

## 2019 ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### MISSOURI

#### 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 or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses as predicate acts allowing the statute to be used to prosecute child sex trafficking crimes.*

##### *Legal Analysis<sup>1</sup>:*

- 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.*

Missouri specifically prohibits sex trafficking of minors in Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(1) states,

A person commits the offense of sexual trafficking of a child in the second degree if he or she knowingly:

- (1) Recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means, including but not limited to, through the use of force, abduction, coercion,<sup>2</sup> fraud, deception, blackmail, or causing or threatening to cause financial harm, a person under the age of eighteen to participate in a commercial sex act,<sup>3</sup> a sexual performance,<sup>4</sup> or the production of explicit sexual material as defined

<sup>1</sup> This report includes legislation enacted as of August 1, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 455.010(1)(c) (Definitions) defines “coercion” as “compelling another by force or threat of force to engage in conduct from which the latter has a right to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage.”

<sup>3</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.010(2) (Definitions) defines “commercial sex act” as “any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.”

in section 573.010<sup>5</sup> [Definitions], or benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in such activities; or

(2) Causes a person under the age of eighteen to engage in a commercial sex act, a sexual performance, or the production of explicit sexual material as defined in section 573.010.

(3) Advertises the availability of a person under the age of eighteen to participate in a commercial sex act, a sexual performance, or the production of explicit sexual material as defined in section 573.010.

A conviction under this statute is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 10 years to life and a fine not to exceed \$250,000 if the minor is under the age of eighteen. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3). If “force, abduction, or coercion” was used in the commission of the crime, the sentence is enhanced to “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole” for the first 25 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3).

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) mostly mirrors the criminal provisions of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211, except that it only applies to child victims under 12. A conviction under this statute is punishable as a felony by “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole” until 25 years have been served. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210(3).

*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.*

In addition to the state trafficking law, Missouri criminalizes commercial sexual exploitation of children in the following offenses:

1. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.050(1)(2) (Promoting prostitution in the first degree) provides that “[a] person commits the offense of promoting prostitution in the first degree if he or she knowingly . . . [p]romotes prostitution of a person less than sixteen years of age.”

A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.050(1)(2) is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 10–15 years.<sup>6</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.050(3)(3).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(23) (Definitions) defines “sexual performance” as “any performance, or part thereof, which includes sexual conduct by a child who is less than seventeen years of age.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(13) defines “performance” as “any play, motion picture film, videotape, dance or exhibition performed before an audience of one or more.”

<sup>5</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(6) defines “explicit sexual material” as “any pictorial or three-dimensional material depicting human masturbation, deviate sexual intercourse, sexual intercourse, direct physical stimulation or unclothed genitals, sadomasochistic abuse, or emphasizing the depiction of post pubertal human genitals; provided, however, that works of art or of anthropological significance shall not be deemed to be within the foregoing definition.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(8) defines “material” as

anything printed or written, or any picture, drawing, photograph, motion picture film, videotape or videotape production, or pictorial representation, or any recording or transcription, or any mechanical, chemical, or electrical reproduction, or stored computer data, or anything which is or may be used as a means of communication. Material includes undeveloped photographs, molds, printing plates, stored computer data and other latent representational objects.

<sup>6</sup> Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.011(1), “The authorized terms of imprisonment, including both prison and conditional release terms, are” as set out in that section. Therefore, when this report uses the term “imprisonment,” unless otherwise specified, it includes time in prison and conditional release.

2. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.060(1)(2) (Promoting prostitution in the second degree) states, “[a] person commits the offense of promoting prostitution in the second degree if he or she knowingly . . . [p]romotes prostitution of a person sixteen or seventeen years of age.

A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.060(1)(2) is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment for up to 7 years.<sup>8</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.060(2), 558.011(1)(4).

3. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030(1) (Patronizing prostitution—penalty) states,

[a] person commits the offense of patronizing prostitution if he or she:

- (1) Pursuant to a prior understanding, gives something of value to another person as compensation for having engaged in sexual conduct<sup>9</sup> with any person; or
- (2) Gives or agrees to give something of value to another person with the understanding that such person or another person will engage in sexual conduct with any person; or
- (3) Solicits or requests another person to engage in sexual conduct with any person in return for something of value.

When the victim is 15–17 years old, a conviction is punishable as a Class E felony by imprisonment up to 4 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.030(3), 558.011(1)(5). When the victim is 14 years old or younger, a conviction is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment up to 7 years.<sup>10</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.030(4), 558.011(1)(4).

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<sup>7</sup> The text of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.050 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 397 during the 2019 Regular Session of Missouri’s 100th General Assembly (effective August 28, 2019).

<sup>8</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.011(2) states,

In cases of class D and E felonies, the court shall have discretion to imprison for a special term not to exceed one year in the county jail or other authorized penal institution, and the place of confinement shall be fixed by the court. If the court imposes a sentence of imprisonment for a term longer than one year upon a person convicted of a class D or E felony, it shall commit the person to the custody of the department of corrections.

In addition, a person convicted of a class C, D, or E felony may be required to pay a fine of \$10,000 or “double the amount of the person’s gain from the commission of the offense.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.002(1)(1), (7).

<sup>9</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.010(4) defines “sexual conduct” as, “sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.010(5) defines “sexual contact” as,

any touching of another person with the genitals or any touching of the genitals or anus of another person or the breast of a female person, or such touching through the clothing, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire of any person or for the purpose of terrorizing the victim.

<sup>10</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.011(2) states,

In cases of class D and E felonies, the court shall have discretion to imprison for a special term not to exceed one year in the county jail or other authorized penal institution, and the place of confinement shall be fixed by the court. If the court imposes a sentence of imprisonment for a term longer than one year upon a person convicted of a class D or E felony, it shall commit the person to the custody of the department of corrections.

In addition, a person convicted of a class C, D, or E felony may be required to pay a fine of \$10,000 or “double the amount of the person’s gain from the commission of the offense.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.002(1)(1), (7).

4. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.103(1) (Crime of promoting online sexual solicitation, violation, penalty) states,

A person or entity commits the offense of promoting online sexual solicitation if such person or entity knowingly permits<sup>11</sup> a web-based classified service<sup>12</sup> owned or operated by such person or entity to be used by individuals to post advertisements promoting prostitution,<sup>13</sup> enticing a child to engage in sexual conduct, or promoting sexual trafficking of a child after receiving notice under this section.

A conviction under this statute is punishable as a felony by a fine of \$5,000 “per day that the advertisement remains posted on the web-based classified service after seventy-two hours of when notice has been provided pursuant to this section.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.103(6).

5. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.200(1) (Child used in sexual performance, penalties) makes it a crime when a person “knowing the character and content thereof, . . . employs, authorizes, or induces a child less than eighteen years of age to engage in a performance which includes sexual conduct or, being a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of such child, consents to the participation by such child in such sexual performance.” A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class C felony by imprisonment for 3–10 years.<sup>14</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.200(2), 558.011(1)(3). However, if in the course of committing the crime, serious emotional injury is inflicted on the child, a conviction is punishable as a Class B felony by imprisonment for 5–15 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.200(2), 558.011(1)(2).
6. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.023(1) (Sexual exploitation of a minor, penalties) makes it a crime when a person “knowingly or recklessly photographs, films, videotapes, produces or otherwise creates obscene material<sup>15</sup> with a minor<sup>16</sup> or child pornography.”<sup>17</sup> A conviction under this statute is punishable as “a class B felony

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<sup>11</sup> Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.103(4), “It shall be prima facie evidence that a person or entity acts knowingly if an advertisement is not removed from the web-based classified service within seventy-two hours of that person or entity being notified that an advertisement has been posted on that service which is prohibited under this section.”

<sup>12</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.103(2) defines “web-based classified service” as “a person or entity in whose name a specific URL or Internet domain name is registered which has advertisements for goods and services or personal advertisement.”

<sup>13</sup> Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.103(3),

An advertisement may be deemed to promote prostitution, entice a child to engage in sexual conduct, or promote sexual trafficking of a child, if the content of such advertisement would be interpreted by a reasonable person as offering to exchange sexual conduct for goods or services in violation of chapter 567, as seeking a child for the purpose of sexual conduct or commercial sex act, or as offering a child as a participant in sexual conduct or a commercial sex act in violation of 566.151 [Enticement of a child], 211 [Sexual trafficking of a child], or 566.210 [Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty].

<sup>14</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>15</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(11) (Definitions) defines “obscene” as,

[A]ny material or performance if, taken as a whole:

- (a) Applying contemporary community standards, its predominant appeal is to prurient interest in sex; and
- (b) The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find the material depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and
- (c) A reasonable person would find the material lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.”

See *supra* note 5 for the definition of “material.”

<sup>16</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(9) (Definitions) defines “minor” as “any person less than eighteen years of age.”

<sup>17</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(4) (Definitions) defines “child pornography” as the following:

unless the minor is a child,<sup>18</sup> in which case it is a class A felony.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.023(2). A Class B felony is punishable by imprisonment for 5–15 years, and a Class A felony is punishable by imprisonment for 10–30 years or life. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.011(1)(1)–(2).

7. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.205(1) (Promoting sexual performance by a child, penalties) makes it a crime when a person “knowing the character and content thereof . . . promotes a performance which includes sexual conduct by a child less than eighteen years of age or produces, or directs any performance which includes sexual conduct by a child less than eighteen years of age.” A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class C felony by imprisonment for 3–10 years.<sup>19</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.205(2), 558.011(1)(3).
8. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 568.060(2) (Abuse or neglect of a child, penalty) states,

A person commits the offense of abuse or neglect of a child if such person knowingly causes a child who is less than eighteen years of age:

- (1) To suffer physical or mental injury as a result of abuse or neglect; or
- (2) To be placed in a situation in which the child may suffer physical or mental injury as the result of abuse or neglect.

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 568.060(1), “[a]buse” is defined as “the infliction of physical, sexual, or mental injury against a child by any person eighteen years of age or older . . .” A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment up to 7 years,<sup>20</sup> “unless the person has previously been found guilty of a violation of this section or of a violation of the law of any other jurisdiction that prohibits the same or similar conduct or the injury inflicted on the child is a serious emotional injury or a serious physical injury,” in which case the conviction is punishable as a Class B felony by imprisonment for 5–15 years. However, the violation is punishable as a class A felony “if the child dies as a result of injuries sustained from conduct chargeable under provisions of [Mo. Rev. Stat. § 568.060]” or

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(a) Any obscene material or performance depicting sexual conduct, sexual contact as defined in section 566.010, or a sexual performance and which has as one of its participants or portrays as an observer of such conduct, contact, or performance a minor; or

(b) Any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct where:

- a. The production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
- b. Such visual depiction is a digital image, computer image, or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, in that the depiction is such that an ordinary person viewing the depiction would conclude that the depiction is of an actual minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct; or
- c. Such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to show that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct. “Identifiable minor” means a person who was a minor at the time the visual depiction was created, adapted, or modified; or whose image as a minor was used in creating, adapting, or modifying the visual depiction; and who is recognizable as an actual person by the person’s face, likeness, or other distinguishing characteristic, such as a unique birthmark or other recognizable feature. The term “identifiable minor” shall not be construed to require proof of the actual identity of the identifiable minor;

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*See supra* 9 for the definition of “sexual conduct” and “sexual contact.”

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(4)(b)(c) states that “proof of the actual identity of the identifiable minor” is not required. *S*

<sup>18</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(3) (Definitions) defines “child” as “any person under the age of fourteen.”

<sup>19</sup> *See supra* note 10.

<sup>20</sup> *See supra* note 10.

- (1) The injury is a serious emotional injury or a serious physical injury;
- (2) The child is less than fourteen years of age; and
- (3) The injury is the result of sexual abuse or sexual abuse in the first degree as defined under section 566.100 or sexual exploitation of a minor as defined under section 573.023.

A Class A felony is punishable by imprisonment for 10–30 years or life. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 568.060(5)(1)–(2), (6)(1)–(3), 558.011(1)(1)–(2), (4).

The following sexual offenses may apply to crimes involving sexual exploitation of children but do not specifically reference a commercial component:

1. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(1) (Enticement of a child, penalties) states,

A person twenty-one years of age or older commits the offense of enticement of a child if he or she persuades, solicits, coaxes, entices, or lures whether by words, actions or through communication via the internet or any electronic communication, any person who is less than fifteen years of age for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct.

A conviction under this statute is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 5–30 years without eligibility for “parole, probation, conditional release, or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for” 5 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(3).

2. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.032(1) (Statutory rape and attempt to commit, first degree, penalties) makes it a crime for a person to have “sexual intercourse<sup>21</sup> with another person who is less than fourteen years of age.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.032(2) provides that a violation or attempted violation is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 5 years to life, unless,

1. The offense is an aggravated sexual offense, or the victim is less than twelve years of age in which case the authorized term of imprisonment is life imprisonment or a term of years not less than ten years; or
2. The person is a persistent or predatory sexual offender as defined in section 566.125 . . . .

3. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.034(1) (Statutory rape, second degree, penalty) states that statutory rape occurs when a person “twenty-one years of age or older . . . has sexual intercourse with another person who is less than seventeen years of age.” A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment for up to 7 years.<sup>22</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.034(2), 558.011(1)(4).

4. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.083<sup>23</sup> (Sexual misconduct involving a child, penalty—applicability of section—affirmative defense not allowed, when) provides,

1. A person commits the offense of sexual misconduct involving a child if such person:

. . . .

- (2) Knowingly exposes his or her genitals to a child less than fifteen years of age for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any person, including the child;

<sup>21</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.010(7) defines “sexual intercourse” as “any penetration, however slight, of the female genitalia by the penis.”

<sup>22</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>23</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.083.1(1) was declared unconstitutional by the Missouri Supreme Court in *State v. Beine*, 162 S.W.3d 483 (Mo. 2005). The other subsections of 566.083 listed here remain in force.

(3) Knowingly coerces or induces a child less than fifteen years of age to expose the child's genitals for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any person, including the child.<sup>24</sup>

(4) Knowingly coerces or induces a child who is known by such person to be less than fifteen years of age to expose the breasts of a female child through the internet or other electronic means for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any person, including the child.

A conviction under this section is punishable as a Class E felony by imprisonment up to 4 years, "unless the person has previously been found guilty of an offense under this chapter or the person has previously been found guilty of an offense in another jurisdiction which would constitute an offense under this chapter, in which case it is a class D felony," which is punishable by imprisonment up to 7 years.<sup>25</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.083(4), 558.011(1)(4), (1)(5).

5. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.153(1) (Age misrepresentation, crime of—penalty) states,

A person commits the offense of age misrepresentation with intent to solicit a minor when he or she knowingly misrepresents his or her age with the intent to use the internet or any electronic communication to engage in criminal sexual conduct<sup>26</sup> involving a minor.

A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class E felony by imprisonment up to 4 years.<sup>27</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.153(2), 558.011(1)(5).

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

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.020 (Prostitution) does not refer to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) or § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) when the offense involves a minor under 18 engaged in prostitution. However, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(2) (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to apply, when) acknowledges the intersection of prostitution with trafficking victims through an affirmative defense. It states,

It is an affirmative defense for the offense of prostitution under section 567.020 [Prostitution] that the defendant engaged in the conduct charged to constitute an offense because he or she was coerced to do so by the use of, or threatened use of, unlawful physical force upon himself or herself or a third person, which force or threatened force a person of reasonable firmness in his or her situation would have been unable to resist.

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

Missouri has not enacted a racketeering statute, but state criminal gang statutes could be used to prosecute criminal enterprises that commit sex trafficking and CSEC offenses. Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. 578.421(1) (Definitions), a "criminal street gang" is defined as,

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<sup>24</sup> Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.083(2), (3), "2. The provisions of this section shall apply regardless of whether the person violates the section in person or via the internet or other electronic means. 3. It is not a defense to prosecution for a violation of this section that the other person was a peace officer masquerading as a minor."

<sup>25</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>26</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.010(5) defines "sexual conduct" as "sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse or sexual contact."

<sup>27</sup> See *supra* note 10.

any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more of the criminal acts enumerated in subdivision (2) of this section [“Pattern of criminal street gang activity”], which has a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity . . . .

Mo. Rev. Stat. 578.421(2)<sup>28</sup> defines “pattern of criminal street gang activity” to include the following offenses:

- . . . .
- (g) Promoting online sexual solicitation, as provided in section 566.103;
  - (h) Sexual trafficking of a child in the first degree, as provided in 566.210;
  - (i) Sexual trafficking of a child in the second degree, as provided in section 566.211;
  - (j) Patronizing prostitution, as provided in subsection 4 of section 567.030;
  - (k) Promoting prostitution in the first degree, as provided in section 567.050;
  - (l) Promoting prostitution in the second degree, as provided in section 567.060;
  - (m) Abuse or neglect of a child, as provided in subsection 6 of section 568.060;
  - (n) Sexual exploitation of a minor, as provided in section 573.023;
  - (o) Child used in sexual performance, as provided in section 573.200; or
  - (p) Promoting sexual performance by a child, as provided in section 573.205.

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 578.423<sup>29</sup> (Participating knowingly in criminal street gang activities, penalty),

Any person who actively participates in any criminal street gang with knowledge that its members engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal street gang activity, and who willfully promotes, furthers, or assists in any felonious criminal conduct by gang members shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed one year, or by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for one, two, or three years.

In addition, enhanced penalties may be applied to convictions for crimes committed “for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with, any criminal street gang . . . .” Mo. Rev. Stat. 578.425. For misdemeanors, the offender “shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year, or by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for one, two, or three years.” Mo. Rev. Stat. 578.425(1). For felony convictions, the judge has discretion to add an additional “one, two, or three years” to the sentence of “two, three, or four years” if the violation was committed near a school. Mo. Rev. Stat. 578.425(2).

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<sup>28</sup> The text of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 578.421 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 397 during the 2019 Regular Session of Missouri’s 100th General Assembly (effective August 28, 2019).

