

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

2016 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 *Prostitution statutes refer to the sex trafficking statute to acknowledge the intersection of prostitution with trafficking victimization.*
- 1.4 *The state racketeering or gang crimes statute includes sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses as predicate acts allowing the statute to be used to prosecute trafficking crimes.*

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 (Trafficking) states,

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

(a) Such person:

(i) Recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, provides, obtains, buys, purchases, or receives by any means another person knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact,

(A) that force, fraud, or coercion² as defined in RCW 9A.36.070 will be used to cause the person to engage in

¹ This report includes legislation enacted as of August 1, 2016.

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

- (I) forced labor;
- (II) involuntary servitude;
- (III) a sexually explicit act³; or
- (IV) a commercial sex act⁴, or
- (B) that the person has not attained the age of eighteen years and is caused to engage in a sexually explicit act 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; and
- (b) The acts or venture set forth in (a) of this subsection:
 - (i) Involve committing or attempting to commit kidnapping;
 - (ii) Involve a finding of sexual motivation under RCW 9.94A.835 [Special allegation—sexual motivation—procedures];⁵
 - (iii) Involve the illegal harvesting or sale of human organs; or
 - (iv) Result in a death.
- (2) Trafficking in the first degree is a class A felony.

While trafficking in the first degree under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1) requires that “the acts or venture” are sexually motivated or involve kidnapping, the illegal sale of organs, or death, this requirement does not apply to human trafficking in the second degree under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(3), which states,

- (a) A person is guilty of trafficking in the second degree when such person:
 - (i) Recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, provides, obtains, buys, purchases, or receives by any means another person knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, 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

(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.

(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].

³ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(65)(b) defines a “sexually explicit act” as “a public, private, or live photographed, recorded, or videotaped act or show intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the prurient interests of patrons for which something of value is given or received.”

⁴ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(6)(a) defines “Commercial sex act” as “any act of sexual contact or sexual intercourse, both as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW, for which something of value is given or received by any person”

⁵ 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.

servitude, a sexually explicit act,⁶ or a commercial sex act, or that the person has not attained the age of eighteen years and is caused to engage in a sexually explicit act 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.

(b) Trafficking in the second degree is a class A felony.

In regards to both trafficking offenses, if the victim is a minor, “force, fraud, or coercion are not necessary elements of an offense . . .” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(5).

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1) (Trafficking, first degree) is punishable as a Class A felony, seriousness level XIV, by imprisonment for 123–397⁷ months and a possible fine up to \$50,000, while a conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(3) (Trafficking, second degree) 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. §§ 9A.40.100(2), (3)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550, 9A.20.021.⁸

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(4)(a) (Trafficking) also provides that “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 a violation of a trafficking crime shall be assessed a ten thousand dollar fee.”

Additionally, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 19.320.010(1)(5)⁹ (Human Trafficking – Forced Labor – Definitions) defines “‘Human trafficking’ and ‘trafficking’ [to] mean an act conducted for the purpose of exploitation . . . by particular means, for example threat of use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception, abuse of power, or abuse of position of vulnerability.”

While Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 19.320.010(1)(5) requires force, fraud or coercion, it does not require force, fraud or coercion when a minor under the age of 18 is used in a commercial sex act.

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 a distinct crime in Washington:

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

⁶ See *supra* note 3.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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 detained pending sentencing.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.64.025(2).

⁹ The text of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 19.320.010(1)(5) (Human Trafficking – Forced Labor – Definitions) cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 5342 during the 2016 64th Legislature Regular Session of the Washington Legislature (effective June 09, 2016).

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 conduct¹⁰ 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.¹¹ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.100(2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9A.20.021.¹²

¹⁰ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(5) 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.

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.”

¹¹ 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 commercial sexual abuse of a minor;
 - (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; and
 - (c) Fulfill the terms of the program, if a first-time offender, designated by the sentencing court, designed to educate offenders about the negative costs of prostitution.
- (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.

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.
.....

¹² 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),

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 or a sexually explicit act of a minor or profits from a minor engaged in sexual conduct or a sexually explicit act.”¹³ 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.

(c) A person “advances a sexually explicit act of a minor” if he or she causes or aids a sexually explicit act of a minor, procures or solicits customers for a sexually explicit act of a minor, provides persons or premises for the purposes of a sexually explicit act of a minor, or engages in any other conduct designed to institute, aid, cause, assist, or facilitate a sexually explicit act of a minor.

(d) A “sexually explicit act” is a public, private, or live photographed, recorded, or videotaped act or show intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the prurient interests of patrons and for which something of value is given or received.

(e) A “patron” is a person who pays or agrees to pay a fee to another person as compensation for a sexually explicit act of a minor of who solicits or requests a sexually explicit act of a minor in return for a fee.

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.550.¹⁴

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 services¹⁵ 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 this state.

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.

¹³ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101(5) defines “sexual conduct” as “sexual intercourse or sexual contact, both as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW.” *See supra* note 10 for the definition of “sexual contact” and “sexual intercourse.”

¹⁴ 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).

¹⁵ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102(4) 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 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.”

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.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷

A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.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.

6. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(2) (Communication with minor for immoral purposes) states,

A person who communicates with a minor for immoral purposes is guilty of a class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW 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 this or any other state or if the person communicates with a minor or with someone the person believes to be a minor for immoral purposes, including the purchase or sale of commercial sex acts and sex trafficking, through the sending of an electronic communication.¹⁸

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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."

¹⁸ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(3) further provides, "For the purposes of this section, 'electronic communication' has the same meaning as defined in RCW 9.61.260." Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §

A Class C felony is punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and possible fine up to \$10,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.090(2), 9A.20.021(1)(c).

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.

(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.

9.61.260(5) (Cyberstalking), “‘electronic communication’ means the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. ‘Electronic communication’ includes, but is not limited to, electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, and electronic text messaging.”

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 Prostitution statutes refer to the sex trafficking statute to acknowledge the intersection of prostitution with trafficking victimization.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.030 (Prostitution) does not refer to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) to clarify that minors involved in prostitution are sex trafficking victims. However, pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.040 (Prosecution for prostitution under RCW 9A.88.030 — Affirmative defense),

In any prosecution for prostitution under RCW 9A.88.030, it is an affirmative defense that the actor committed the offense as a result of being a victim of trafficking, RCW 9A.40.100, promoting prostitution in the first degree, RCW 9A.88.070, or trafficking in persons under the trafficking victims protection act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq. Documentation that the actor is named as a current victim in an information or the investigative records upon which a conviction is obtained for trafficking, promoting prostitution in the first degree, or trafficking in persons shall create a presumption that the person's participation in prostitution was a result of having been a victim of trafficking, promoting prostitution in the first degree or trafficking in persons.

Additionally, 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.¹⁹

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.²⁰

1.4 *The state racketeering or gang crimes statute includes sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses as predicate acts allowing the statute to be used to prosecute trafficking crimes.*

The racketeering statute, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.080 (Use of proceeds of criminal profiteering), 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 profiteering activity²¹ 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.

The law specifically includes sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses as predicate acts to the crime. 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:

. . . .

¹⁹ 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).

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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 interrelated by distinguishing characteristics including a nexus to the same enterprise, and must not be isolated events.”

- (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;
-
- (rr) Commercial sexual abuse of a minor, as defined in RCW 9.68A.100;
- (ss) Promoting commercial sex abuse of a minor, as defined in RCW 9.68A.101; or
- (tt) Trafficking, as defined in RCW 9A.40.100, promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor, as defined in RCW 9.68A.102, and permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor, as defined in RCW 13 9.68A.103.

Based on this definition of racketeering, acts of commercial sexual exploitation of children constitute predicate crimes under the racketeering law, making it available for combatting criminal enterprises that engage in domestic minor sex trafficking. A conviction for use of profiteering 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

An offender may also face penalties under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.060 (Leading organized crime) which includes “[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.” This 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. An offender 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).²²

Asset forfeiture is available for these offenses. Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.82.100(4)(f) (Remedies and procedures), following a determination of liability, an order may include,

- [o]rdering forfeiture first as restitution to any person damaged . . . by an offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100 [Trafficking], then to the state general fund or antiprofitteering revolving fund of the county, as appropriate, to the extent not already ordered to be paid in other damages, of the following:
 - (i) Any property or other interest acquired or maintained in violation of RCW 9A.82.060 [Leading organized crime] or 9A.82.080 [Use of proceeds of criminal profiteering—controlling enterprise or realty—conspiracy or attempt].
 - (ii) Any property, contractual right, or claim against property used to influence any enterprise that a person has established, operated, controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of, in violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.
 - (iii) All proceeds traceable to or derived from . . . an offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100 [Commercial abuse of a minor—penalties], 9.68A.101 [Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor—penalty], or 9A.88.070 [Promoting prostitution in the first degree], and all moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, and other things of value significantly used or intended to be used significantly to facilitate commission of the offense

Finally, where the enterprise alleged is a criminal street gang, gang enhancements may apply. Wash. Rev. Code § 9.94A.030(14), defines a “criminal street gang-related offense” as:

²² See *supra* note 8.

any felony or misdemeanor offense, whether in this state or elsewhere, that is committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang, or is committed with the intent to promote, further, or assist in any criminal conduct by the gang, or is committed for one or more of the following reasons:

. . . .

(f) To provide the gang with any advantage in, or any control or dominance over any criminal market sector, including, but not limited to . . . promoting prostitution (chapter 9A.88 RCW); human trafficking (RCW 9A.40.100); promoting sexual abuse of a minor (RCW 9.68A.101); or promoting pornography (chapter 9.68 RCW).

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.030(12) defines a “[c]riminal street gang” as:

any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, and whose members or associated individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal street gang activity. This definition does not apply to employees engaged in concerted activities for their mutual aid and protection, or to the activities of labor and bona fide nonprofit organizations or their member or agents.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.533(10),

(a) [f]or a person age eighteen or older convicted of any criminal street gang-related felony offense for which the person compensated, threatened, or solicited a minor in order to involve the minor in the commission of the felony offense, the standard sentence range is determined by locating the sentencing grid sentence range defined by the appropriate offender score and the seriousness level of the completed crime, and multiplying the range by one hundred twenty-five percent. If the standard sentence range under this subsection exceeds the statutory maximum sentence for the offense, the statutory maximum sentence is the presumptive sentence unless the offender is a persistent offender.

(b) This subsection does not apply to any criminal street gang-related felony offense for which involving a minor in the commission of the felony offense is an element of the offense.

