

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION . NATIONAL CHANGE.

CALIFORNIA REPORT CARD 2014

California law provides very limited options for prosecuting demand. The human trafficking law protects victims of child sex trafficking without requiring proof of force, fraud or coercion. However, benefitting financially from assisting or enabling sex trafficking is not punishable under the human trafficking law and minimal penalties apply to child pornography offenses.

FINAL SCORE

50

FINAL GRADE

F



7.5
10

4
25

9
15

3.5
10

18.5
27.5

7.5
15



CRIMINALIZATION OF DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING

California's human trafficking law criminalizes sex trafficking, imposing enhanced penalties where the victim is a minor, and does not require force, fraud, or coercion when a minor is used in a commercial sex act. California CSEC laws include: procurement of a minor, pimping and pandering (when a minor is involved), abduction of minor for prostitution, and employment of minor in pornography. Neither of California's prostitution-related statutes refer to the human trafficking statute for prosecuting or victim protections nor provide an affirmative defense to victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. Predicate acts under the criminal profiteering statute include human trafficking and CSEC offenses.



CRIMINAL PROVISIONS ADDRESSING DEMAND

The human trafficking law cannot be used to prosecute demand and no CSEC law includes the crime of buying sex with a minor. A buyer could be prosecuted under the general solicitation law (disorderly conduct) or acquiring a prostitute law, but the result is misidentification of the buyer as a "john" and the lack of enhanced penalties for the serious crime of child commercial sexual exploitation. While the state has no statute or heightened penalties for using the Internet to purchase commercial sex acts from a minor, the statute on contact or communication with a minor with intent to commit an illegal sex act statute might apply to buyers who use the Internet for this purpose. Buyers convicted of any crime may be required to pay restitution to a victim. Child pornography may be seized and destroyed, but buyers are not subject to other asset forfeiture. Buyers of sex with minors must register as sex offenders if convicted of contact or communication with minor with intent to commit a crime if sexually motivated; however, buyers convicted of disorderly conduct or acquiring a prostitute, even when it involves a minor, will not be required to register.



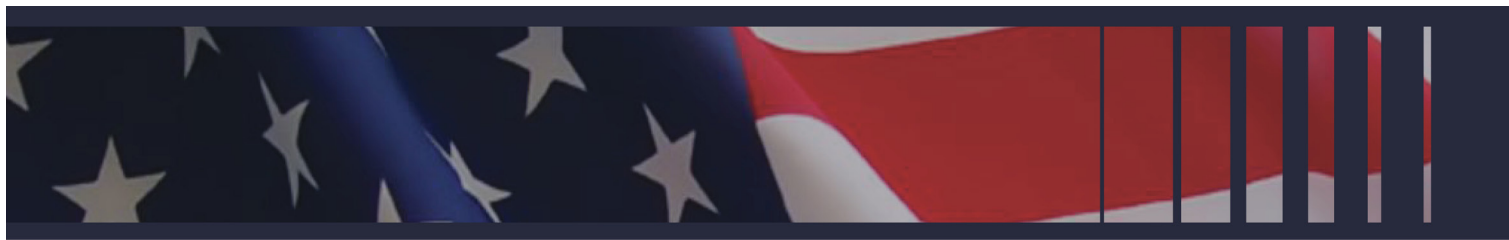
CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR TRAFFICKERS

Human trafficking of a minor are punishable by five, eight, or twelve years imprisonment, a fine which will generally not exceed \$500,000, and a potential fine enhancement up to \$1,000,000. Procurement of a minor, employment of a minor in child pornography, and abduction of a minor for prostitution are punishable by up to one year imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$2,000; however, abduction of a minor for prostitution is also punishable by a possible additional fine up to \$20,000. Preparing images of child pornography and distribution of child pornography are punishable by up to one year imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively, or, for distribution, imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$10,000. Contact or communication with a minor with intent to commit a crime, while not expressly commercial, might apply to traffickers who use the Internet to sell commercial sex acts with a minor. Traffickers convicted of human trafficking face mandatory restitution, while those convicted of other crimes may be ordered to make restitution; however, only traffickers who engage in criminal profiteering with predicate offenses of employment of a minor in pornography, pimping or pandering of a minor, and human trafficking are subject to asset forfeiture. Traffickers convicted under the human trafficking law or most CSEC offenses must register as sex offenders, but not if convicted of pimping of a minor. Convictions for human trafficking or CSEC offenses do not establish grounds for termination of parental rights, leaving children of traffickers at potential continuing risk.