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**Legal Components:**

- 2.1 *The state sex trafficking law can be applied to 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 between soliciting sex acts with an adult and soliciting 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 sexual abuse material (CSAM) carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.*
- 2.10 *Convicted buyers of commercial sex acts with minors are required to register as sex offenders.*

**Legal Analysis:**

- 2.1 *The state sex trafficking law can be applied to buyers of commercial sex acts with a minor.*<sup>30</sup>

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(1)(2) (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) and § 566.210(1)(2) (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty), a person commits the crime of sex trafficking a minor when he knowingly “[c]auses a person under the age of eighteen [or 12 for purposes of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210] to engage in a commercial sex act, a sexual performance, or the production of explicit sexual material as defined in section 573.010.” Further, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(1)(1) and § 566.210(1)(1) apply to buyers of sex with minors following federal precedent through use of the term “obtains.”<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> See *supra* Component 1.1 for a full description of the provisions of Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.211 and 566.210.

<sup>31</sup> 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.

2.1.1 Recommendation: Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) to clarify that buyer conduct is included as a violation of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty).

2.2 *Buyers of commercial sex acts with a minor can be prosecuted under commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws.*<sup>32</sup>

Buyers of sex with minors may be prosecuted under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030 (Patronizing prostitution), a CSEC law by virtue of its enhanced penalties for buying sex with a minor under 18.

A conviction under this statute when the minor is 15–17 is punishable as a Class E felony by imprisonment up to 4 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.030(3), 558.011(1)(5).<sup>33</sup> A conviction when the minor is under 15 is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment up to 7 years.<sup>34</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.030(4), 558.011(1)(4).

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

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030(1)(3) (Patronizing prostitution) prohibits the solicitation of prostitution. This offense distinguishes between soliciting sex with an adult and soliciting sex with a minor by providing a penalty enhancement for soliciting a minor and a further enhancement when the minor is under 15. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030(3), (4). If the individual who is being solicited is 18 or older, a conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030 is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor. When the individual who is being solicited is 15–17, a conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030(3) is punishable as a Class E felony. If the individual who is being solicited is 14 or younger, a conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030(4) is punishable as a Class D felony.

2.4 *Penalties for buyers of commercial sex acts with minors are as high as federal penalties.*<sup>35</sup>

A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(1)(2) (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 10 years to life and a fine up to \$250,000. If the trafficking was “effected by force, abduction, or coercion,” the conviction is punishable by “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole until the defendant has served” 25 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3). Also, a conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) is punishable as a felony by “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole until the offender has served” 25 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210(3).

A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030(1) (Patronizing prostitution), when the minor is 15–17, is punishable as a Class E felony by imprisonment up to 4 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.030(3), 558.011(1)(5).<sup>36</sup> When the minor patronized is under 15, a conviction is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment up to 7 years.<sup>37</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.030(4), 558.011(1)(4).

Convictions under the various sexual offenses for which a buyer of commercial sex acts with a minor could be prosecuted range from being punishable by imprisonment for 4–7 years. A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.083 (Sexual misconduct involving a child) is generally punishable as a Class E felony by imprisonment up to 4 years.<sup>38</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.083(4), 558.011(1)(5). Convictions under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.034

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<sup>32</sup> See *supra* Component 1.2 for a full description of the relevant provisions in this component.

<sup>33</sup> See *supra* note 6.

<sup>34</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>35</sup> See *supra* Components 1.1 and 1.2 for full descriptions of the relevant provisions in this component.

<sup>36</sup> See *supra* note 6.

<sup>37</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>38</sup> See *supra* note 10.

(Statutory rape, second degree) are punishable as Class D felonies by imprisonment for up to 7 years.<sup>39</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.034(2), 558.011(1)(4).

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 offense<sup>40</sup> against a minor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(1). To the extent buyers can be prosecuted under other federal CSEC laws,<sup>41</sup> 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.<sup>42</sup>

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.*

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(1) (Enticement of a child) is potentially applicable to buyers who use the Internet or electronic communications for the purpose of purchasing sex acts with minors. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(1) states,

A person twenty-one years of age or older commits the offense of enticement of a child if he or she persuades, solicits, coaxes, entices, or lures whether by words, actions or through communication via the internet or any electronic communication, any person who is less than fifteen years of age for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct.<sup>43</sup>

A conviction under this statute is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 5–30 years without eligibility “for parole, probation, conditional release, or suspended imposition or execution of sentence” for 5 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(3).

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.153 (Age misrepresentation) could also have limited application to buyers who directly contact a minor online. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.153(1) states,

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<sup>39</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>40</sup> 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).

<sup>41</sup> 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); (Coercion and enticement); 2252(a)(2), (a)(4) (Certain activities relating to material involving the sexual exploitation of minors).

<sup>42</sup> 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).

<sup>43</sup> See *supra* note 26 for the definition of “sexual conduct.”

A person commits the offense of age misrepresentation with intent to solicit a minor when he or she knowingly misrepresents his or her age with the intent or any electronic communication to use the internet or any electronic communication to engage in criminal sexual conduct<sup>44</sup> involving a minor.

A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class E felony by imprisonment up to 4 years.<sup>45</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.153(2), 558.011(1)(5).<sup>46</sup>

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

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) and § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) provide that “[i]t shall not be a defense that the defendant believed that the person was” over the specified age. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.211(2), 566.210(2). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030(2) (Patronizing prostitution) also states that “[i]t shall not be a defense that the person believed that the individual he or she patronized for prostitution was eighteen years of age or older.”

In general, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.020(1) (Mistake as to age—consent not a defense, when) states, “Whenever in this chapter [Sexual offenses] the criminality of conduct depends upon a child being less than fourteen years of age, it is no defense that the defendant believed the child to be older.” However, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.020(2) states, “Whenever in this chapter the criminality of conduct depends upon a child being less than seventeen years of age, it is an affirmative defense that the defendant reasonably believed that the child was seventeen years of age or older.”

2.7 *Base penalties for buying sex acts with a minor under 18 are sufficiently high and not reduced for older minors.*<sup>47</sup>

Missouri’s trafficking offense does not stagger penalties based on a minor’s age, but a separate trafficking offense provides an enhanced penalty when the victim is a younger minor; penalties are sufficiently high under either offense. Regardless of a minor’s age, a conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) is punishable by imprisonment for 10 years to life. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) provides an enhanced penalty for sex trafficking of a child under 12 years of age of “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole” for 25 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210(3).

In contrast, Missouri’s buyer-applicable CSEC law, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030 (Patronizing prostitution), staggers penalties based on a minor’s age; further, buyers face minimal penalty under this provision. Patronizing prostitution is a Class E felony punishable by imprisonment up to 4 years if the minor is 15–17 or a Class D felony punishable by imprisonment up to 7 years if the minor is under 15. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.030(3), (4), 558.011(1)(4), (1)(5).

2.7.1 **Recommendation:** Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030 (Patronizing prostitution) to provide substantial base penalties that apply to all minors under 18.

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<sup>44</sup> See *supra* note 26 for the definition of “sexual conduct.”

<sup>45</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>46</sup> See *supra* note 6.

<sup>47</sup> See *supra* Components 1.1 and 1.2 for full descriptions of the relevant provisions in this component.

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 of sex with minors convicted in Missouri face financial penalties including fines, restitution, forfeiture, and civil actions by victims. A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3).

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.002(1)(1)<sup>48</sup> (Fines for felonies), a buyer convicted of a Class C, D, or E felony may be required to pay a fine of \$10,000.

A buyer convicted of a Class A misdemeanor may be required to pay \$2,000. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.002(1)(2). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.004(1) (Imposition of fines) further states,

In determining the amount and the method of payment of a fine, the court shall, insofar as practicable, proportion the fine to the burden that payment will impose in view of the financial resources of an individual. The court shall not sentence an offender to pay a fine in any amount which will prevent him or her from making restitution or reparation to the victim of the offense.

Additionally, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.004(3) states,

The court shall not sentence an individual to pay a fine in addition to any other sentence authorized by section 557.011 [Authorized dispositions], unless

- (1) He or she has derived a pecuniary gain from the offense; or
- (2) The court is of the opinion that a fine is uniquely adapted to deterrence of the type of offense involved or to the correction of the defendant.

Persons convicted under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) and § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) must pay restitution under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.218 (Restitution required for certain offenders), which provides that

a person found guilty of violating any provisions of section . . . 566.210, [or] 566.211 . . . shall be ordered by the sentencing court to pay restitution to the victim of the offense regardless of whether the defendant is sentenced to a term of imprisonment or probation. The minimum restitution ordered by the court shall be in the amount determined by the court necessary to compensate the victim for the value of the victim's labor and/or for the mental and physical rehabilitation of the victim and any child of the victim.

Furthermore, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(7) (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to apply, when) permits the attorney general to

bring a civil action, in the circuit court in which the victim of trafficking was found, to recover from any person or entity that benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from violations of section . . . 566.212,<sup>49</sup> or 566.213,<sup>50</sup> a civil penalty of not more than fifty thousand dollars for each violation . . . and injunctive and other equitable relief as the court may, in its discretion, order. The first priority of any money or property collected under such an action shall be to pay restitution to the victims of trafficking on whose behalf the civil action was brought.

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<sup>48</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>49</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.212 transferred to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (effective January 1, 2017). See Senate Bill 491, enacted during the 2014 2nd Regular Session of the 97th General Assembly of the State of Missouri.

<sup>50</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.213 transferred to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210 (effective January 1, 2017). See Senate Bill 491, enacted during the 2014 2nd Regular Session of the 97th General Assembly of the State of Missouri.