Legal Components:

- 2.1 *The state sex trafficking law can be applied to the buyers of commercial sex acts with a minor.*
- 2.2 *Buyers of commercial sex acts with a minor can be prosecuted under commercial sexual exploitation of children (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 or electronic communications 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 under 18 are sufficiently high 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 minor.*

Washington’s human trafficking law, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking), makes it a crime when a person “obtains, buys, purchases . . . by any means another person knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact . . . that the person has not attained the age of eighteen years and is caused to engage in a . . . commercial sex act.” The language of Washington’s human trafficking law applies to buyers directly through use of the terms “buys” and “purchases,” as well as through the term “obtains” based on federal precedent.²³

- 2.2 *Buyers of commercial sex acts with a minor can be prosecuted under commercial sexual exploitation of children (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.²⁴ A conviction under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(1) is punishable as a Class B felony,

²³ See *United States v. Jungers*, 702 F.3d 1066 (8th Cir. 2013). In this case, the Eighth Circuit held that the federal sex trafficking law, 18 U.S.C. § 1591 (Sex trafficking of children or by force, fraud, or coercion) applies to buyers of sex with minors. Reversing a District of South Dakota ruling that Congress did not intend the string of verbs constituting criminal conduct under 18 U.S.C. § 1591(a)(1) (“recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, obtains, or maintains”) to reach the conduct of buyers (*United States v. Jungers*, 834 F. Supp. 2d 930, 931 (D.S.D. 2011)), the Eighth Circuit concluded that 18 U.S.C. § 1591 does not contain “a latent exemption for purchasers” because buyers can “engage in at least some of the prohibited conduct.” *Jungers*, 702 F. 3d 1066, 1072. Congress codified *Jungers* clarifying that the federal sex trafficking law is intended to apply to buyers in the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) of 2015 Pub. L. No. 114-22, 129 Stat 227), enacted on May 29, 2015. The JVTA adds the terms “patronize” and “solicit” to the list of prohibited conduct and expressly states, “section 108 of this title amends section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, to add the words ‘solicits or patronizes’ to the sex trafficking statute making absolutely clear for judges, juries, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials that criminals who purchase sexual acts from human trafficking victims may be arrested, prosecuted, and convicted as sex trafficking offenders when this is merited by the facts of a particular case.” *Id.* at Sec. 109. The Eighth Circuit decision in *United States v. Jungers* and the federal sex trafficking law as amended by the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act establish persuasive authority when state courts interpret the string of verbs constituting prohibited conduct in state sex trafficking laws (in particular the term “obtains”) to the extent such interpretation does not conflict with state case law.

²⁴ See *supra* Component 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

seriousness level VIII, by imprisonment for 21 months to 10 years, a possible fine up to \$20,000, or both imprisonment and a fine.²⁵ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.100(2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550, 9A.20.021.

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).²⁶

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.

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

Penalties for buyers of commercial sex with minors prosecuted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100 (Trafficking), 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. Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1), trafficking 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(2), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. A conviction for human trafficking in the second degree, under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(3) is punishable as a Class A felony, with a seriousness level of XII, by imprisonment for 93–318 months and a possible fine up to \$50,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100(3)(b), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550. 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. §§ 9.68A.100(3), 9.94A.515, 9.94A.510, 9.94A.550, 9A.20.021.²⁷

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 offense²⁸ against a minor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(1). To the

²⁵ See *supra* note 11.

²⁶ See *supra* Component 1.2 for a full description of the sexual offense laws that may be used to prosecute certain buyers.

²⁷ See *supra* note 8.

²⁸ 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,²⁹ a conviction is punishable by penalties ranging from a fine not to exceed \$250,000 to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.³⁰

2.5 *Using the Internet or electronic communications 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, “[I]f the person communicates with a minor or with someone the person believes to be a minor for immoral purposes, including the purchase or sale of commercial sex acts and sex trafficking, through the sending of an electronic communication.”³¹

Additionally, pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.106 (Additional fee assessment—Internet advertisement), buyers convicted of an offense under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor), will receive an additional fine of \$5,000 “when the court finds that an internet advertisement in which the victim of the crime was described or depicted was instrumental in facilitating the commission of the crime.”³²

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

In response to an allegation under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking), there is no explicit provision that prohibits a defendant from raising mistake of age as a defense. If the victim is a minor, a conviction under the trafficking statute requires that the buyer know or be in reckless disregard of the fact that the minor was under 18 years of age.

Conversely, pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.110(3) (Certain defenses barred, permitted), there is an express prohibition on asserting mistake of age as a defense to a prosecution under Wash. Rev. Code Ann.

²⁹ 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).

³⁰ 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(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); *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).

³¹ Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(3), “For the purposes of this section, ‘electronic communication’ has the same meaning as defined in RCW 9.61.260.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.61.260(5) defines “electronic communication” as “the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. ‘Electronic communication’ includes, but is not limited to, electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, and electronic text messaging.”

³² Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.106 defines an “internet advertisement” as, “[A] statement in electronic media that would be understood by a reasonable person to be an implicit or explicit offer for sexual contact or sexual intercourse, both as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW, in exchange for something of value.”

§ 9.68A.090 (Communication with minor for immoral purposes) and § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor). It states in part,³³

In a prosecution under RCW . . . 9.68A.090 [Communication with a minor for immoral purposes], 9.68A.100 [Commercial sexual abuse of a minor] . . . it is not a defense that the defendant did not know the alleged victim's age.

2.6.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) to specifically prohibit a defendant from raising mistake of age as to the minor victim as a defense to prosecution for this offense.

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

Penalties for buying sex with a minor under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) and § 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 (2), (3)(b), 9.68A.100(2), 9.94A.550.

Additionally, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(4)(a) (Trafficking) imposes a \$10,000 fee on “a person who is either convicted or given a deferred prosecution or who has entered into a statutory or nonstatutory diversion agreement as a result of an arrest for a violation of a trafficking crime”

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

an adult offender 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

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.106 (Additional fee assessment – Internet advertisement), buyers who are convicted of an offense under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor—Penalties), will receive an additional fine of \$5,000 “when the court finds that an internet advertisement

³³ However, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.110(3) further provides that a defense may be allowed for other offenses under Chapter 9.68A for which this defense is not specifically precluded under subsection (3). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.110(3) states,

In a prosecution under RCW 9.68A.040 [Sexual exploitation of a minor], 9.68A.090 [Communication with a 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], it is not a defense that the defendant did not know the alleged victim's age. 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.

in which the victim of the crime was described or depicted was instrumental in facilitating the commission of the crime.”³⁴

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070³⁵ (Possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct), individuals convicted of an offense under this section are required to pay \$1,000 for each depiction or image that constitutes a separate conviction

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140(2) (Vehicle impoundment—fees and fines) provides for mandatory impoundment of vehicles and 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.³⁶ Buyers are also subject to a number of discretionary criminal forfeiture proceedings. Assets related to violations of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) and § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) are subject to criminal forfeiture. Wash. Rev. Code §§ 10.105.010(1), 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. § 10.105.010(2) provides for seizure in the following manner:

Personal property subject to forfeiture under this chapter may be seized by any law enforcement officer of this state upon process issued by any superior court having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure of personal property without process may be made if:

- (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search warrant;
- (b) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding;
- (c) A law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the property is directly dangerous to health or safety; or
- (d) The law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in the commission of a felony.

³⁴ See *supra* note 32 for the definition of “internet advertisement.”

³⁵ The text of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.6A.070 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 1281 during the 2015 64th Legislature Regular Session of the Washington Legislature (effective July 24, 2016).

³⁶ This fine only applies to adult owners of impounded vehicles. See *supra* note 11.

Disposition of the forfeited property is governed by Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.105.010(6), which provides in relevant part,

When property is forfeited under this chapter, after satisfying any court-ordered victim restitution, the seizing law enforcement agency may:

- (a) Retain it for official use or upon application by any law enforcement agency of this state release such property to such agency for the exclusive use of enforcing the criminal law;
- (b) Sell that which is not required to be destroyed by law and which is not harmful to the public.

Buyers may face additional forfeiture penalties under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.150 relating to seizure and forfeiture of property rights. Pursuant to § 9A.88.150(1),

The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture and no property rights exist in them:

- (a) Any property or other interest acquired or maintained in violation of RCW 9.68A.100 [Commercial sexual abuse of a minor] . . . to the extent of the investment of funds, and any appreciation of income attributable to the investment, from a violation of RCW 9.68A.100
- (b) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels, which are used, or intended for use, in any manner to facilitate a violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, except that:
 - (i) 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 RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070.
-
- (c) Any property, contractual right, or claim against property used to influence any enterprise that a person has established, operated, controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of, in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070;
- (d) All proceeds traceable to or derived from an offense defined in RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070 and all moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, and other things of value significantly used or intended to be used significantly to facilitate commission of the offense;
- (e) All proceeds traceable to or derived from an offense defined in RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070 and all moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, and other things of value significantly used or intended to be used significantly to facilitate commission of the offense;
- (f) All books, record, and research products and materials, including formulas, microfilm, tapes, and data which are used, or intended for use, in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070;
- (g) All moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other tangible or intangible property of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, all tangible or intangible personal property, proceeds, or assets acquired in whole or in part with proceeds traceable to an exchange or series of exchanges in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, and all moneys, negotiable instruments, and securities used of intended to be used to facilitate any violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070. A forfeiture of money, negotiable instruments, securities, or other tangible or intangible property encumbered by a bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if, at the time the security interest was created, the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission. No personal property may be forfeited under this subsection (1) (f), to the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or omission, which that owner established was committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or consent; and
- (h) All real property, including any right title, and interest in the whole of any lot or tract of land, and any appurtenances or improvements which are being used with the knowledge of the owner for a violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, or which have been acquired in whole or in part in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, if a substantial nexus exists between the violation and the real property. However:

- (i) No property may be forfeited pursuant to this subsection (1) (g), to the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or omission committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or consent;
- (ii) A forfeiture of real property encumbered by a bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if the secured party, at the time the security interest was created neither had knowledge or consented to the act or omission.

....

Seizure of the aforementioned property is governed by subsection (2), which provides that real or personal property subject to forfeiture may be seized by any law enforcement officer upon process issued by any superior court having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure may be made without process if:

- (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search warrant;
- (b) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding; or
- (c) The law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070.