DEMAND | SELECTED COMMERCIAL SEX CRIMES

Crime (name of law abridged)	Classification	Sentence	Fine (possible)	Asset Forfeiture (available)
Disorderly Conduct (§ 647(b))	Misdemeanor	Max. 6 months	Max. \$1,000	○
Acquiring prostitute (§ 266e)	Felony	16 months, 2 years, or 3 years	Max. \$10,000	○

All criminal penalties are statutory; many states also have sentencing guidelines that are not codified which affect sentencing.



PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS FOR THE CHILD VICTIMS

State laws offer limited protection to victims of sex trafficking or CSEC crimes. While the human trafficking law prohibits a defense based on consent of the minor, most CSEC laws do not, leaving this a potential defense for offenders. Prostitution offenses are not limited in application to adults and do not identify a juvenile involved in prostitution as a victim of human trafficking. As a result, CSEC victims could be classified as wards, leading to different response protocols and placements, including detention. A victim found to be abused (defined to include commercial sexual exploitation through prostitution and child pornography) might receive protection through child protective services; however, an intervention by child protective services may be limited by California’s failure to define caregiver or other similar term to include those without legal custody of a minor. Victims of trafficking may also access services through family justice centers. Crime victims’ compensation is available for victims of CSEC offenses and California law prohibits human trafficking victims’ claims from being denied solely because the victim did not report the crime; however, participating in a crime or failing to cooperate with law enforcement could prevent CSEC victims from receiving compensation. Victim-friendly trial procedures are available to human trafficking victims, including confidentiality for communications between a victim and caseworker and for the location of trafficking shelters. However, only victims of sexual offenses under age 13 may testify via closed-circuit television. Human trafficking victims receive protection under California’s “rape shield” law, but CSEC victim-witnesses remain unprotected from the trauma of cross-examination at trials of their traffickers. Victims of human trafficking and most CSEC offenses may have up to two support persons present during their testimony and are provided with special precautions for their comfort and support during trial. Juvenile records may be sealed five years after the jurisdiction of the court terminates or any time after the person turns 18, provided the juvenile “has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude” and has been satisfactorily rehabilitated. Restitution and a civil remedy are available to victims of human trafficking. Prosecutions for human trafficking and most CSEC crimes must be brought within three years of the crimes; however, prosecutions under employment of a minor in child pornography may be brought within 10 years. A civil action by a human trafficking victim must commence within five years of when the victim turns 18 or was freed from the trafficking situation.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TOOLS FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTIONS

California requires law enforcement officers with field or investigative duties to complete training on human trafficking. California does not allow single party consent to audiotaping or wiretapping in investigations related to human trafficking or CSEC crimes, denying law enforcement these important tools for investigation and evidence gathering. No law expressly authorizes the use of a decoy to investigate prostitution of children or the Internet in the investigation of child sex trafficking cases, but law enforcement may use the Internet to investigate human trafficking or CSEC crimes relying on the sending harmful matter to children via the Internet and lewd or lascivious acts involving children statutes. California has established a statewide reporting and response system and law enforcement must report missing and located children.

CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR FACILITATORS

Facilitators do not face prosecution under the human trafficking law for benefitting financially from sex trafficking. Procurement of a minor applies to facilitators and is punishable by up to one year imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$2,000. Facilitators also may be convicted under pimping of a minor, punishable by a possible fine up to \$10,000 and three, six, or eight years imprisonment (minor under 16) or three, four, or six years imprisonment (minor 16–18). A conviction for any crime may result in a victim restitution order. Facilitators who engage in criminal profiteering activity with predicate offenses of employment of a minor in pornography and pimping where a minor is involved will be subject to asset forfeiture. Advertising child pornography is punishable by two, three, or four years imprisonment, or by one year imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$50,000, while promoting employing a minor in child pornography is punishable by up to one year imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$2,000, and selling child pornography is punishable by up to one year imprisonment and/or a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$10,000. No laws in California address sex tourism.

The Report Card is based on the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework, an analysis of state laws performed by the American Center for Law & Justice and Shared Hope International, and sets a national standard of protection against domestic minor sex trafficking. To access the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework Methodology, each completed Report Card, and foundational analysis and recommendations, please visit: www.sharedhope.org.

