from confinement, including full-time residential treatment, if any, entry of disposition, or completion of the diversion agreement, the person has spent two consecutive years in the community without being convicted of any offense or crime;
 - (ii) No proceeding is pending against the moving party seeking the conviction of a juvenile offense or a criminal offense;
 - (iii) No proceeding is pending seeking the formation of a diversion agreement with that person;
 - (iv) The person has not been convicted of a sex offense; and
 - (v) Full restitution has been paid.

5.9.1 Recommendation: Provide automatic sealing of eligible juvenile records to enable survivors of sex trafficking to fully access academic and employment opportunities.

5.10 Victim restitution and civil remedies are authorized by law for minor victims of sex trafficking or CSEC.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.753(7) (Restitution—application dates) states,

Regardless of the provisions of subsections (1) through (6) of this section, the court shall order restitution in all cases where the victim is entitled to benefits under the crime victims' compensation act, chapter RCW 7.68 [Victims of crimes—compensation, assistance]. If the court does not order restitution and the victim of the crime has been determined to be entitled to benefits under the crime victims' compensation act, the department of labor and industries, as administrator of the crime victims' compensation program, may petition the court within one year of entry of the judgment and sentence for entry of a restitution order.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(1)(a) (Remedies and procedures) states,

A person who sustains injury to his or her person, business, or property by an act of criminal profiteering that is part of a pattern of criminal profiteering activity, or by an offense defined in RCW

⁶¹ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.050(11) states,

In any case in which an information has been filed pursuant to RCW 13.40.100 [Summons or other notification issued upon filing of information] or a complaint has been filed with the prosecutor and referred for diversion pursuant to RCW 13.40.070 [Complaints—screening—filing information—diversion], the person the subject of the information or complaint may file a motion with the court to have the court vacate its order and findings, if any, and, subject to subsection (23) of this section, order the sealing of the official juvenile court file, the social file, and records of the court and of any other agency in the case.

9A.40.100 [Human trafficking], or by a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 may file an action in superior court for the recovery of damages and the costs of the suit, including reasonable investigative and attorney’s fees.

Lastly, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(13) explains that “[p]rivate civil remedies provided under this section are supplemental and not mutually exclusive.”

5.11 Statutes of limitations for civil and criminal actions for child sex trafficking or CSEC offenses are eliminated or lengthened sufficiently to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal actions and legal remedies.

Statutes of limitations have not been eliminated for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.04.080 (Limitation of action) provides a 3-year statute of limitations for felony actions, unless otherwise noted in the statute. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 4.16.340(1) (Actions based on childhood sexual abuse) states,

All claims or causes of action based on intentional conduct brought by any person for recovery of damages for injury suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse⁶² shall be commenced within the later of the following periods:

- (a) Within three years of the act alleged to have caused the injury or condition;
- (b) Within three years of the time the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that the injury or condition was caused by said act; or
- (c) Within three years of the time the victim discovered that the act caused the injury for which the claim is brought:

PROVIDED, That the time limit for commencement of an action under this section is tolled for a child until the child reaches the age of eighteen years.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(7) (Remedies and procedures) states,

The initiation of civil proceedings under this section shall be commenced within three years after discovery of the pattern of criminal profiteering activity or after the pattern should reasonably have been discovered or, in the case of an offense that is defined in RCW 9A.40.100, within three years after the final disposition of any criminal charges relating to the offense, whichever is later.

- 5.11.1 Recommendation: Add Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.100 (Trafficking) and crimes related to the commercial sexual abuse of a minor under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. ch. 9.68A (Sexual exploitation of children) to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.04.080(1)(a) or (b) (Limitation of action), which would create either no statute of limitations or a ten year statute of limitation for prosecution of these crimes. Also, add commercial sexual abuse of minor offenses and trafficking with sexual motivation of minors to the definition of “childhood sexual abuse” in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 4.16.340 (Actions based on childhood sexual abuse) for statute of limitations in civil actions in order to give appropriate time for the discovery of injuries suffered through domestic minor sex trafficking.