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.150(7), "When property is forfeited under this chapter, the seizing law enforcement agency shall sell the property that is not required to be destroyed by law and that is not harmful to the public." "By January 31st of each year, each seizing agency shall remit to the state treasurer the net proceeds of any property forfeited during the preceding calendar year. Money remitted shall be deposited in the prostitution prevention and intervention account under RCW 43.63A.740." Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.150(9).

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120 (Seizure and forfeiture of property) buyers involved in child pornography may also be required to forfeit the following:

- (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.

....

Property subject to forfeiture under this chapter may be seized by any law enforcement officer of this state upon process issued by any superior court having jurisdiction over the property. Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120(4), seizure without process may be made if:

- (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search warrant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant;
- (b) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding based upon this chapter;
- (c) A law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the property is directly or indirectly dangerous to health or safety; or

(d) The law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in violation of this chapter.

Disposition of the property under this section is governed by Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120(9), which states that the seizing agency may retain the property for official use or sell that which is not required to be destroyed by law. Proceeds of the sale shall first be used to pay expenses arising from the investigation and forfeiture proceedings. Fifty percent of the money remaining after payment of expenses shall be deposited in the state general fund and fifty percent shall be deposited in the general fund of the state, county, or city of the seizing law enforcement agency. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120(9).

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.”³⁷

³⁷ 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.

The decisions of the Washington Supreme court in *State v. Boyd*, 260 W.2d 424, 158 P.3d 54 (2007), and *State v. Grenning*, 169 Wn.2d 47, 234 P.3d 169 (2010), require prosecutors to duplicate and distribute depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct (“child pornography”) as part of the discovery process in criminal prosecution. The legislature finds that the importance of protecting children from repeat exploitation in pornography is not being given sufficient weight under these decisions. The importance of protecting children from repeat sexual exploitation in child pornography is based upon the following findings:

In addition to the above listed penalties, when convicted of a violation under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070, an offender is required to pay a \$1,000 fine for each image, depiction, or visual printed matter that constitutes a separate conviction. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.107³⁸ (Additional fee assessment- Depiction or image of visual or printed matter).

Additionally, under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.075(3) (Viewing depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct),

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 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 pornography³⁹ is generally punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁴⁰ Subsequent convictions, however, are punishable by imprisonment up to 40 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁴¹

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- (1) Child pornography is not entitled to protection under the First Amendment and thus may be prohibited;
 - (2) The state has a compelling interest in protecting children from those who sexually exploit them, and this interest extends to stamping out the vice of child pornography at all levels in the distribution chain;
 - (3) Every instance of viewing images of child pornography represents a renewed violation of the victims and a repetition of their abuse;
 - (4) Child pornography constitutes prima facie contraband, and as such should not be distributed to, or copied by, child pornography defendants or their attorneys;
 - (5) It is imperative to prohibit the reproduction of child pornography in criminal cases so as to avoid repeated violations and abuse of victims, so long as the government makes reasonable accommodations for the inspection, viewing, and examination of such material for the purposes of mounting a criminal defense. The legislature is also aware that the Adam Walsh child protection and safety act, P.L. 109-248, 120 Stat. 587 (2006), codified at 18 U.S.C. Sec. 3509(m), prohibits the duplication and distribution of child pornography as part of the discovery process in federal prosecutions. This federal law has been in effect since 2006, and upheld repeatedly as constitutional. Courts interpreting the Walsh act have found that such limitations can be employed while still providing the defendant due process. The legislature joins congress, and the legislatures of other states that have passed similar provisions, in protecting these child victims so that our justice system does not cause repeat exploitation, while still providing due process to criminal defendants.

³⁸ See *supra* note 35.

³⁹ 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).

⁴⁰ 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).

⁴¹ 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

2.9.1 Recommendation: Increase the penalties under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070(1) (Possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct) to reflect the seriousness of the offense.

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)(a) (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(46) (Definitions), defines “sex offense” to include, felony violations of chapter 9.68A (Sexual exploitation of children) (with the exception of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.080 (Reporting of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct — Civil immunity)). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.128(10)(c) also defines sex offense to include trafficking in the first degree, when the crime involves “a finding of sexual motivation under RCW 9.94A.835.”⁴² As a result, buyers convicted of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100(1)(b)(ii), 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) are required 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.

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).

⁴² Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.835(1) (Special allegation--Sexual motivation—Procedures),

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.

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 or electronic communications 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 commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses in order to remove the children of traffickers from their control.

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) (Trafficking)⁴³ 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(2), 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(3)(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 \$50,000.⁴⁴ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.40.100(3)(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 \$10,000.⁴⁵ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.102(2), 9.94A.505(2)(b), 9.94A.550.

A trafficker could also be convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.83.020(1) (Money laundering), which states,

A person is guilty of money laundering when that person conducts or attempts to conduct a financial transaction involving the proceeds⁴⁶ of specified unlawful activity⁴⁷ 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).

⁴³ See *supra* Component 1.1 for the relevant provisions.

⁴⁴ See *supra* Components 1.1 and 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

⁴⁵ See *supra* Component 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

⁴⁶ 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.”

⁴⁷ 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.”

In comparison, if the victim is under the age of 14, a conviction under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)⁴⁸ 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 offense⁴⁹ against a minor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(1).

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),⁵⁰ 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).

⁴⁸ 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.).

⁴⁹ See *supra* note 28.

⁵⁰ See *supra* Component 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

....

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.

Additionally, a person found to be creating or distributing child pornography could also be charged with offenses under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070 (Possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070 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. 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

In addition to any other fines imposed by offenses committed under this section, a \$1000 fine will be assessed for “each depiction or image of visual or printed matter that constitutes a separate offense,” pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070.⁵¹

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 offense⁵² against a minor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(1). Additionally, a federal conviction for distribution of child pornography⁵³ is generally punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁵⁴ Subsequent convictions, however, are punishable by imprisonment up to 40 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁵⁵

⁵¹ See *supra* note 35

⁵² See *supra* note 28.

⁵³ 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).

⁵⁴ 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).

⁵⁵ 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).

3.3 *Using the Internet or electronic communications 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)⁵⁶ prohibits communication with a minor or someone one believed 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), “[I]f the person communicates . . . for immoral purposes, including the purchase or sale of commercial sex acts and sex trafficking, through the sending of an electronic communication.”⁵⁷ Additionally, pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.106 (Additional fee assessment—Internet advertisement), traffickers convicted of an offense under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor—Penalty), will receive an additional fine of \$5,000 “when the court finds that an internet advertisement in which the victim of the crime was described or depicted was instrumental in facilitating the commission of the crime.”⁵⁸

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

Traffickers convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1), (3)(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(2), (3)(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.

Furthermore, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(4)(a) mandates a \$10,000 fee for “a person who is either convicted or given a deferred prosecution or who has entered into a statutory or nonstatutory diversion agreement as a result of an arrest for a violation of a trafficking crime” Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.106 (Additional fee assessment – Internet advertisement), traffickers convicted of an offense under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor—Penalty), will also be assessed a fine of \$5,000 “when the court finds that an internet advertisement in which the victim of the crime was described or depicted was instrumental in facilitating the commission of the crime.”

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).⁵⁹ Mandatory fines are assessed pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140(2) (Vehicle impoundment—fees and fine), which provides for mandatory impoundment of vehicles, stating, “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.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140(4) sets a \$2,500 fine to be paid to the impounding agency in order to redeem the vehicle. In addition, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.105 (Additional fee assessment) 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).

Traffickers may also be required to pay restitution at the discretion of the court. Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.750 (Restitution),

⁵⁶ See *supra* Component 2.5 for the relevant provisions.

⁵⁷ Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(3), “For the purposes of this section, ‘electronic communication’ has the same meaning as defined in RCW 9.61.260.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.61.260(5) defines “electronic communication” as “the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. ‘Electronic communication’ includes, but is not limited to, electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, and electronic text messaging.”

⁵⁸ See *supra* note 32 for the definition of “internet advertisement.”

⁵⁹ See *supra* note 8.

(1) If restitution is ordered, the court shall determine the amount of restitution due at the sentencing hearing or within one hundred eighty days.

....

(3) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, restitution ordered by a court pursuant to a criminal conviction shall be based on easily ascertainable damages for injury to or loss of property, actual expenses incurred for treatment for injury to persons, and lost wages resulting from injury. Restitution shall not include reimbursement for damages for mental anguish, pain and suffering, or other intangible losses, but may include the costs of counseling reasonably related to the offense. The amount of restitution shall not exceed double the amount of the offender's gain or the victim's loss from the commission of the offense.

....

(5) Restitution may be ordered whenever the offender is convicted of an offense which results in injury to any person or damage to or loss of property or as provided in subsection (6) of this section. In addition, restitution may be ordered to pay for an injury, loss, or damage if the offender pleads guilty to a lesser offense or fewer offenses and agrees with the prosecutor's recommendation that the offender be required to pay restitution to a victim of an offense or offenses which are not prosecuted pursuant to a plea agreement.

(6) Restitution for the rape of a child in the first, second, or third degree, in which the victim becomes pregnant, shall include:

(a) All of the victim's medical expenses that are associated with the rape and resulting pregnancy; and

(b) child support for any child born as a result of the rape if child support is ordered pursuant to a proceeding in superior court or administrative order for support for that child. The clerk must forward any restitution payments made on behalf of the victim's child to the Washington state child support registry under chapter 26.23 RCW. Identifying information about the victim and child shall not be included in the order. The offender shall receive a credit against any obligation owing under the administrative or superior court order for support of the victim's child

....

Traffickers also face asset forfeiture under several statutes. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140(2) (Vehicle impoundment—fees and fines) provides for mandatory impoundment of vehicles and 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. Traffickers are also subject to a number of discretionary criminal forfeiture proceedings. Assets related to violations of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) and § 9.68A.100 (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor) are subject to criminal forfeiture. Wash. Rev. Code §§ 10.105.010(1), 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. § 10.105.010(2) provides for seizure in the following manner:

Personal property subject to forfeiture under this chapter may be seized by any law enforcement officer of this state upon process issued by any superior court having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure of personal property without process may be made if:

- (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search warrant;
- (b) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding;
- (c) A law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the property is directly dangerous to health or safety; or
- (d) The law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in the commission of a felony.

Disposition of the forfeited property is governed by Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.105.010(6), which provides in relevant part,

When property is forfeited under this chapter, after satisfying any court-ordered victim restitution, the seizing law enforcement agency may:

- (a) Retain it for official use or upon application by any law enforcement agency of this state release such property to such agency for the exclusive use of enforcing the criminal law;
- (b) Sell that which is not required to be destroyed by law and which is not harmful to the public.