Buyers may also be subject to discretionary civil asset forfeiture under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.607(1) (Property subject to forfeiture), which states that “[a]ll property of every kind, including cash or other negotiable instruments, used or intended for use in the course of, derived from, or realized through criminal activity is subject to civil forfeiture.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.605(3) (Definitions) defines “criminal activity” as

the commission, attempted commission, conspiracy to commit, or the solicitation, coercion or intimidation of another person to commit any crime which is chargeable by indictment or information under the following Missouri laws:

....

(c) Chapter 566, relating to sexual offenses;

(d) Chapter 568, relating to offenses against the family;

....

(g) Chapter 567, relating to prostitution;

(h) Chapter 573, relating to pornography and related offenses;

....

Seizure of forfeitable property is governed by Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.607(6), which states “Seizure may be effected by a law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the criminal laws of this state prior to the filing of the petition and without a writ of seizure if the seizure is incident to a lawful arrest, search, or inspection and the officer has probable cause to believe the property is subject to forfeiture and will be lost or destroyed if not seized.” Disposition of forfeited property is governed by Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 513.620 – 513.623. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.623 (Disposition of proceeds after sale) states, “The clear proceeds of any sale or disposition after satisfaction of the interest of any innocent party and after payment of the reasonable costs . . . be distributed pursuant to section 7 of article IX of the Constitution of the state of Missouri.”

In addition, buyers may be required to pay civil damages for crimes involving child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.047(1) (Civil action for damages authorized, sexual and pornographic offenses involving a minor—statute of limitations),

Any person who, while a child<sup>51</sup> or minor<sup>52</sup> as defined by section 573.010, was a victim of a violation of sections 573.023 [Sexual exploitation of a minor], . . . or 573.037 [Possession of child pornography], and who suffers physical or psychological injury or illness as a result of such violation, shall be entitled to bring a civil action to recover the actual damages sustained as a result of the violation, and shall also be entitled to recover the costs of the civil action and reasonable fees for attorneys and expert witnesses. A psychological injury or illness as described under this section need not be accompanied by physical injury or illness.

## 2.9 *Buying and possessing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.*

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.037(1) (Possession of child pornography) states,

A person commits the offense of possession of child pornography<sup>53</sup> if such person knowingly or recklessly possesses any child pornography of a minor less than eighteen years of age or obscene material portraying what appears to be a minor less than eighteen years of age.

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<sup>51</sup> “Child” is defined in Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(3) as “any person under the age of fourteen.”

<sup>52</sup> “Minor” is defined in Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(9) as “any person less than eighteen years of age.”

<sup>53</sup> See *supra* note 17 for the definition of “child pornography.”

A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.037 is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment up to 7 years for possessing one still image. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.037(2), 558.011(1)(4).<sup>54</sup>

However, a violation of § 573.037(2) is a Class B felony if the person

- (1) Possesses:
  - (a) More than twenty still images of child pornography; or
  - (b) More than twenty obscene still images; or
  - (c) Child pornography comprised of one motion picture, film, videotape, videotape production, or other moving image; or
  - (d) Obscene material comprised of one motion picture, film, videotape, production, or other moving image; or
- (2) Has previously been found guilty of an offense under this section.

A Class B felony is punishable by imprisonment for 5–15 years and “[a] person who has committed the offense of possession of child pornography is subject to separate punishments for each item of child pornography or obscene material possessed by the person.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 558.011(1)(2), 573.037(3).

In comparison, a federal conviction for possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM)<sup>55</sup> is generally punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.<sup>56</sup> Subsequent convictions, however, are punishable by imprisonment up to 40 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.<sup>57</sup>

- 2.9.1 Recommendation: Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.037(1) (Possession of child pornography) to increase the penalty to reflect the seriousness of the offense.

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

Buyers convicted of certain offenses are required to register as sex offenders.<sup>58</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.400(1)(1) (Registration of certain offenders with chief law officers of county of residence) provides that it applies to “any

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<sup>54</sup> See *supra* note 6.

<sup>55</sup> 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).

<sup>56</sup> 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).

<sup>57</sup> 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(b) (stating if a person has a prior conviction under subsection (a)(2), or a list of other statutes, a conviction is punishable by a fine and imprisonment for 15–40 years, but if a person has a prior conviction under subsection (a)(4), or a list of other statutes, a conviction is punishable by a fine and imprisonment for 10–20 years), 2252A(b)(1) (stating if a person has a prior conviction under subsection (a)(2), (a)(3), or a list of other statutes, a conviction is punishable by a fine and imprisonment for 15–40 years), 1466A(a), (b) (stating that the penalty scheme for section 2252A(b) applies); see also 18 U.S.C §§ 3559(a)(1) (classifying all of the above listed offenses as felonies), 3571(b)(3) (providing a fine up to \$250,000 for any felony conviction).

<sup>58</sup> Additionally, pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.110(3), Missouri operates a central registry requiring

the registry of persons where . . . the court has substantiated through court adjudication that the individual has committed child abuse or neglect or the person has pled guilty or has been found guilty of a crime pursuant to section . . . 567.050 [Promoting prostitution in the first degree] if the victim is a child less than

person who, since July 1, 1979, has been or is hereafter adjudicated<sup>59</sup> for an offense referenced in section 589.414, unless such person is exempt . . . .”

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.414(5)–(7) (Registrant’s duties on change of address—time limitations for certain notifications—change in online identifiers, duty to report),

(5) . . . Tier I sexual offenders include:

(1) Any offender who has been adjudicated for the offense of:

. . . .

(k) Possession of child pornography under section 573.037;

. . . .

. . . .

(6) . . . Tier II sex offenders include:

(1) Any offender who has been adjudicated for the offense of:

. . . .

(d) Enticement of a child under section 566.151;

. . . .

(i) Patronizing prostitution under section 567.030;

. . . .

. . . .

(7) . . . Tier III sex offenders include:

. . . .

(2) Any offender who has been adjudicated for the crime of:

. . . .

(w) Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation under section 566.209 if the victim is under eighteen years of age;

(x) Sexual trafficking of a child in the first degree under section 566.210;

(y) Sexual trafficking of a child in the second degree under section 566.211;

. . . .

. . . .

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eighteen years of age, or any crime pursuant to chapter 566 [including section 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) and section 566.103 (Crime of promoting online sexual solicitation, violation, penalty)] if the child is less than eighteen years of age and the perpetrator is twenty-one years of age or older, a crime under section . . . 568.060 [Abuse or neglect of a child, penalty], . . . 573.023 [Sexual exploitation of a minor, penalties], . . . 573.200 [Child used in sexual performance, penalties] or 573.205 [Promoting sexual performance by a child, penalties], or an attempt to commit any such crimes.

<sup>59</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.404 defines “adjudicated” as “adjudication of delinquency, a finding of guilt, plea of guilt, finding of not guilty due to mental disease or defect, or plea of non contendere to committing, attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit.”

***Legal Components:***

- 3.1 *Penalties for trafficking a child for sexual exploitation are as high as federal penalties.*
- 3.2 *Creating and distributing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) 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 parental custody and termination of parental rights include sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses as grounds for sole custody or termination in order to prevent traffickers from exploiting their parental rights as a form of control.*

***Legal Analysis:***

- 3.1 *Penalties for trafficking a child for sexual exploitation are as high as federal penalties.*<sup>60</sup>

A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3) (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 10 years to life and a fine up to \$250,000. If the trafficking was “effected by force, abduction, or coercion,” the conviction is punishable by “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole until” 25 years have been served. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3). A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) is also punishable as a felony by “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole until” 25 years have been served. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210(3).

Traffickers may be convicted under several CSEC statutes with varying penalties. A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.050(1)(2) (Promoting prostitution in the first degree) is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 10–15 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.050(3)(3).<sup>61</sup> A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.060(1)(2) (Promoting prostitution in the second degree) is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment for up to 7 years.<sup>62</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.060(2), 558.011(1)(4). A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.023 (Sexual exploitation of a minor), where the minor is 14–17, is punishable as a Class B felony by imprisonment for 5–15 years and, where the minor is under 14, the penalty is enhanced to a Class A felony punishable by imprisonment for 10–30 years or life. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.023(2), 558.011(1)(2), (1)(1). A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.205 (Promoting sexual performance by a child, penalties) is punishable as a Class C felony by imprisonment for 3–

<sup>60</sup> See *supra* Components 1.1 and 1.2 for more detailed descriptions of the relevant Missouri statutes in this component.

<sup>61</sup> See *supra* note 7.

<sup>62</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.011(2) states,

In cases of class D and E felonies, the court shall have discretion to imprison for a special term not to exceed one year in the county jail or other authorized penal institution, and the place of confinement shall be fixed by the court. If the court imposes a sentence of imprisonment for a term longer than one year upon a person convicted of a class D or E felony, it shall commit the person to the custody of the department of corrections.

In addition, a person convicted of a class C, D, or E felony may be required to pay a fine of \$10,000 or “double the amount of the person’s gain from the commission of the offense.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.002(1)(1), (7).