⁶² Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 4.16.340(5) states,

As used in this section, “childhood sexual abuse” means any act committed by the defendant against a complainant who was less than eighteen years of age at the time of the act and which act would have been a violation of chapter 9A.44 RCW or RCW 9.68A.040 or prior laws of similar effect at the time the act was committed.

Legal Components:

- 6.1 *Training on human trafficking and domestic minor sex trafficking for law enforcement is statutorily mandated.*
- 6.2 *Single party consent to audiotaping is permitted in law enforcement investigations.*
- 6.3 *Domestic minor sex trafficking investigations may use wiretapping to investigate the crime.*
- 6.4 *Using a law enforcement decoy posing as a minor to investigate buying or selling of commercial sex acts is not a defense to soliciting, purchasing, or selling sex with a minor.*
- 6.5 *Using the Internet to investigate buyers and traffickers is a permissible investigative technique.*
- 6.6 *Law enforcement and child welfare agencies are mandated to promptly report missing and recovered children.*

Legal Analysis:

- 6.1 *Training on human trafficking and domestic minor sex trafficking for law enforcement is statutorily mandated.*

Sec. 16 of SB 6476 requires law enforcement to develop a model policy on procedures relating to identifying and responding to victims of domestic minor sex trafficking by December 1, 2010, if funds are appropriated, and develop training on the model policy by January 1, 2011.⁶³

- 6.2 *Single party consent to audiotaping is permitted in law enforcement investigations.*

Single-party consent to audio recordings is a violation of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.73.030 (Intercepting, recording, or divulging private communication—consent required—exceptions), except in certain situations of an emergency nature set out in that section and chapter 9.73 (Privacy, violating right of).

However, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.73.090(2) (Certain emergency response personnel exempted from RCW 9.73.030 through 9.73.080—standards—court authorizations—admissibility) states in part,

It shall not be unlawful for a law enforcement officer acting in the performance of the officer’s official duties to intercept, record, or disclose an oral communication or conversation where the officer is a party to the communication or conversation or one of the parties to the communication or conversation has given prior consent to the interception, recording, or disclosure: PROVIDED, That prior to the interception, transmission, or recording the officer shall obtain written or telephonic authorization from a judge or magistrate, who shall approve the interception, recording, or disclosure of communications or conversations with a nonconsenting party for a reasonable and specified period of time, if there is probable cause to believe that the nonconsenting party has committed, is engaged in, or is about to commit a felony

Any recording or interception of a communication or conversation incident to a lawfully recorded or intercepted communication or conversation pursuant to this subsection shall be lawful and may be divulged.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.73.210(1) (Intercepting, transmitting, or recording conversations concerning controlled substances or commercial sexual abuse of a minor) states that

⁶³ S.B. 6476, 61st Leg., 2010 Reg. Sess. § 16 (Wash. 2010) (partial veto), signed into law on April 1, 2010, <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2009-10/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Law%202010/6476-S.SL.pdf> (last visited November 25, 2011).

If a police commander or officer above the rank of first line supervisor has reasonable suspicion that the safety of the consenting party is in danger, law enforcement personnel may, for the sole purpose of protecting the safety of the consenting party, intercept, transmit, or record a private conversation or communication concerning:

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- (b) Person(s) engaging in the commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.100, or promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102.

6.3 *Domestic minor sex trafficking investigations may use wiretapping to investigate the crime.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.73.050 (Admissibility of intercepted communication in evidence) restricts admissibility of evidence gained through illegal wiretapping; however, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.73.090(3) (Certain emergency response personnel exempted from RCW 9.73.030 through 9.73.080) states that “[c]ommunications or conversations authorized to be intercepted, recorded, or disclosed by this section shall not be inadmissible under RCW 9.73.050.” Absent a court order, intercepted communications are illegal and evidence obtained through them is inadmissible.

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.73.040 (Intercepting private communication),

(1) An ex parte order for the interception of any communication or conversation listed in RCW 9.73.030 may be issued by any superior court judge in the state upon verified application of either the state attorney general or any county prosecuting attorney setting forth fully facts and circumstances upon which the application is based and stating that:

- (a) There are reasonable grounds to believe that national security is endangered, that a human life is in danger, that arson is about to be committed, or that a riot is about to be committed, and
- (b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that evidence will be obtained essential to the protection of national security, the preservation of human life, or the prevention of arson or a riot, and
- (c) There are no other means readily available for obtaining such information.