Traffickers may face additional forfeiture penalties under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.150 relating to seizure and forfeiture of property rights. Pursuant to § 9A.88.150,

- (1) The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture and no property rights exist in them:
 - (a) Any property or other interest acquired or maintained in violation of RCW 9.68A.100 [Commercial sexual abuse of a minor] . . . to the extent of the investment of funds, and any appreciation of income attributable to the investment, from a violation of RCW 9.68A.100
 - (b) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels, which are used, or intended for use, in any manner to facilitate a violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, except that:
 - (i) 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 RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070.
-
- (c) Any property, contractual right, or claim against property used to influence any enterprise that a person has established, operated, controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of, in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070;(d) All proceeds traceable to or derived from an offense defined in RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070 and all moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, and other things of value significantly used or intended to be used significantly to facilitate commission of the offense;
-
- (e) All books, record, and research products and materials, including formulas, microfilm, tapes, and data which are used, or intended for use, in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070;
- (f) All moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other tangible or intangible property of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, all tangible or intangible personal property, proceeds, or assets acquired

in whole or in part with proceeds traceable to an exchange or series of exchanges in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, and all moneys, negotiable instruments, and securities used of intended to be used to facilitate any violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070. A forfeiture of money, negotiable instruments, securities, or other tangible or intangible property encumbered by a bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if, at the time the security interest was created, the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission. No personal property may be forfeited under this subsection (1) (f), to the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or omission, which that owner established was committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or consent; and (g) All real property, including any right title, and interest in the whole of any lot or tract of land, and any appurtenances or improvements which are being used with the knowledge of the owner for a violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, or which have been acquired in whole or in part in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, if a substantial nexus exists between the violation and the real property. However:

- (i) No property may be forfeited pursuant to this subsection (1) (g), to the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or omission committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or consent;
- (ii) A forfeiture of real property encumbered by a bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if the secured party, at the time the security interest was created neither had knowledge or consented to the act or omission.

....

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.150(7), "When property is forfeited under this chapter, the seizing law enforcement agency shall sell the property that is not required to be destroyed by law and that is not harmful to the public." "By January 31st of each year, each seizing agency shall remit to the state treasurer the net proceeds of any property forfeited during the preceding calendar year. Money remitted shall be deposited in the prostitution prevention and intervention account under RCW 43.63A.740." Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.150(9).

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120 (Seizure and forfeiture of property) traffickers involved in child pornography may also be required to forfeit the following:

- (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.

....

Disposition of the property under this section is governed by Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120(9), which states that the seizing agency may retain the property for official use or sell that which is not required to be destroyed by law. Proceeds of the sale shall first be used to pay expenses arising from the investigation and forfeiture proceedings. Fifty percent of the money remaining after payment of expenses shall be deposited in the state general fund and fifty percent shall be deposited in the general fund of the state, county, or city of the seizing law enforcement agency. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.120(9).

For further discussion of provisions of the asset forfeiture laws, and seizure in particular, see Section 2.8.

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(46) (Definitions), defines “sex offense” to include, felony violations under chapter 9.68A (Sexual exploitation of children), including 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(1)(b)(ii) are required to register as sex offenders. The definition of a sex offense under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.128 also includes Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1)(b)(ii) (Trafficking) and “[a] violation under RCW 9A.88.070 (promoting prostitution in the first degree) or RCW 9A.88.080 (promoting prostitution in the second degree) if the person has a prior conviction for one of these offenses.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.128(10)(c), (e).

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

Washington’s procedure for terminating parental rights specifically addresses human trafficking and CSEC crimes. 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] finding by a court that a parent is a sexually violent predator as defined in RCW 71.09.020,”⁶⁰ a “[c]onviction of the parent of trafficking, or promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor when the victim of the crime is the child, the child’s other parent, a sibling of the child, or another child” 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)(e)(g), (j). However, 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.

⁶⁰ Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Stat. § 71.09.020(17) “‘Sexually violent offense’ means an act committed on, before, or after July 1, 1990, that is: (a) An act defined in Title 9A RCW as rape in the first degree, rape in the second degree by forcible compulsion, rape of a child in the first or second degree, statutory rape in the first or second degree, indecent liberties by forcible compulsion, indecent liberties against a child under age fourteen, incest against a child under age fourteen, or child molestation in the first or second degree; (b) a felony offense in effect at any time prior to July 1, 1990, that is comparable to a sexually violent offense as defined in (a) of this subsection, or any federal or out-of-state conviction for a felony offense that under the laws of this state would be a sexually violent offense as defined in this subsection; (c) an act of murder in the first or second degree, assault in the first or second degree, assault of a child in the first or second degree, kidnapping in the first or second degree, burglary in the first degree, residential burglary, or unlawful imprisonment, which act, either at the time of sentencing for the offense or subsequently during civil commitment proceedings pursuant to this chapter, has been determined beyond a reasonable doubt to have been sexually motivated, as that term is defined in RCW 9.94A.030; or (d) an act as described in chapter 9A.28 RCW, that is an attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy to commit one of the felonies designated in (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection.

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.*

The provisions of Wash. Rev. Stat. § 9A.40.100(1)(a)(i), (3)(a)(ii) (Trafficking) specifically apply the human trafficking statute to facilitators. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1)(a)–(b) states,

- (1) A person is guilty of trafficking in the first degree when:
 - (a) Such person:
 - (i) Recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, provides, obtains, buys, purchases, or receives by any means another person knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, 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, a sexually explicit act,⁶¹ or a commercial sex act, or that the person has not attained the age of eighteen years and is caused to engage in a sexually explicit act 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; and
 - (b) The acts or venture set forth in (a) of this subsection:
 - (i) Involve committing or attempting to commit kidnapping;
 - (ii) Involve a finding of sexual motivation under RCW 9.94A.835 [Special allegation—sexual motivation—procedures];
 - (iii) Involve the illegal harvesting or sale of human organs; or
 - (iv) 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(2), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(3)(a) states,

- A person is guilty of trafficking in the second degree when such person:
 - (i) Recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, provides, obtains, buys, purchases, or receives by any means another person knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, 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, a sexually explicit act⁶², or a commercial sex act, or that the person has not attained the age of eighteen years and is caused to engage in a sexually explicit act or a commercial sex act; or

⁶¹ See *supra* note 3.

⁶² See *supra* note 3.

- (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(3) 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(3)(b), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101(1)⁶³ (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor --Penalty), “A person is guilty of promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor if he or she knowingly advances commercial sexual abuse or a sexually explicit act of a minor or profits from a minor engaged in sexual conduct or a sexually explicit act.”⁶⁴ 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 and a possible fine up to \$50,000. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101(2), 9.94A.510, 9.94A.515, 9.94A.550.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102⁶⁵ (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor) 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.⁶⁶ 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.

⁶³ See *supra* note 13.

⁶⁴ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101(3), (5) states,

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(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.

(c) A person “advances a sexually explicit act of a minor” if he or she causes or aids a sexually explicit act of a minor, procures or solicits customers for a sexually explicit act of a minor, provides persons or premises for the purposes of a sexually explicit act of a minor, or engages in any other conduct designed to institute, aid, cause, assist, or facilitate a sexually explicit act of a minor.

(d) A “sexually explicit act” is a public, private, or live photographed, recorded, or videotaped act or show intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the prurient interests of patrons and for which something of value is given or received.

(e) A “patron” is a person who pays or agrees to pay a fee to another person as compensation for a sexually explicit act of a minor or who solicits or requests a sexually explicit act of a minor in return for a fee.

....

(5) For purposes of this section, “sexual conduct” means sexual intercourse or sexual contact, both as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW.

See *supra* note 13 (defining sexual intercourse and sexual conduct).

⁶⁵ See *supra* Component 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

⁶⁶ See *supra* Component 1.2 for the relevant provisions.

A facilitator could also be convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.83.020(1) (Money laundering), which states,

A person is guilty of money laundering when that person conducts or attempts to conduct a financial transaction involving the proceeds⁶⁷ of specified unlawful activity⁶⁸ 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.*

Facilitators convicted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(1), (3)(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(2), (3)(b), 9.68A.101(2), 9.94A.550. Those 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. 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). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(4)(a) mandates a \$10,000 fee for “a person who is either convicted or given a deferred prosecution or who has entered into a statutory or nonstatutory diversion agreement as a result of an arrest for a violation of a trafficking crime”

Furthermore, pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.106, facilitators who are convicted of an offense under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.101 (Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor--Penalty) or 9.68A.102 (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor—Penalty) will receive an additional fine of \$5,000 “per offense when the court finds that an internet advertisement in which the victim of the crime was described or depicted was instrumental in facilitating the commission of the crime.”⁶⁹

Facilitators may also be required to pay restitution at the discretion of the court. Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.750 (Restitution),

(1) If restitution is ordered, the court shall determine the amount of restitution due at the sentencing hearing or within one hundred eighty days.

. . . .

(3) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, restitution ordered by a court pursuant to a criminal conviction shall be based on easily ascertainable damages for injury to or loss of property, actual expenses incurred for treatment for injury to persons, and lost wages resulting from injury. Restitution shall not include reimbursement for damages for mental anguish, pain and suffering, or other intangible losses, but may include the costs of counseling reasonably related to the offense. The amount of restitution shall not exceed double the amount of the offender’s gain or the victim’s loss from the commission of the offense.

. . . .

⁶⁷ See *supra* note 46.

⁶⁸ See *supra* note 47.

⁶⁹ See *supra* note 34 for the definition of “internet advertisement.”

(5) Restitution may be ordered whenever the offender is convicted of an offense which results in injury to any person or damage to or loss of property or as provided in subsection (6) of this section. In addition, restitution may be ordered to pay for an injury, loss, or damage if the offender pleads guilty to a lesser offense or fewer offenses and agrees with the prosecutor's recommendation that the offender be required to pay restitution to a victim of an offense or offenses which are not prosecuted pursuant to a plea agreement.

(6) Restitution for the rape of a child in the first, second, or third degree, in which the victim becomes pregnant, shall include:

(a) All of the victim's medical expenses that are associated with the rape and resulting pregnancy; and

(b) child support for any child born as a result of the rape if child support is ordered pursuant to a proceeding in superior court or administrative order for support for that child. The clerk must forward any restitution payments made on behalf of the victim's child to the Washington state child support registry under chapter 26.23 RCW. Identifying information about the victim and child shall not be included in the order. The offender shall receive a credit against any obligation owing under the administrative or superior court order for support of the victim's child

. . . .