10 years.<sup>63</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.205(2), 558.011(1)(3). A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.200 (Child used in sexual performance) is punishable as a Class C felony by imprisonment for 3–10 years,<sup>64</sup> “unless in the course thereof the person inflicts serious emotional injury on the child, in which case the offense is a class B felony,” which is punishable by imprisonment for 5–15 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.200(2), 558.011(1)(3), (1)(2). A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 568.060(2) (Abuse or neglect of a child, penalty) is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment up to 7 years,<sup>65</sup> “unless the person has previously been found guilty of a violation of this section or of a violation of the law of any other jurisdiction that prohibits the same or similar conduct or the injury inflicted on the child is a serious emotional injury or a serious physical injury,” in which case the conviction is punishable as a Class B felony by imprisonment for 5–15 years. However, the violation is punishable as a class A felony if “if the child dies as a result of injuries sustained from conduct chargeable under provisions of [Mo. Rev. Stat. § 568.060]” or

- (1) The injury is a serious emotional injury or a serious physical injury;
- (2) The child is less than fourteen years of age; and
- (3) The injury is the result of sexual abuse or sexual abuse in the first degree as defined under section 566.100 or sexual exploitation of a minor as defined under section 573.023.

A Class A felony is punishable by imprisonment for 10–30 years or life. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 568.060(5)(1)–(2), (6)(1)–(3), 558.011(1)(1)–(2), (1)(4).

In comparison, if the victim is under the age of 14, a conviction under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (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 offense<sup>66</sup> against a minor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(1).

### 3.2 *Creating and distributing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.*

Several statutes criminalize the creation and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) by a trafficker. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.023(1) (Sexual exploitation of a minor) states that it is a crime when a person “knowingly or recklessly photographs, films, videotapes, produces or otherwise creates obscene material<sup>67</sup> with a minor or child pornography.”<sup>68</sup> A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class B felony by imprisonment for 5–15 years if the child involved is 14–17, and a conviction is punishable as a Class A felony by imprisonment for 10–30 years or life if the child is under 14. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.023(2), 558.011(1)(2)<sup>69</sup>, (1)(1). In addition, pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 568.060(6) (Abuse or neglect of a child, penalty), the offense of abuse of a child “is a class A felony, without eligibility for probation, parole, or conditional release until the defendant has served not less than fifteen years of such sentence, if:

- (1) The injury is a serious emotional injury or a serious physical injury;
- (2) The child is less than fourteen years of age; and
- (3) The injury is the result of . . . sexual exploitation of a minor as defined under section 573.023.

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<sup>63</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>64</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>65</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>66</sup> See *supra* note 40.

<sup>67</sup> See *supra* note 15 for the definition of “obscene material.”

<sup>68</sup> See *supra* note 17 for the definition of “child pornography.”

<sup>69</sup> See *supra* note 6.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.205(1) (Promoting sexual performance by a child, penalties) makes it a crime for a person who “knowing the character and content thereof, . . . promotes a performance which includes sexual conduct by a child less than eighteen years of age or produces, or directs any performance which includes sexual conduct<sup>70</sup> by a child less than eighteen years of age.” A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class C felony by imprisonment for 3–10 years.<sup>71</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.205(2), 558.011(1)(3).

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.025 (Promoting child pornography in the first degree) makes it a class B felony when a person “knowing of its content and character, . . . possesses with the intent to promote or promotes child pornography<sup>72</sup> of a child less than fourteen years of age or obscene material<sup>73</sup> portraying what appears to be a child less than fourteen years of age,” and a Class A felony if “the person knowingly promotes such material to a minor.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.025(1)–(2). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.025(2) states in part, “No person who is found guilty of promoting child pornography in the first degree shall be eligible for probation, parole, or conditional release for a period of three calendar years.”<sup>74</sup>

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.035 (Promoting child pornography in the second degree) makes it a Class D felony when a person “knowing of its content and character, . . . possesses with the intent to promote or promotes child pornography<sup>75</sup> of a minor under the age of eighteen or obscene material<sup>76</sup> portraying what appears to be a minor under the age of eighteen,” and a Class B felony if “the person knowingly promotes such material to a minor.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.035(1)–(2). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.035(2) states in part, “No person who is found guilty of promoting child pornography in the second degree shall be eligible for probation.”

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 offense<sup>77</sup> against a minor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(1). Additionally, a federal conviction for distribution of CSAM<sup>78</sup> is generally punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.<sup>79</sup> Subsequent convictions, however, are punishable by imprisonment up to 40 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> See *supra* note 26 for the definition of “sexual conduct.”

<sup>71</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>72</sup> See *supra* note 17 for the definition of “child pornography.”

<sup>73</sup> See *supra* note 15 for the definition of “obscene material.”

<sup>74</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.025(3) provides, “Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a provider of electronic communication services or remote computing services to monitor any user, subscriber or customer of the provider, or the content of any communication of any user, subscriber or customer of the provider.”

<sup>75</sup> See *supra* note 17 for the definition of “child pornography.”

<sup>76</sup> See *supra* note 15 for the definition of “obscene material.”

<sup>77</sup> See *supra* note 40.

<sup>78</sup> 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).

<sup>79</sup> 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).

<sup>80</sup> 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

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.*

While not commercial in nature, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(1) (Enticement of a child, penalties) states,

A person twenty-one years of age or older commits the offense of enticement of a child if he or she persuades, solicits, coaxes, entices, or lures whether by words, actions or through communication via the internet or any electronic communication, any person who is less than fifteen years of age for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct.

A conviction under this statute is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 5–30 years without eligibility for “parole, probation, conditional release, or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for” 5 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(3).

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

Convicted traffickers face financial penalties including fines, restitution, forfeiture and civil damages to victims. A trafficker faces a fine up to \$250,000 for a conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3). In addition, a trafficker who is convicted of a Class C, D, or E felony may be required to pay a fine of \$10,000 or up to “double the amount of the person’s gain<sup>81</sup> from the commission of the offense.” Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 558.002(1)(1), (7).<sup>82</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.004(1) (Imposition of fines) further provides,

In determining the amount and the method of payment of a fine, the court shall, insofar as practicable, proportion the fine to the burden that payment will impose in view of the financial resources of an individual. The court shall not sentence an offender to pay a fine in any amount which will prevent him or her from making restitution or reparation to the victim of the offense.

Additionally, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.004(3) states,

The court shall not sentence an individual to pay a fine in addition to any other sentence authorized by section 557.011 [Authorized dispositions], unless

- (1) He or she has derived a pecuniary gain from the offense; or
- (2) The court is of the opinion that a fine is uniquely adapted to deterrence of the type of offense involved or to the correction of the defendant.

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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).

<sup>81</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 558.002(3) (Fines for felonies) states,

As used in this section the term ‘gain’ means the amount of money or the value of property derived from the commission of the offense. The amount of money or value of property returned to the victim of the offense or seized by or surrendered to lawful authority prior to the time sentence is imposed shall be deducted from the fine. When the court imposes a fine based on gain the court shall make a finding as to the amount of the offender’s gain from the crime. If the record does not contain sufficient evidence to support such a finding, the court may conduct a hearing upon the issue.

*See supra* note 10.

<sup>82</sup> *See supra* note 10.

A trafficker convicted of sex trafficking of a child must pay restitution under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.218 (Restitution required for certain offenders), which states,

[A] person found guilty of violating any provisions of section . . . 566.210 [Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty], [or] 566.211 [Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty] . . . shall be ordered by the sentencing court to pay restitution to the victim of the offense regardless of whether the defendant is sentenced to a term of imprisonment or probation. The minimum restitution ordered by the court shall be in the amount determined by the court necessary to compensate the victim for the value of the victim’s labor and/or for the mental and physical rehabilitation of the victim and any child of the victim.

Furthermore, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(7) (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to apply, when) permits the attorney general to

bring a civil action, in the circuit court in which the victim of trafficking was found, to recover from any person or entity that benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from violations of section . . . 566.212<sup>83</sup> or 566.213,<sup>84</sup> a civil penalty of not more than fifty thousand dollars for each violation . . . and injunctive and other equitable relief as the court may, in its discretion, order. The first priority of any money or property collected under such an action shall be to pay restitution to the victims of trafficking on whose behalf the civil action was brought.

Traffickers are also subject to discretionary civil asset forfeiture under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.607(1) (Property subject to forfeiture), which makes “[a]ll property of every kind, including cash or other negotiable instruments, used or intended for use in the course of, derived from, or realized through criminal activity . . . subject to civil forfeiture.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.605(3) (Definitions) defines “criminal activity” as

the commission, attempted commission, conspiracy to commit, or the solicitation, coercion or intimidation of another person to commit any crime which is chargeable by indictment or information under the following Missouri laws:

. . . .

(c) Chapter 566, relating to sexual offenses [includes Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty)];

(d) Chapter 568, relating to offenses against the family;

. . . .

(g) Chapter 567, relating to prostitution;

(h) Chapter 573, relating to pornography and related offenses;

. . . .

Seizure of forfeitable property is governed by Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.607(6), which states, “Seizure may be effected by a law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the criminal laws of this state prior to the filing of the petition and without a writ of seizure if the seizure is incident to a lawful arrest, search, or inspection and the officer has probable cause to believe the property is subject to forfeiture and will be lost or destroyed if not seized.” Disposition of forfeited property is governed by Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 513.620 – 513.623. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.623 (Disposition of proceeds after sale) states, “The clear proceeds of any sale or disposition after satisfaction of the interest of any innocent party and after payment of the reasonable costs . . . be distributed pursuant to section 7 of article IX of the Constitution of the state of Missouri.”