6.3.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.73.040 (Intercepting private communication) to allow for wiretapping in investigations of sex trafficking and CSEC crimes.

6.4 *Using a law enforcement decoy posing as a minor to investigate buying or selling of commercial sex acts is not a defense to soliciting, purchasing, or selling sex with a minor.*

Washington does not have a statute expressly allowing law enforcement decoys. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(1) (Communication with minor for immoral purposes) states that “a person who communicates with a minor for immoral purposes, or a person who communicates with someone the person believes to be a minor for immoral purposes, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.” The use of the term “believes to be a minor” appears to indicate that law enforcement may pose as a minor decoy.

6.4.1 Add a provision to expressly permit law enforcement to utilize decoys in investigating child sex trafficking through prostitution and to prohibit a defendant in such a case from asserting a defense that the person engaged in prostitution was not, in fact, a minor.

6.5 *Using the Internet to investigate buyers and traffickers is a permissible investigative technique.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(1) (Communication with minor for immoral purposes) states that “a person who communicates with a minor for immoral purposes, or a person who communicates with someone the person believes to be a minor for immoral purposes, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.” The penalty is

heightened to a Class C felony “if the person communicates with a minor or with someone the person believes to be a minor for immoral purposes through the sending of an electronic communication.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(2). The use of the term “believes to be a minor” appears to indicate that law enforcement may use Internet decoys.

6.5.1. Add a provision expressly allowing law enforcement to utilize the Internet to investigate child sex trafficking and CSEC crimes.

6.6 *Law enforcement and child welfare agencies are mandated to promptly report missing and recovered children.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.60.020 (Entry of information on missing children into missing person computer network—access) requires local law enforcement agencies to “file an official missing person report and enter biographical information into the state missing person computerized network within twelve hours after notification of a missing child is received under” certain provisions of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.050 (Officer taking child into custody—when authorized—maximum time of custody—transporting to crisis residential center—report on suspected abuse or neglect). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.60.020 further states,

The patrol shall collect such information as will enable it to retrieve immediately the following information about a missing child: Name, date of birth, social security number, fingerprint classification, relevant physical descriptions, and known associates and locations. Access to the preceding information shall be available to appropriate law enforcement agencies, and to parents and legal guardians, when appropriate.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.60.040 (Children receiving services from department of social and health services) directs DSHS to do the following:

[D]evelop a procedure for reporting missing children information to the missing children clearinghouse on children who are receiving departmental services in each of its administrative regions. . . . When the department has obtained information that a minor child has been located at a facility funded by the department, the department shall notify the clearinghouse and the child’s legal custodian, advising the custodian of the child’s whereabouts or that the child is subject to a dependency action. The department shall inform the clearinghouse when reunification occurs.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.60.010 (Missing children clearinghouse—hot line—distribution of information—amber alert plan) states,

The Washington state patrol shall establish a missing children clearinghouse which shall include the maintenance and operation of a toll-free, twenty-four-hour telephone hotline. The clearinghouse shall distribute information to local law enforcement agencies, school districts, the department of social and health services, and the general public regarding missing children. The information shall include pictures, bulletins, training sessions, reports, and biographical materials that will assist in local law enforcement efforts to locate missing children. The state patrol shall also maintain a regularly updated computerized link with national and other statewide missing person systems or clearinghouses, and within existing resources, shall develop and implement a plan, commonly known as an “amber alert plan,” for voluntary cooperation between local, state, tribal, and other law enforcement agencies, state government agencies, radio and television stations, and cable and satellite systems to enhance the public’s ability to assist in recovering abducted children.

In addition, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.60.050 (Endangered missing person advisory plan) states,

Within existing resources, the Washington state patrol shall develop and implement a plan, commonly known as an “endangered missing person advisory plan,” for voluntary cooperation between local, state,

tribal, and other law enforcement agencies, state government agencies, radio and television stations, and cable and satellite systems to enhance the public's ability to assist in recovering endangered missing persons who do not qualify for inclusion in an amber alert.

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