Facilitators also face asset forfeiture under several statutes since 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).⁷⁰

Facilitators may forfeit vehicles for suspected violations of promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.140(2) (Vehicle impoundment—fees and fines). Personal property “used 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,” is also subject to forfeiture. Wash. Rev. Code §§ 10.105.010(1), 10.105.900. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 10.105.010(1) (Seizure and forfeiture). See Section 2.8 for a full discussion of Washington's asset forfeiture laws as they apply to human trafficking.

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.

4.4 *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).⁷¹ 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

⁷⁰ See Section 2.8 *supra* for a full discussion of the forfeiture and seizure provisions.

⁷¹ See *supra* Component 3.2 for the relevant provisions.

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.

Additionally, a person found to be promoting or selling child pornography could also be charged with offenses under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070 (Possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070 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. 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

In addition to any other fines imposed by offenses committed under this section, a \$1000 fine will be assessed for “each depiction or image of visual or printed matter that constitutes a separate offense,” pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.070.⁷²

- 4.4.1 Recommendation: Increase the penalties 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) to reflect the seriousness of the offense.

⁷² See *supra* note 35.

Legal Components:

- 5.1 *Victims under the core child sex trafficking offense include all commercially sexually exploited children.*
 - 5.2 *The state sex trafficking statute expressly prohibits a defendant from asserting a defense based upon the willingness of a minor under 18 to engage in the commercial sex act.*
 - 5.3 *State law prohibits the criminalization of minors under 18 for prostitution offenses.*
 - 5.4 *State law provides a non-punitive avenue to specialized services through one or more points of entry.*
 - 5.5 *Child sex trafficking is identified as a type of abuse and neglect within child protection statutes.*
 - 5.6 *The definition of “caregiver” or another related term in the child welfare statutes is not a barrier to a sex trafficked child accessing the protection of child welfare.*
 - 5.7 *Crime victims’ compensation is specifically available to a child victim of sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).*
 - 5.8 *Victim-friendly procedures and protections are provided in the trial process for minors under 18.*
 - 5.9 *Expungement or sealing of juvenile delinquency 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 for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) are authorized by law.*
 - 5.11 *Statutes of limitations for civil and criminal actions for child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses are eliminated or lengthened sufficiently to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal action and legal remedies.*
-

Legal Analysis:

- 5.1 *Victims under the core child sex trafficking offense include all commercially sexually exploited children.⁷³*

All commercially sexually exploited children are identifiable as child sex trafficking victims under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking), in part because, third party control is not required in order for a victim to be defined as a sex trafficking victim, and core protections for juvenile sex trafficking victims are not further narrowed.

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100, if the victim is a minor, “force, fraud, or coercion are not necessary elements of an offense . . .” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(5). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 makes it a crime when a person “obtains, buys, purchases . . . by any means another person knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact . . . that the person has not attained the age of eighteen years and is caused to engage in a . . . commercial sex act.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 applies to buyers through the use of the terms “buys” and “purchases,” as well as through the term “obtains” based on federal precedent.⁷⁴

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 all CSEC victims are identified as sex trafficking victims since no force, fraud, coercion is required, the buyer is culpable under sex trafficking law, and there is no additional third party control requirement.

⁷³ See generally **SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL**, “Eliminating the Third Party Control Barrier to Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims,” JuST Response Policy Paper (2015), http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Policy-Paper_Eliminating-Third-Party-Control_Final1.pdf (discussing need to include all commercially sexually exploited children within sex trafficking definitions and corresponding need to include buyer conduct in core sex trafficking offenses regardless of whether victim is under control of a third party).

⁷⁴ See *supra* Component 2.1 for discussion regarding buyer applicability Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking).

5.2 *The state sex trafficking statute expressly prohibits a defendant from asserting a defense based upon the willingness of a minor under 18 to engage in the commercial sex act.*

Washington’s trafficking and CSEC laws prohibit the defendant from raising the consent of the minor to the sex acts as a defense. Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(5) (Trafficking), “[i]f the victim of any offense identified in this section is a minor, . . . consent to the sexually explicit act or commercial sex act does not constitute a defense.”⁷⁵ Furthermore, “Consent of a minor to the sexually explicit act or sexual conduct does not constitute a defense” to promoting the commercial sexual abuse of a minor under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.101(4)⁷⁶ and “[c]onsent of a minor to the sexual conduct does not constitute a defense . . .” under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.100(4)⁷⁷ (Commercial sexual abuse of a minor). Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102(1) (Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor), “Consent of a minor to the travel for commercial sexual abuse, or the sexually explicit act or sexual conduct itself, does not constitute a defense” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.102(3). Lastly, pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.103(1) (Permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor), “Consent of a minor to the sexually explicit act or sexual conduct does not constitute a defense” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.103(3).

5.3 *State law prohibits the criminalization of minors under 18 for prostitution offenses.*⁷⁸

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.030 (Prostitution) is age neutral and fails to specifically protect minors from prosecution for prostitution. However, an affirmative defense is available to victims of human trafficking under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.040, which states,

In any prosecution for prostitution under RCW 9A.88.030, it is an affirmative defense that the actor committed the offense as a result of being a victim of trafficking, RCW 9A.40.100, promoting prostitution in the first degree, RCW 9A.88.070, or trafficking in persons under the trafficking victims protection act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq. Documentation that the actor is named as a current victim in an information or the investigative records upon which a conviction is obtained for trafficking, promoting prostitution in the first degree, or trafficking in persons shall create a presumption that the person’s participation in prostitution was a result of having been a victim of trafficking, promoting prostitution in the first degree or trafficking in persons.

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.120 (Additional fee assessments), only adult offenders are levied with additional fees for violating Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9A.88.010 (Indecent Exposure), 9A.88.030 (Prostitution), or 9A.88.090 (Permitting prostitution).⁷⁹

5.3.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.88.030 (Prostitution) to ensure that all minors are protected from criminalization for prostitution offenses.

⁷⁵ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(6)(a) defines "Commercial sex act" as “any act of sexual contact or sexual intercourse, both as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW, for which something of value is given or received by any person” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100(6)(b) defines "Sexually explicit act" as “a public, private, or live photographed, recorded, or videotaped act or show intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the prurient interests of patrons for which something of value is given or received.”

⁷⁶ See *supra* note 13.

⁷⁷ See *supra* note 10.

⁷⁸ For more information regarding recent federal legislation impacting this component see: <http://go.sharedhope.org/stateimpactmemo>.

⁷⁹ Additionally, municipalities may not leverage “any legal financial obligations, fees, fines, or costs associated with juvenile offenses” without “express statutory authority”.

5.4 State law provides a non-punitive avenue to specialized services through one or more points of entry.

Child Identified as Youth in Need of Care (Abused/Neglected)

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(1),⁸⁰ a sexually exploited child is likely to be identified as abused or neglected. Additionally, if a child is identified as abused or neglected, the definition of “caregiver” under the DSHS Practices and Procedures Guide⁸¹ is sufficiently broad enough to involve Child Protective Services in investigations where the child is in the custody or control of a non-family trafficker.

I. Initial custody

a. Authority for initial custody

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.056(1), “An administrator of a hospital or similar institution or any physician, licensed pursuant to chapters 18.71 or 18.57 Wash. Rev. Code Ann., may detain a child without consent of a person legally responsible for the child whether or not medical treatment is required, if the circumstances or conditions of the child are such that the detaining individual has reasonable cause to believe that permitting the child to continue in his or her place of residence or in the care and custody of the parent, guardian, custodian or other person legally responsible for the child's care would present an imminent danger to that child's safety.”

If an administrator or physician does detain a child under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.056(1), the administrator or physician must notify law enforcement or child protective services as soon as possible, but no later than seventy-two hours after the child has been detained.

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.

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.050(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 Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 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.

⁸⁰ See *infra* Component 5.5 for a full analysis of the definition of “abuse” as it relates to identification of sexually exploited children.

⁸¹ See *infra* Component 5.6 for a full analysis of the definition of “caregiver.”

b. Placement

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.060(1), “A child taken into custody pursuant to . . . Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.050 shall be immediately placed in shelter care. In no case may a child who is taken into custody pursuant to . . . § 26.44.050 be detained in a secure detention facility.”

II. Process following initial custody

Following initial custody, a petition can be filed with the court alleging dependency of the child. Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.040,

(1) Any person may file with the clerk of the superior court a petition showing that there is within the county, or residing within the county, a dependent child and requesting that the superior court deal with such child as provided in this chapter. There shall be no fee for filing such petitions.

(2) In counties having paid probation officers, these officers shall, to the extent possible, first determine if a petition is reasonably justifiable. Each petition shall be verified and contain a statement of facts constituting a dependency, and the names and residence, if known to the petitioner, of the parents, guardian, or custodian of the alleged dependent child.

III. Placement process pending adjudication/investigation

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.065(1)(a), “When a child is taken into custody, the court shall hold a shelter care hearing within seventy-two hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The primary purpose of the shelter care hearing is to determine whether the child can be immediately and safely returned home while the adjudication of the dependency is pending.”

In determining where to place the child, “the paramount consideration for the court shall be the health, welfare, and safety of the child” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.065(4).

The court has several placement options, as provided in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.065(5). These options include:

- (a) release to the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian⁸²
- (b) placement with a relative or other suitable person⁸³

⁸² The court will not place the child with the child’s parents or legal guardian if, in accordance with Wash Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.065(5)(a) “the court finds there is reasonable cause to believe that: (i) After consideration of the specific services that have been provided, reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the child's home and to make it possible for the child to return home; and (ii)(A) The child has no parent, guardian, or legal custodian to provide supervision and care for such child; or (B) The release of such child would present a serious threat of substantial harm to such child, notwithstanding an order entered pursuant to RCW 26.44.063; or (C) The parent, guardian, or custodian to whom the child could be released has been charged with violating RCW 9A.40.060 or 9A.40.070.”

⁸³ Wash. Rev. Code Ann § 13.34.065(5)(b): “If the court does not release the child to his or her parent, guardian, or legal custodian, the court shall order placement with a relative or other suitable person as described in RCW 13.34.130(1)(b), unless there is reasonable cause to believe the health, safety, or welfare of the child would be jeopardized or that the efforts to reunite the parent and child will be hindered. If such relative or other suitable person appears otherwise suitable and competent to provide care and treatment, the fingerprint-based background check need not be completed before placement, but as soon as possible after placement. The court must also determine whether placement with the relative or other suitable person is in the child's best interests. The relative or other suitable person must be willing and available to:(i) Care for the child and be able to meet any special needs of the child; (ii) Facilitate the child's visitation with siblings, if such visitation is part of the supervising agency's plan or is ordered by the court; and (iii) Cooperate with the department or supervising agency in providing necessary background checks and home studies.”