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<sup>83</sup> See *supra* note 49.

<sup>84</sup> See *supra* note 50.

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

Traffickers convicted of a number of sexual offenses are required to register as sex offenders.<sup>85</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.400(1)(1) (Registration of certain offenders with chief law officers of county of residence) provides that it applies to “any person who, since July 1, 1979, has been or is hereafter adjudicated<sup>86</sup> for an offense referenced in section 589.414, unless such person is exempt . . . .”

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.414(6)–(7) (Registrant’s duties on change of address—time limitations for certain notifications—change in online identifiers, duty to report),

(6) . . . Tier II sex offenders include:

(1) Any offender who has been adjudicated for the offense of:

. . . .

(d) Enticement of a child under section 566.151;

(e) Abuse of a child under section 568.060 if the offense is of a sexual nature and the victim is thirteen to seventeen years of age;

(f) Sexual exploitation of a minor under section 573.023;

(g) Promoting child pornography in the first degree under section 573.025;

(h) Promoting child pornography in the second degree under section 573.035;

. . . .

(7) . . . Tier III sex offenders include:

. . . .

(2) Any offender who has been adjudicated for the crime of:

. . . .

(s) Promoting prostitution in the first degree under section 567.060 if the victim is under eighteen years of age;

(t) Promoting prostitution in the second degree under section 567.060 if the victim is under eighteen years of age;

(u) Promoting prostitution in the third degree under section 567.070 if the victim is under 18 years of age;

(v) Promoting travel for prostitution under section 567.085 if the victim is under eighteen years of age;

(w) Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation under section 566.209 if the victim is under eighteen years of age;

(x) Sexual trafficking of a child in the first degree under section 566.210;

(y) Sexual trafficking of a child in the second degree under section 566.211;

. . . .

(ee) Abuse of a child under section 568.060 if the offense is of a sexual nature and the victim is under thirteen years of age;

. . . .

(ii) Use of a child in a sexual performance by a child under section 573.200; or

(jj) Promoting a sexual performance by a child under section 573.205;

. . . .

<sup>85</sup> See *supra* note 58 for discussion of Missouri’s central registry, a separate database which mandates offender registration for violations of Missouri’s trafficking and CSEC laws.

<sup>86</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.404 defines “adjudicated” as “adjudication of delinquency, a finding of guilt, plea of guilt, finding of not guilty due to mental disease or defect, or plea of non contendere to committing, attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit.”

3.6 *Laws relating to parental custody and termination of parental rights include sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses as grounds for sole custody or termination in order to prevent traffickers from exploiting their parental rights as a form of control.*

A violation of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) or § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty), as well as any other violation of Chapter 566 (Sexual offenses) or Chapter 573 (Pornography and related offenses), constitutes grounds for terminating a trafficker’s parental rights under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.447 (Petition to terminate parental rights filed, when—juvenile court may terminate parental rights, when—investigation to be made—grounds for termination). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.447(2)(4) provides,

Except as provided for in subsection 4 of this section, a petition to terminate the parental rights of the child’s parent or parents shall be filed . . . when:

. . . .

(4) The parent has been found guilty of or pled guilty to a felony violation of chapters 566 or 573 when the child or any child in the family was a victim . . . . As used in this subdivision, a “child” means any person who was under eighteen years of age at the time of the crime and who resided with such parent or was related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to such parent.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.447(7)(6) clarifies that the court shall evaluate as a factor in considering whether to terminate the parent-child relationship “[t]he conviction of the parent of a felony offense that the court finds is of such a nature that the child will be deprived of a stable home for a period of years; provided, however, that incarceration in and of itself shall not be grounds for termination of parental rights.”

***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 sexual abuse material (CSAM) carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.*

***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.*

Facilitators may be prosecuted under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) or § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty), which makes it a crime when a person “knowingly . . . benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in [trafficking] activities . . . or advertises the availability of a person . . . to participate in a commercial sex act, sexual performance, or the production of explicit sexual material as defined in section 573.010 [Definitions].” Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.211(1), (3), 566.210(1), (3). A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for 10 years to life and a fine up to \$250,000. If “force, abduction, or coercion” was used, the penalty is enhanced to “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole” for 25 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3). A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210 is punishable as a felony by “life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole” for 25 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210(3).

Facilitators who permit sex traffickers to use their online service to recruit minors or to promote child sex trafficking and/or prostitution face substantial financial penalties under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.103 (Crime of promoting online sexual solicitation, violation, penalty)<sup>87</sup> and § 567.050(1)(3)<sup>88</sup> (Promoting prostitution in the first degree).<sup>89</sup> A conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.103 is punishable as a felony by a fine of \$5,000 “per day that the advertisement remains posted on the web-based classified service after seventy-two hours of when notice has been provided,” while a conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.050(1)(3) is punishable as class B felony by imprisonment for 5–15 years. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.103(6), 567.050(3)(1), 558.011(1)(2). If, however, “the person acts in reckless disregard of the fact that [the prohibited] conduct contributed to the offense of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation under section 566.209 [Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation],” a conviction under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.050(1)(3) is punishable as a class A felony by imprisonment for 10–30 years or life. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.050(1)(3), 558.011(1)(1).

<sup>87</sup> See *supra* Component 1.2 for a detailed discussion of this statute.

<sup>88</sup> See *supra* note 7.

<sup>89</sup> Further, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.050(1)(3) (Promoting prostitution in the first degree) prohibits a person from “own[ing], manag[ing], or operat[ing] an interactive computer service, or conspir[ing] or attempt[ing] to do so, with the intent to promote or facilitate the prostitution of another.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.050(1)(3) defines “interactive computer service” as “any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.”

Facilitators may be prosecuted under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.205 (Promoting sexual performance by a child, penalties).<sup>90</sup> A conviction under this statute is punishable as a class C felony by imprisonment for 3–10 years.<sup>91</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.205(2), 558.011(1)(3).<sup>92</sup>

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 in Missouri face financial penalties including fines, restitution, forfeiture, and civil damages to trafficking victims.

Facilitators face a fine up to \$250,000 for convictions under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(3). Facilitators also face potential fines of \$5,000 per day for failing to remove certain materials pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.103(1) (Crime of promoting online sexual solicitation). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.103(6). In addition, under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 558.002(1)(1), (7)<sup>93</sup> (Fines for felonies), a trafficker who is convicted of a Class C, D, or E felony may be required to pay a fine of \$10,000 or up to “double the amount of the person’s gain<sup>94</sup> from the commission of the offense.”

Facilitators convicted of certain crimes must pay restitution to trafficking victims under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.218 (Restitution required for certain offenders), which states,

[A] person found guilty of violating any provisions of section . . . 566.210 [Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty], [or] 566.211 [Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty] . . . shall be ordered by the sentencing court to pay restitution to the victim of the offense regardless of whether the defendant is sentenced to a term of imprisonment or probation. The minimum restitution ordered by the court shall be in the amount determined by the court necessary to compensate the victim for the value of the victim’s labor and/or for the mental and physical rehabilitation of the victim and any child of the victim.

Facilitators are also subject to discretionary civil asset forfeiture under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.607(1) (Property subject to forfeiture), which provides in part, “All property of every kind, including cash or other negotiable instruments, used or intended for use in the course of, derived from, or realized through criminal activity is subject to civil forfeiture.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.605(3) (Definitions) defines “criminal activity” as

the commission, attempted commission, conspiracy to commit, or the solicitation, coercion or intimidation of another person to commit any crime which is chargeable by indictment or information under the following Missouri laws:

- . . . .
- (c) Chapter 566, relating to sexual offenses;
- (d) Chapter 568, relating to offenses against the family;
- . . . .
- (g) Chapter 567, relating to prostitution;
- (h) Chapter 573, relating to pornography and related offenses;
- . . . .

Seizure of forfeitable property is governed by Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.607(6), which states, “Seizure may be effected by a law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the criminal laws of this state prior to the filing of

<sup>90</sup> See *supra* Component 1.2 for a detailed discussion of this statute.

<sup>91</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>92</sup> See *supra* note 6.

<sup>93</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>94</sup> See *supra* note 81 for the definition of “gain.”

the petition and without a writ of seizure if the seizure is incident to a lawful arrest, search, or inspection and the officer has probable cause to believe the property is subject to forfeiture and will be lost or destroyed if not seized.” Disposition of forfeited property is governed by Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 513.620 – 513.623. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 513.623 (Disposition of proceeds after sale) states, “The clear proceeds of any sale or disposition after satisfaction of the interest of any innocent party and after payment of the reasonable costs . . . be distributed pursuant to section 7 of article IX of the Constitution of the state of Missouri.”

A travel agency that facilitates child sex tourism could have its business assets frozen for a violation of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.089 (Offering travel for purpose of prostitution prohibited—penalties).<sup>95</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.089(2) states that if an agency violates this section, “[T]he secretary of state shall revoke the articles of incorporation of the travel agency or charter tour operator. The secretary of state, as part of a proceeding brought under this section, may order a freeze of the bank or deposit accounts of the travel agency or charter tour operator.”