(c) continued shelter care, if other options are not possible.

IV. Adjudication

Once a petition alleging dependency of a child has been filed with the court, the court has seventy-five days to hold a fact-finding hearing on the petition. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.070.

The court will hold a disposition hearing immediately after the entry of the findings of fact. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.110. As part of the disposition hearing, the court will order a social study pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.120(1), which states:

To aid the court in its decision on disposition, a social study shall be made by the person or agency filing the petition. A parent may submit a counselor's or health care provider's evaluation of the parent, which shall either be included in the social study or considered in conjunction with the social study. The study shall include all social files and may also include facts relating to the child's cultural heritage, and shall be made available to the court. The court shall consider the social file, social study, guardian ad litem report, the court-appointed special advocate's report, if any, and any reports filed by a party at the disposition hearing in addition to evidence produced at the fact-finding hearing

V. Outcomes

After a disposition hearing has been held, the court will enter an order of disposition pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.130. Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.130(1)(a), the court may order a disposition that maintains the child in his or her home, which shall provide a program designed to alleviate the immediate danger to the child, to mitigate or cure any damage the child has already suffered, and to aid the parents so that the child will not be endangered in the future. In determining the disposition, the court should choose services to assist the parents in maintaining the child in the home, including housing assistance, if appropriate, that least interfere with family autonomy and are adequate to protect the child. Alternatively, pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.130(1)(b)(i), the court may order the child to be removed from his or her home and into the custody, control, and care of a relative or other suitable person, the department, or a supervising agency for supervision of the child's placement.

If the court orders the child into the custody, control, and care of a department or supervising agency, the department must follow the requirements of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.130(1)(b)(ii), which provides that:

The department or supervising agency has the authority to place the child, subject to review and approval by the court:

- (A) with a relative...
- (B) in the home of another suitable person if the child or family has a preexisting relationship with that person, and the person has completed all required criminal history background checks and otherwise appears to the department or supervising agency to be suitable and competent to provide care for the child, or
- (C) in a foster family home or group care facility...

“The department may also consider placing the child, subject to review and approval by the court, with a person with whom the child's sibling or half-sibling is residing or a person who has adopted the sibling or half-sibling of the child being placed as long as the person has completed all required criminal history background checks and otherwise appears to the department or supervising agency to be competent to provide care for the child.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.130(1)(b)(iii).

If a dispositional order places a child in out-of-home care, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.130(1) requires the department to “. . . continue to encourage the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child to engage in services and maintain contact with the child.”

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.138(1),

The status of all children found to be dependent shall be reviewed by the court at least every six months from the beginning date of the placement episode or the date dependency is established, whichever is first. The purpose of the hearing shall be to review the progress of the parties and determine whether court supervision should continue.

The court may order a petition seeking termination of the parent-child relationship. Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.34.132(e), there are several circumstances in which the court may do so, including:

Conviction of the parent of trafficking, or promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor when the victim of the crime is the child, the child's other parent, a sibling of the child, or another child.

Child Identified as Youth in Need of Intervention

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.030(5)(d), (17) includes “sexually exploited child” in the definition of “child in need of services” (CHINS) and defines “sexually exploited child,” 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.”

I. Initial custody

a. Authority for initial custody

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.185C.260(1) states,

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.

b. Placement

If a child is taken into custody for a reason specified under Wash. Rev. Code § 43.185C.260(1) (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 to a shelter or other places specified in the statute. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.185C.265(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. § 43.185C.260(1)(b)(i).

If a child is taken into custody under subsection (c), the child “may [be] release[d] . . . to the supervising agency, or shall [be] take[n] . . . to a designated crisis residential center’s secure facility”. If a child is taken into custody under subsection (d), the child “may be placed in a juvenile detention facility” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.185C.265(2).

Furthermore, under RCW § 43.185C.260(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 43.185C.265”

II. Process following initial custody

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.185C.290(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.

The parents of a child may also file a petition with the court seeking services for the child. Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.191(1), “A child’s parent may file with the juvenile court a petition in the interest of a child alleged to be an at-risk youth.”

III. Placement process pending adjudication

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.185C.265(4),

Whenever an officer transfers custody of a child to a crisis residential center or the department of social and health services, the child may reside in the crisis residential center or may be placed by the department of social and health services 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.

Once a petition has been filed, the juvenile court is authorized to place the child in accordance with Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.185C.265(2), which states,

An officer taking a child into custody under RCW 43.185C.260(1) (c) or (d) shall inform the child of the reason for custody. An officer taking a child into custody under RCW 43.185C.260(1)(c) may release the child to the supervising agency, or shall take the child to a designated crisis residential center's secure facility. If the secure facility is not available, not located within a reasonable distance, or full, the officer shall take the child to a semi-secure crisis residential center. An officer taking a child into custody under RCW 43.185C.260(1)(d) may place the child in a juvenile detention facility as provided in RCW 43.185C.270 or a secure facility, except that the child shall be taken to detention whenever the officer has been notified that a juvenile court has entered a detention order under this chapter or chapter 13.34 RCW.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 74.15.255(2) requires each crisis residential center to have on staff, or otherwise provide “access to, a person who has been trained to work with the needs of sexually exploited children.” Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.185C.3101), “A child taken into custody and taken to a crisis residential center established pursuant to RCW 43.185C.295 (as recodified by this act) 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 43.185C.295 (as recodified by this act). Placement in both locations shall not exceed fifteen consecutive days from the point of intake as provided in RCW 43.185C.290 (as recodified by this act).”

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.160(3), “If the child has been placed in a foster family home or group care facility under chapter 74.15 RCW, the child shall remain there, or in any other suitable residence as determined by the department, pending resolution of the petition by the court. Any placement may be reviewed by the court within three judicial days upon the request of the juvenile or the juvenile's parent.”

IV. Adjudication or referral to alternate process

a. Adjudication

Under Wash Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.160(1), when a child in need of services petition has been filed, the juvenile court must schedule a fact finding hearing to be held within five calendar days, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, if the child is not residing in his or her parent’s home or an out-of-home placement. If the child is living at home or in an out-of-home placement, the fact-finding hearing must be scheduled within ten calendar days of the filing date of the petition.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.179(1) requires that “a disposition hearing shall be held no later than fourteen days after the approval of the temporary out-of-home placement.”

V. Outcomes (Final permanent placement)

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.179(2),

At the conclusion of the disposition hearing, the court may:

- (a) Reunite the family and dismiss the petition;
- (b) approve an at-risk youth petition filed by the parents and dismiss the child in need of services petition;
- (c) approve an out-of-home placement requested in the child in need of services petition by the parents; or
- (d) order an out-of-home placement at the request of the child or the department not to exceed ninety days.

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.”

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.196(2),

At the dispositional hearing regarding an adjudicated at-risk youth, the court shall consider the recommendations of the parties and the recommendations of any dispositional plan submitted by the department. The court may enter a dispositional order that will assist the parent in maintaining the care, custody, and control of the child and assist the family to resolve family conflicts or problems.

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.196(3) sets forth the conditions the court may impose upon a child adjudicated to be at risk, including requiring:

- (a) Regular school attendance;
- (b) Counseling;
- (c) Participation in a substance abuse or mental health outpatient treatment program;
- (d) Reporting on a regular basis to the department or any other designated person or agency; and
- (e) Any other condition the court deems an appropriate condition of supervision including but not limited to: Employment, participation in an anger management program, and refraining from using alcohol or drugs.

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.196(4), “No dispositional order or condition of supervision ordered by a court pursuant to this section shall include involuntary commitment of a child for substance abuse or mental health treatment.”

Child Identified as Juvenile Offender

I. Initial custody

a. Authority for initial custody

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.040(1) (Taking juvenile into custody, grounds—Detention of, grounds—Detention pending disposition—Release on bond, conditions—Bail jumping),

A juvenile may be taken into custody:

- (a) Pursuant to a court order if a complaint is filed with the court alleging, and the court finds probable cause to believe, that the juvenile has committed an offense or has violated terms of a disposition order or release order; or
- (b) Without a court order, by a law enforcement officer if grounds exist for the arrest of an adult in identical circumstances. Admission to, and continued custody in, a court detention facility shall be governed by subsection (2) of this section; or
- (c) Pursuant to a court order that the juvenile be held as a material witness; or
- (d) Where the secretary or the secretary's designee has suspended the parole of a juvenile offender.

b. Placement

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.040 (Taking juvenile into custody, grounds—Detention of, grounds—Detention pending disposition—Release on bond, conditions—Bail jumping),

- (2) A juvenile may not be held in detention unless there is probable cause to believe that:
- (a) The juvenile has committed an offense or has violated the terms of a disposition order; and
 - (i) The juvenile will likely fail to appear for further proceedings; or
 - (ii) Detention is required to protect the juvenile from himself or herself; or
 - (iii) The juvenile is a threat to community safety; or
 - (iv) The juvenile will intimidate witnesses or otherwise unlawfully interfere with the administration of justice; or
 - (v) The juvenile has committed a crime while another case was pending; or
 - (b) The juvenile is a fugitive from justice; or
 - (c) The juvenile's parole has been suspended or modified; or
 - (d) The juvenile is a material witness.

....

(4) Upon a finding that members of the community have threatened the health of a juvenile taken into custody, at the juvenile's request the court may order continued detention pending further order of the court.

II. Process following initial custody

After a juvenile has been taken into custody and is held in detention, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.050(1)(a) provides that,

An information, a community supervision modification or termination of diversion petition, or a parole modification petition shall be filed within seventy-two hours, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excluded, or the juvenile shall be released.

III. Placement process pending adjudication

Once a petition has been filed, “A detention hearing, a community supervision modification or termination of diversion petition, or a parole modification petition shall be held within seventy-two hours, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excluded, from the time of filing the information or petition, to determine whether continued detention is necessary under RCW 13.40.040.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.050(1)(b). If the court finds that continued detention is not necessary, the juvenile will be released pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.050(5). The court may impose the most appropriate of the following conditions pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.040.050(6) if the juvenile is released:

- (a) Place the juvenile in the custody of a designated person agreeing to supervise such juvenile;
- (b) Place restrictions on the travel of the juvenile during the period of release;
- (c) Require the juvenile to report regularly to and remain under the supervision of the juvenile court;
- (d) Impose any condition other than detention deemed reasonably necessary to assure appearance as required;
- (e) Require that the juvenile return to detention during specified hours; or
- (f) Require the juvenile to post a probation bond set by the court under terms and conditions as provided in RCW 13.40.040(4).