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

Missouri has a series of laws that criminalize the promotion and sale of sex tourism, though the laws are not child specific. In light of the broad definition of “prostitution” in Chapter 567 (Prostitution), which does not distinguish between acts by adults and acts by minors, facilitators of child sex tourism could be prosecuted under Missouri’s sex tourism laws.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.085(1) (Promoting travel for prostitution—penalty) criminalizes the conduct of a person who “knowingly sells or offers to sell travel services that include or facilitate travel for the purpose of engaging in prostitution as defined by section 567.020 [Prostitution].” A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class D felony by imprisonment for up to seven years.<sup>96</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 567.085(2), 558.011(1)(4).<sup>97</sup>

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.087(1) (Prohibitions on travel agencies or tour operators—rebuttable presumption, advertisements) states,

No travel agency or charter tour operator shall:

- (1) Promote travel for prostitution as described in section 567.085;
- (2) Sell, advertise, or otherwise offer to sell travel services or facilitate travel:
  - (a) For the purpose of engaging in a commercial sex act as defined in section 566.010;<sup>98</sup>
  - (b) That consists of tourism packages or activities using and offering any sexual contact as defined in section 566.010<sup>99</sup> as enticement for tourism; or
  - (c) That provides or purports to provide access to or that facilitates the availability of sex escorts or sexual services.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.087(2) further provides, “[t]here shall be a rebuttable presumption that any travel agency or charter tour operator using advertisements that include the term ‘sex tours’ or ‘sex travel’ or include depictions of human genitalia is in violation of this section.”

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.089 (Offering travel for purpose of prostitution prohibited—penalties) states,

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<sup>95</sup> See *infra* Component 4.3 for discussion of substantive provisions.

<sup>96</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>97</sup> See *supra* note 6.

<sup>98</sup> See *supra* note 3 for the definition of “commercial sex act.”

<sup>99</sup> See *supra* note 26 for the definition of “sexual contact.”

1. No travel agency or charter tour operator shall engage in selling, advertising, or otherwise offering to sell travel services, tourism packages, or activities that solicit, encourage, or facilitate travel for the purpose of engaging in prostitution.
2. Upon violation of this section by a travel agency or charter tour operator, the secretary of state shall revoke the articles of incorporation of the travel agency or charter tour operator. The secretary of state, as part of a proceeding brought under this section, may order a freeze of the bank or deposit accounts of the travel agency or charter tour operator.

4.3.1 Recommendation: Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.085 (Promoting travel for prostitution—penalty), § 567.087 (Prohibitions on travel agencies or tour operators), and § 567.089 (Offering travel for purpose of prostitution prohibited—penalties) to provide a penalty enhancement for violations involving the sale or promotion of child sex tourism.

#### 4.4 *Promoting and selling child sexual abuse material (CSAM) carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.*

Several laws in Missouri criminalize the promotion or sale of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.205(1) (Promoting sexual performance by a child, penalties) makes it a crime when a person “knowing the character and content thereof, . . . promotes a performance which includes sexual conduct by a child less than eighteen years of age or produces, or directs any performance which includes sexual conduct by a child less than eighteen years of age.” A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class C felony by imprisonment for 3–10 years.<sup>100</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 573.205(2), 558.011(1)(3).<sup>101</sup>

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.025(1) (Promoting child pornography in the first degree) makes it a crime when a person “knowing of its content and character, . . . possesses with the intent to promote<sup>102</sup> or promotes child pornography<sup>103</sup> of a child less than fourteen years of age or obscene material<sup>104</sup> portraying what appears to be a child less than fourteen years of age.” A conviction under this statute is punishable as a Class B felony, “unless the person knowingly promotes such material to a minor, in which case it is a class A felony.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.025(2). Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.025(2) further provides that “[n]o person who is found guilty of promoting child pornography in the first degree shall be eligible for probation, parole, or conditional release for a period of three calendar years.”<sup>105</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.035(1) (Promoting child pornography in the second degree) makes it illegal if a person “knowing of its content and character, . . . possesses with the intent to promote or promotes child pornography<sup>106</sup> of a minor under the age of eighteen or obscene material<sup>107</sup> portraying what appears to be a minor under the age of eighteen.” A conviction under this statute is punishable as a class D felony, “unless the person knowingly promotes such material to a minor, in which case it is a class B felony.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.035(2). If convicted under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.035, there is no eligibility for probation. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.035(2).

<sup>100</sup> See *supra* note 10.

<sup>101</sup> See *supra* note 6.

<sup>102</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(16) defines “promote” as “to manufacture, issue, sell, provide, mail, deliver, transfer, transmute, publish, distribute, circulate, disseminate, present, exhibit, or advertise, or to offer or agree to do the same, by any means including a computer.”

<sup>103</sup> See *supra* note 17 for the definition of “child pornography.”

<sup>104</sup> See *supra* note 15 for the definition of “obscene material.”

<sup>105</sup> See *supra* note 74.

<sup>106</sup> See *supra* note 17 for the definition of “child pornography.”

<sup>107</sup> See *supra* note 15 for the definition of “obscene material.”

**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 on 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 *Child sex trafficking victims may vacate delinquency adjudications and expunge related records for prostitution and other offenses arising from trafficking victimization, without a waiting period.*
- 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 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.*<sup>108</sup>

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) and Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) include all commercial sexual exploitation of minors. Under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211(1)(1) and § 566.210(1)(1), means of force, fraud, or coercion are not required.<sup>109</sup> In addition, the human trafficking laws apply to buyers through the terms “cause” and “obtain,” regardless of third party control; thus, buying commercial sex with a person who is under the age of eighteen constitutes human trafficking.<sup>110</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.211(1)(1), (2), 566.210(1)(1), (2). Consequently, Missouri’s human trafficking offenses include any child who is bought for sex, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion is used, regardless of whether a buyer exploited the youth without a trafficker’s involvement, and regardless of whether the victim identifies a trafficker. Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 566.211(1)(1), (2), 566.210(1)(1), (2).

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

Although Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) and § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) do not expressly prohibit a

<sup>108</sup> 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](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).

<sup>109</sup> See *supra* discussion in Component 1.1.

<sup>110</sup> See *supra* discussion of buyer applicability in Component 2.1.

defendant from asserting a defense based on the willingness of the minor to engage in the commercial sex act, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.020(3) (Mistake as to age—consent not a defense, when) provides that “[c]onsent is not a defense to any offense under this chapter [Sexual Offenses] if the alleged victim is less than fourteen years of age.” Chapter 566 offenses include all sexual offenses, non-prostitution CSEC offenses, and sex trafficking offenses.

5.2.1 Recommendation: Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.020(3) (Mistake as to age—consent not a defense, when) to increase the age limitation to prohibit a defense based on 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.*<sup>111</sup>

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.020 (Prostitution) does not prohibit the criminalization of minors under 18 for prostitution offenses. Instead, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.020(5)<sup>112</sup> provides only for an affirmative defense, stating in part,

it shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution pursuant to this section that the defendant was under the age of eighteen and was acting under the coercion, as defined in section 566.200, of an agent at the time of the offense charged. In such cases where the defendant was under the age of eighteen, the defendant shall be classified as a victim of abuse, as defined under section 210.110 [Definitions], and such abuse shall be reported, as required under 210.115 [Reports of abuse, neglect, and under age eighteen deaths].

5.3.1 Recommendation: Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.020 (Prostitution) to ensure that all minors are protected from criminalization for prostitution offenses.<sup>113</sup>

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

**System response to child engaged in commercial sex act**

Under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(4) (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to apply, when), law enforcement must report suspected cases of juvenile sex trafficking to the department of social services (DSS) and the department of juvenile justice (DJJ). In turn, DSS and DJJ may assess the child for services and assistance, but the provision of specialized services is not required. Specifically, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(4), (5) states,

....

4. As soon as possible after a first encounter with a person who reasonably appears to a law enforcement agency to be a victim of trafficking as defined in section 566.200 [Definitions], that agency or office shall notify the department of social services and, where applicable, juvenile justice authorities, that the person may be a victim of trafficking, in order that such agencies may determine whether the person may be eligible for state or federal services, programs, or assistance.

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<sup>111</sup> For more information regarding recent federal legislation impacting this component see: <http://go.sharedhope.org/stateimpactmemo>.

<sup>112</sup> The text of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.020 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 397 during the 2019 Regular Session of Missouri’s 100th General Assembly (effective August 28, 2019).

<sup>113</sup> See generally SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL, “Seeking Justice: Legal approaches to eliminate criminal liability for child sex trafficking victims” (2018), [https://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/ANALYSIS-OF-STATUTORY-APPROACHES\\_ver7.pdf](https://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/ANALYSIS-OF-STATUTORY-APPROACHES_ver7.pdf) (discussing need to eliminate a minor’s criminal liability for prostitution and other offenses committed pursuant to trafficking victimization and to establish a statutory avenue to specialized services).

5. The department of social services may coordinate with relevant state, federal, and local agencies to evaluate appropriate services for victims of trafficking. State agencies may implement programs and enter into contracts with nonprofit agencies, domestic and sexual violence shelters, and other nongovernment organizations to provide services to confirmed victims of trafficking, insofar as funds are available for that purpose. Such services may include, but are not limited to, case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, alcohol and drug addiction screening and treatment, language interpretation and translation services, English language instruction, job training, and placement assistance.