“A juvenile may be released only to a responsible adult or the department.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.050(7).

At a preliminary hearing, the court will determine whether to proceed to a delinquency hearing, or treat the matter as a diversion case under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.080. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. 13.40.050(4).

IV. Adjudication or referral to alternate process

a. Adjudication

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.150(1), in disposition hearings all relevant and material evidence, including oral and written reports, may be received by the court and may be relied upon to the extent of its probative value, even though such evidence may not be admissible in a hearing on the information.

b. Diversion

An alternative response that may keep the minor out of a juvenile detention facility is diversion. 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.⁸⁴ 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 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 that provides:

- (a) Safe and stable housing;
- (b) Comprehensive on-site case management;
- (c) Integrated mental health and chemical dependency services, including specialized trauma recovery services;
- (d) Education and employment training delivered on-site; and
- (e) Referrals to off-site specialized services, as appropriate.

Since diversion under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.213(2) is optional for subsequent offenses in counties that have a comprehensive program in place, minors may be charged with a prostitution crime after their first offense. Accordingly, a child could be held in a juvenile detention facility for prostitution and related offenses after a first offense.

⁸⁴ 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.

However, if diverted under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.070(7), sexually exploited youth must be directed to specialized services. 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 [Repealed]⁸⁵ and 74.14B.070.” However, since Wash. Rev. Code 74.14B.060 (Sexually abused children—Treatment services), which required that “the department of community, trade, and economic development shall provide, subject to available funds, comprehensive sexual assault services to sexually abused children and their families . . . [and] treatment services by qualified, registered, certified, or licensed professionals,” was repealed in 2012 by Senate Bill 6100,⁸⁶ only the services provided under § 74.14B.070 are mandated. Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 74.14B.070 (Child victims of sexual assault or sexual abuse—Early identification, treatment),

The department of social and health services through its division of children and family services shall, subject to available funds,⁸⁷ establish a system of early identification and referral to treatment of child victims of sexual assault or sexual abuse. The system shall include schools, physicians, sexual assault centers, domestic violence centers, child protective services, and foster parents. A mechanism shall be developed to identify communities that have experienced success in this area and share their expertise and methodology with other communities statewide.

Another possible outcome is a deferred disposition under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.127(1) (Deferred disposition), which states,

- A juvenile is eligible for deferred disposition unless he or she:
- (a) Is charged with a sex or violent offense;
 - (b) Has a criminal history which includes any felony;
 - (c) Has a prior deferred disposition or deferred adjudication; or
 - (d) Has two or more adjudications.

⁸⁵ Wash, Rev, Code Ann. § 74.14B.060 (Sexually abused children – treatment services) was repealed by Senate Bill 6100 passed during the 2012 Regular Session of the 62nd Washington legislature, 2012 Wa. Ch. 29, which came into (effective June 7, 2012). Pursuant to 2012 Wa. Ch. 29, some of the language used in Wash, Rev, Code Ann. 74.14B.060 was reincorporated into Wash Rev. Code Ann. §§ 43.280.010 (Intent), 43.280.011 (Intent, approval of committee, distribution of services), 43.280.020 (Grant program – funding), and 43.280.080 (Office of crime victims advocacy), 70.125.020 (Legislative findings – program objectives).

⁸⁶ Senate Bill 6100 passed during the 2012 Regular Session of the 62nd Washington legislature, 2012 Wa. Ch. 29 (effective June 7, 2012).

⁸⁷ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.280.010 states, in part, “The legislature recognizes the need to increase the services available to the victims of sexual assault The legislature intends to enhance the community-based services available to the victims of sexual assault by: (1) Providing consolidated funding support for local programs which provide services to victims of sexual assault, as defined in RCW 70.125.030” Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.280.020,

- (1) The department of commerce is authorized to distribute funds that have been allocated to the grant program that it administers for serving victims of sexual assault.
- (2) Activities that can be funded through this grant program are limited to those that:
 - (a) Provide effective services to victims of sexual assault;
 -
- (3) Funding for core, specialized and underserved populations services, as defined in RCW 70.125.030, must be distributed through a funding formula to those applicants that emphasize providing stable, victim-centered sexual assault services and possess the qualifications to provide those services.

If a disposition is deferred, the juvenile will be placed under community supervision pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.127(5).⁸⁸ The court may order a variety of dispositions in accordance with the sentencing standards found in Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.0357.

5.5 *Child sex trafficking is identified as a type of abuse and neglect within child protection statutes.*⁸⁹

The definition of “abuse” under Wash Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(1) (Definitions) does include acts amounting to child sex trafficking. However, Washington’s child welfare laws identify commercially sexually minors as abused or neglected. For purposes of Washington’s child abuse reporting laws, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(1) 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(22) 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.”

5.5.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020 (Definitions) to expressly include violations of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) as “sexual exploitation.”

5.6 *The definition of “caregiver” or another related term in the child welfare statutes is not a barrier to a sex trafficked child accessing the protection of child welfare.*

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(1) (Definitions), “[a]n abused child is a child who has been subjected to child abuse or neglect as defined in this section,” and “[a]buse or neglect” means 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.” This definition does not limit the scope of abuse based on the perpetrator and the definition of sexual exploitation under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(22) (Definitions) similarly includes sexual exploitation “by any person.”⁹⁰

5.7 *Crime victims’ compensation is specifically available to a child victim of sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).*

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 act⁹¹ for the purpose of the right to benefits under this chapter even if the person is also charged with

⁸⁸ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.40.127(5): “Any juvenile granted a deferral of disposition under this section shall be placed under community supervision. The court may impose any conditions of supervision that it deems appropriate including posting a probation bond”

⁸⁹ For more information regarding recent federal legislation impacting this component see: <http://go.sharedhope.org/stateimpactmemo>.

⁹⁰ See supra Section 5.5 for statutory text of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(22) (Definitions).

⁹¹ “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.

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.

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 advocate⁹² or support person . . . prior to and during any court proceedings,” the appointment of CASA and guardians ad litem,⁹³ a prohibition (with some exceptions) on releasing names and addresses of the victim-witnesses without permission, and restrictions on reputation evidence (commonly called the “rape shield law”). Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 7.69A.030(2)–(4), 13.34.100(1), 9A.44.020(3). Closed circuit television testimony is also available for a child under 14 years of age if “[t]he testimony will . . . [d]escribe a violation of RCW 9A.40.100 (trafficking) or any offense identified in chapter 9.68A RCW (sexual exploitation of children).” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.150(1)(a)(iii).

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.44.020(3) (Testimony—Evidence—Written motion—Admissibility),

In any prosecution for the crime of rape, trafficking pursuant to RCW 9A.40.100 [Trafficking], or any of the offenses in chapter 9.68A RCW [Sexual Exploitation of Children], or for an attempt to commit, or an assault with an intent to commit any such crime evidence of the victim's past sexual behavior including but not limited to the victim's marital behavior, divorce history, or general reputation for promiscuity, nonchastity, or sexual mores contrary to community standards is not admissible if offered to attack the credibility of the victim and is admissible on the issue of consent, except where prohibited in the underlying criminal offense

⁹² 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.”

⁹³ 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.”

Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 70.125.060 (Personal representative may accompany victim during treatment or proceedings), “If the victim of a sexual assault so desires, a personal representative⁹⁴ of the victim's choice may accompany the victim to the hospital or other health care facility, and to proceedings concerning the alleged assault, including police and prosecution interviews and court proceedings.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 70.125.030(9) defines “[v]ictim” as “any person who suffers physical, emotional, financial, and psychological impact as a proximate result of a sexual assault,” and “[s]exual assault” is defined under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 70.125.030(7)(h), (i) to include, “sexual exploitation or commercial sex abuse of a minor.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 70.125.065 (Records of community sexual assault program and underserved populations provider not available as part of discovery – Exceptions), which provides additional protections for minor victim witnesses’ communications with service providers, states

Records maintained by a community sexual assault program and underserved populations provider shall not be made available to any defense attorney as part of discovery in a sexual assault case unless:

- (1) A written pretrial motion is made by the defendant to the court stating that the defendant is requesting discovery of the community sexual assault program or underserved populations provider records;
- (2) The written motion is accompanied by an affidavit or affidavits setting forth specifically the reasons why the defendant is requesting discovery of the community sexual assault program or underserved populations provider records;
- (3) The court reviews the community sexual assault program or underserved populations provider records in camera to determine whether the community sexual assault program or underserved populations provider records are relevant and whether the probative value of the records is outweighed by the victim's privacy interest in the confidentiality of such records taking into account the further trauma that may be inflicted upon the victim by the disclosure of the records to the defendant; and
- (4) The court enters an order stating whether the records or any part of the records are discoverable and setting forth the basis for the court's findings.

5.9 *Expungement or sealing of juvenile delinquency 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. 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.⁹⁵

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.050(17), (23) provide for destruction of certain records related to diversion only. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.050(12) more generally states,

⁹⁴ Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 70.125.030(5) defines “[p]ersonal representative” as “a friend, relative, attorney, or employee or volunteer from a community sexual assault program or specialized treatment service provider.”

⁹⁵ For purposes of research and data collection, sealed juvenile records may be given to government agencies, who must maintain confidentiality of identities included. “Researchers” may also receive sealed records provided records are not used to identify juveniles. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.010; S.B. 5564, Sec. 9, 64th Leg., Reg. Sess. (Wash. 2015) (effective July 24, 2015).

- (a) The court shall not grant any motion to seal records for class A offenses made pursuant to subsection (11)⁹⁶ 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.
- (c) Notwithstanding the requirements in (a) or (b) of this subsection, the court shall grant any motion to seal records of any deferred disposition vacated under RCW 13.40.127(9) prior to the effective date of this section if restitution has been paid and the person is eighteen years of age or older at the time of the motion.

5.9.1 Recommendation: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.50.050 (Records relating to commission of juvenile offenses) to allow a juvenile sex trafficking victim to expunge juvenile records related to the trafficking victimization upon turning 18 or earlier.

5.10 Victim restitution and civil remedies for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) are authorized by law.

Victims may receive restitution from the offenders, at the discretion of the court. Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.94A.750 (Restitution),

- (1) If restitution is ordered, the court shall determine the amount of restitution due at the sentencing hearing or within one hundred eighty days.

⁹⁶ 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.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, restitution ordered by a court pursuant to a criminal conviction shall be based on easily ascertainable damages for injury to or loss of property, actual expenses incurred for treatment for injury to persons, and lost wages resulting from injury. Restitution shall not include reimbursement for damages for mental anguish, pain and suffering, or other intangible losses, but may include the costs of counseling reasonably related to the offense. The amount of restitution shall not exceed double the amount of the offender's gain or the victim's loss from the commission of the offense.

....

(5) Restitution may be ordered whenever the offender is convicted of an offense which results in injury to any person or damage to or loss of property or as provided in subsection (6) of this section. In addition, restitution may be ordered to pay for an injury, loss, or damage if the offender pleads guilty to a lesser offense or fewer offenses and agrees with the prosecutor's recommendation that the offender be required to pay restitution to a victim of an offense or offenses which are not prosecuted pursuant to a plea agreement.

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 (Remedies and procedures) states,

(1) (a) 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 9A.40.100 [Human trafficking], 9.68A.100 [Commercial sexual abuse of a minor—Penalties], 9.68A.101 [Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor—Penalty], or 9A.88.070 [Promoting prostitution in the first degree], 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.

....

....

(4) Following the determination of liability, orders may include, but are not limited to:

....

(e) Ordering the payment of all costs and expenses of the prosecution and investigation of . . . an offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, activity or a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080, civil and criminal, incurred by the state or county, including any costs of defense provided at public expense, as appropriate to the state general fund . . .

(f) Ordering forfeiture first as restitution to any person damaged by . . . an offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100, then to the state general fund . . . as appropriate, to the extent not already ordered to be paid in other damages, of the following:

(i) Any property or other interest acquired or maintained in violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 to the extent of the investment of funds, and any appreciation or income attributable to the investment, from a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.

(ii) Any property, contractual right, or claim against property used to influence any enterprise that a person has established, operated, controlled, conducted or participated in the conduct of, in violation of RCW of 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.

(iii) All proceeds are traceable to or derived from an offense included in . . . an offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, or 9A.88.070, and all moneys, negotiable

instruments, securities, and other things of value significantly used or intended to be used significantly to facilitate commission of the offense.

....
....

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

Lastly, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.085 provides a civil remedy for parents against an “unlicensed youth shelter or unlicensed runaway and homeless youth program” that fails to fulfill their duty to report missing children under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.082(1)(a)–(c).⁹⁷

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

Statutes of limitations have not been eliminated for prosecutions under the trafficking law and most CSEC laws. 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. § 9A.04.080(1)(c) allows a prosecution for a violation of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 9.68A.040 (Sexual exploitation of a minor), 9A.44.040 (Rape in the first degree), 9A.44.050 (Rape in the second degree), 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), 9A.44.083 (Child molestation in the first degree), 9A.44.086 (Child molestation in the second degree), ((9A.44.070, 9A.44.080)) 9A.44.089 (Child molestation in the third degree), 9A.44.100(1)(b) (Indecent liberties), ((9A.44.079, 9A.44.089, or)) 9A.64.020 (Incest), or 9.68A.040 (Sexual exploitation of a minor) to be commenced “up to the victim's thirtieth birthday”, when the crime was committed against a victim under the age of 18.

While not specifically applicable to claims based on child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, the time for victims to commence civil actions against their exploiters is extended for claims based on childhood sexual abuse under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 4.16.340(1) (Actions based on childhood sexual abuse) which 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 abuse⁹⁸ 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,

⁹⁷ See *infra* Component 6.1 (quoting Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.082).

⁹⁸ 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.

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: Amend Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.04.080 (Limitation of action) to eliminate the statute of limitations for commencing prosecutions under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.100 (Trafficking) and Washington's CSEC laws.

Legal Components:

- 6.1 *Training on human trafficking and domestic minor sex trafficking for law enforcement is statutorily mandated or authorized.*
- 6.2 *Single party consent to audio-taping is permitted in law enforcement investigations.*
- 6.3 *Wiretapping is an available tool to investigate domestic minor sex trafficking.*
- 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 or electronic communications to investigate buyers and traffickers is a permissible investigative technique.*
- 6.6 *Law enforcement 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 or authorized.*

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.280.095 (Statewide training on Washington’s human trafficking laws –Training entity –Report) mandates the creation of statewide human trafficking training program for criminal justice personnel, including law enforcement officers. The required training includes a specific component on state specific human trafficking laws, in addition to “the investigation of sex trafficking cases, and the adjudication of sex trafficking cases.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.280.095(3). Furthermore, under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.280.095(3), the training program operates to “encourage interdisciplinary coordination among criminal justice personnel, build cultural competency, and develop understanding of diverse victim populations, including children, youth, and adults.”

Additionally, pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.101.224 (Training for persons investigating child sex abuse), all law enforcement, prosecution, and child protection service agencies are required to receive training that is specific for investigating cases of child sex abuse. While the required training is not trafficking specific, finding that the sexual exploitation of minor is a form of child abuse under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.020(1) (Definitions), it is likely that law enforcement officers would receive training on appropriate responses for children who have been commercially sexually exploited.

The creation of the Washington Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and subsequent account under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.101.435⁹⁹ (Washington internet crimes against children account) provides an additional avenue for the development of law enforcement trainings specific to effective responses for combatting online sexual exploitation of children and other internet crimes against children.

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

Single party audiotaping 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,

⁹⁹ The text of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.101.435 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 5215 during the 2015 64th Legislature Regular Session of the Washington Legislature (effective: July 24, 2016).

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,

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:

. . . .

(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 *Wiretapping is an available tool to investigate domestic minor sex trafficking.*

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(1) (Intercepting private communication),

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.*

Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(1) (Communication with minor for immoral purposes), a defense to the use of a law enforcement decoy is prohibited when “a person . . . communicates with a minor for immoral purposes, or . . . communicates with someone the person believes to be a minor for immoral purposes” The language “believes to be a minor” permits the use of law enforcement officers posing as a minor in the investigation of this offense and does not permit a defendant to raise the use of a law enforcement decoy as a defense. Therefore, for charges brought against buyers through reverse sting operations, this defense would not be accessible, which are the most likely situations in which a defendant would try to raise such a defense.

6.5 *Using the Internet or electronic communications 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, including the purchase or sale of commercial sex acts and sex trafficking, through the sending of an electronic communication.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(2).¹⁰⁰ The use of the term “believes to be a minor” appears to indicate that law enforcement may use Internet decoys.

Enacted Senate Bill 5215 (Wash. 2015) establishes an account to fund task forces combatting internet-facilitated crimes against children.

6.6 *Law enforcement 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 six hours after notification of a missing child or endangered person is received under” certain provisions of Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.185C.260 (Officer taking child into custody—when authorized—maximum time of custody—transporting to crisis residential center—report on suspected abuse or neglect), “or an endangered missing person received pursuant to the state endangered missing person advisory plan”.¹⁰¹ 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 or endangered 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

¹⁰⁰ Pursuant to Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.68A.090(3), “For the purposes of this section, ‘electronic communication’ has the same meaning as defined in RCW 9.61.260.” Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.61.260(5) defines “electronic communication” as “the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. ‘Electronic communication’ includes, but is not limited to, electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, and electronic text messaging.”

¹⁰¹ See *infra* note 102 (defining child, children and missing endangered person).

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(1) (Missing children clearinghouse—hot line—distribution of information—amber alert plan) states,

The Washington state patrol shall establish a missing children and endangered person clearinghouse which shall include the maintenance and operation of a toll-free telephone hotline.¹⁰² 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 and endangered persons. The information shall include pictures, bulletins, training sessions, reports, and biographical materials that will assist in local law enforcement efforts to locate missing children and endangered persons. 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,” or 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, and social media pages and sites to enhance the public's ability to assist in recovering abducted children and missing endangered persons consistent with the state endangered missing person advisory plan.

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.

A duty to report is also created for actors other than law enforcement and child welfare agencies that house a missing child under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.082. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.082(1), (3), (4) states,

- (1) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any person, unlicensed youth shelter, or runaway and homeless youth program that, without legal authorization, provides shelter to a minor and that knows at the time of providing the shelter that the minor is away from a lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission, shall promptly report the location of the child to the parent, the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction in which the person lives, or the department.
- (b) (i) If a licensed overnight youth shelter, or another licensed organization with a stated mission to provide services to homeless or runaway youth and their families, shelters a child and knows at the time of providing the shelter that the child is away from a lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission, it must contact the youth's parent within seventy-two hours, but preferably within twenty-four hours, following the time that the youth is admitted to the shelter or other licensed organization's program. The notification must include the whereabouts of the youth, a description of the youth's physical and emotional condition, and the circumstances surrounding the youth's contact with the shelter or organization. If there are compelling reasons not to notify the parent, the shelter or organization must instead notify the department.
- (ii) At least once every eight hours after learning that a youth receiving services or shelter under this section is away from home without permission, the shelter or organization staff must consult the information that the Washington state patrol makes publicly available under RCW 43.43.510(2). If the youth is publicly listed as missing, the shelter or organization must immediately notify the

¹⁰² Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.60.010(2) states, “(2) For the purposes of this chapter: (a) “Child” or “children,” as used in this chapter, means an individual under eighteen years of age.”

department of its contact with the youth listed as missing. The notification must include a description of the minor's physical and emotional condition and the circumstances surrounding the youth's contact with the shelter or organization.

(c) Reports required under this section may be made by telephone or any other reasonable means.

. . . .

(3) When the department receives a report under subsection (1) of this section, it shall make a good faith attempt to notify the parent that a report has been received and offer services designed to resolve the conflict and accomplish a reunification of the family.

(4) Nothing in this section prohibits any person, unlicensed youth shelter, or runaway and homeless youth program from immediately reporting the identity and location of any minor who is away from a lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission more promptly than required under this section.¹⁰³

Pursuant to enacted Senate Bill 5884, the Office of Crime Victims advocacy serves as the “single point of contact in state government” for human trafficking. This clearinghouse is to be a central portal for information regarding statewide effo

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¹⁰³ Under Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 13.32A.082(2),

(2) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) “Shelter” means the person's home or any structure over which the person has any control.

(b) “Promptly report” means to report within eight hours after the person has knowledge that the minor is away from a lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission.

(c) “Compelling reasons” include, but are not limited to, circumstances that indicate that notifying the parent or legal guardian will subject the minor to abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44.020.