Further, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.020(5)<sup>114</sup> (Prostitution) states that a minor who has engaged in commercial sex in violation of the prostitution law “shall be classified as a victim of abuse, as defined under section 210.110 [Definitions], and such abuse shall be reported, as required under 210.115 [Reports of abuse, neglect, and under age eighteen deaths].”

Once connected with DSS, juvenile sex trafficking victims also may access services through a state technical assistance team. Under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 660.520(1) (State technical assistance team for child sexual abuse cases), these teams may assist, train teams, develop protocols, and be involved in, upon request, the “investigation and prosecution of child abuse, child neglect, child sexual abuse, child exploitation, child pornography, [and] child fatality cases.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 660.520(3) further states,

Each county may develop a multidisciplinary team for the purpose of determining the appropriate investigative and therapeutic action . . . . The multidisciplinary team may include, but is not limited to, a prosecutor, or his or her representative, an investigator from the children’s division, a physician, a representative from a mental health care services agency and a representative of the police agency of primary jurisdiction.

Additionally, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.038(1) (Children not to be reunited with parents or placed in a home) may prevent the return of a child to the custody of a trafficker parent. Under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.038(1),

A child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court shall not be reunited with a parent or placed in a home in which the parent or any person residing in the home has been found guilty of any of the following offenses when a child was the victim:

(1) A felony violation of section . . . 566.031 [Rape in the second degree] . . . 566.061 [Sodomy in the second degree] . . . 566.064 [Statutory sodomy, second degree] . . . 566.083 [Sexual misconduct involving a child] . . . 566.100 [Sexual abuse] . . . 566.151 [Enticement of a child], . . . 566.212 [Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty] . . . ;

. . . .

(3) Abuse of a child under section 568.060 [Abuse of a child] when such abuse is sexual in nature;

. . . .

(5) A violation of section 573.200 [Child used in sexual performance];

(6) A violation of section 573.205 [Promoting sexual performance by a child]; or

. . . .<sup>115</sup>

However, Missouri law does not prohibit a juvenile sex trafficking victim from being taken into custody, detained, and adjudicated delinquent for prostitution or other offenses related to his or her victimization.<sup>116</sup>

<sup>114</sup> See *supra* note 112.

<sup>115</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.038(2) also provides, “For all other violations of offenses in chapters 566 and 568 not specifically listed in subsection 1 of this section or for a violation of an offense committed in another state when a child is the victim that would be a violation of chapter 566 or 568 if committed in Missouri, the juvenile court may exercise its discretion regarding the placement of a child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in a home in which a parent or any person residing in the home has been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, any such offense.”

## Summary

Although Missouri law mandates referral of juvenile sex trafficking victims to DSS and DJJ for a service and assistance assessment, specialized services are not required. Further, juvenile sex trafficking victims may face delinquency proceedings for prostitution offenses.

5.4.1 Recommendation: Amend Missouri's protective response to direct child sex trafficking victims away from the juvenile justice system and to specialized services.

5.5 *Child sex trafficking is identified as a type of abuse and neglect within child protection statutes.*<sup>117</sup>

Child sex trafficking is expressly identified as a type of abuse and neglect within Missouri's child protection statutes. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.110(1) (Definitions) defines "abuse" to include the following:

any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody, and control . . . Victims of abuse shall also include any victims of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as those terms are defined in 22 U.S.C. 78 Section 7102(9)–(10)[.]<sup>118</sup>

Similarly, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.110(12) defines "neglect" to include the following:

failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child's well-being. Victims of neglect shall also include any victims of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as those terms are defined in 22 U.S.C. 78 Section 7102(9)-(10)[.]

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.*

The definition of "those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child"<sup>119</sup> is not a barrier to a sex trafficked child accessing the protection of child welfare. The definitions of "abuse" and "neglect" include "any

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<sup>116</sup> See *supra* Component 5.3 for provisions concerning the non-criminalization of minors for prostitution offenses.

<sup>117</sup> For more information regarding recent federal legislation impacting this component see: <http://go.sharedhope.org/stateimpactmemo>.

<sup>118</sup> Further, Further, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.020(5) (Prostitution) states that a minor who has engaged in commercial sex in violation of the prostitution law "shall be classified as a victim of abuse, as defined under section 210.110 [Definitions], and such abuse shall be reported, as required under 210.115 [Reports of abuse, neglect, and under age eighteen deaths]."

See *supra* note 112.

<sup>119</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.110(16) defines "those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child" to include the following:

- (a) The parents or legal guardians of a child;
- (b) Other members of the child's household;
- (c) Those exercising supervision over a child for any part of a twenty-four-hour day;
- (d) Any adult person who has access to the child based on relationship to the parents of the child or members of the child's household or the family;
- (e) Any person who takes control of the child by deception, force, or coercion; or
- (f) School personnel, contractors, and volunteers, if the relationship with the child was established through the school or through related activities, even if the alleged abuse or neglect occurred outside of school hours or off school grounds.

victims of sex trafficking” without specifying who must have committed the act as the definitions do for other forms of abuse and neglect. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.110(1), (12) (Definitions). Further, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.115(1) (Reports of abuse, neglect, and under age eighteen deaths) outlines mandatory reporting requirements for suspected abuse or neglect of a child, stating, “As used in this section, the term ‘abuse’ is not limited to abuse inflicted by a person responsible for the child’s care, custody and control as specified in section 210.110, but shall also include abuse inflicted by any other person.” Under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 660.525 (Treatment for child sexual abuse victims provided by family services, when),

The division of family services may provide treatment services for child sexual abuse victims in instances where the perpetrator is not listed in section 210.110, as a person responsible for the care, custody and control of the child, if treatment funds are available and such treatment services are requested by the family of the child.

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

To the extent that a prostituted child meets the definition of “victim,”<sup>120</sup> certain provisions of Chapter 595 (Victims of crimes, compensation and services) may impede a domestic minor sex trafficking victim’s access to victim compensation and services.

First, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.025(2) (Claims, filing and hearing) requires “A claim shall be filed not later than two years after the occurrence of the crime or the discovery of the crime upon which it is based.”

Second, cooperation with law enforcement is required, unless good cause is shown. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.015(4) (Compensation claims) states, “The claimant, victim or dependent shall cooperate with law enforcement officials in the apprehension of the offender in order to be eligible, or the department has found that the failure to cooperate was for good cause.”

Third, compensation may be limited or eliminated if the department determines that the injury arose from the consent of the victim. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.035(3) (Award standards to be established) states, “In determining the amount of compensation payable, the department of public safety shall determine whether, because of the victim’s consent, provocation, incitement or negligence, the victim contributed to the infliction of the victim’s injury or death, and shall reduce the amount of the compensation or deny the claim altogether . . . .”

Finally, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.030(1) (Compensation) requires official documentation showing the crime was reported to the proper authorities. However, trafficking victims are exempt from this eligibility requirement. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.030(1) states,

No compensation shall be paid unless the department of public safety finds that a crime was committed, that such crime directly resulted in personal injury<sup>121</sup> to, or the death of, the victim, and that police, court, or other official records show that such crime was reported to the proper authorities. In lieu of other records the claimant may provide a sworn statement by the applicant under paragraph (c) of subdivision (2) of section 589.663 that the applicant has good reason to believe that he or she is a victim of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, human trafficking, or stalking, and fears further violent acts from his or her assailant. If the victim is under eighteen years of age such report may be made by the

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The text of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.110 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 604 during the 2019 Regular Session of Missouri’s 100th General Assembly (effective August 28, 2019).

<sup>120</sup> See *supra* Component 5.1.

<sup>121</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.010(1)(23) (Definitions) defines “personal injury” as “physical, emotional, or mental harm or trauma resulting from the crime upon which the claim is based.”

victim's parent, guardian or custodian; by a physician, a nurse, or hospital emergency room personnel; by the children's division personnel; or by any other member of the victim's family . . . .

5.7.1 Recommendation: Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.035 (Award standards to be established) to specifically exempt trafficked minors from filing requirements and ineligibility factors.

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

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(1) (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to apply, when) states,

Any individual who is alleging that a violation of sections 566.200 to 566.221 [including sexual trafficking of a child and sexual trafficking of a child under 12] has occurred against his or her person shall be afforded the rights and protections provided in the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106-386, as amended.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.710 (Hearings involving child witnesses) promotes speedy proceedings in cases involving a child victim witness, stating,

In all criminal cases and juvenile court hearings under chapter 211, involving a child victim or witness, as defined in section 491.678<sup>122</sup> or 491.696,<sup>123</sup> the court shall give docket priority. The court and the prosecuting or circuit attorney shall take appropriate action to insure a speedy trial in order to minimize the length of time the child must endure the stress of his or her involvement in the proceeding. In ruling on any motion or other request for a delay or continuance of proceedings, the court shall consider and give weight to any adverse impact the delay or continuance may have on the well-being of a child victim or witness.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.015 (Prosecuting witness in certain cases not to be interrogated as to prior sexual conduct) seeks to protect sexual offense victim witnesses from cross-examination regarding prior sexual conduct. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.015(1), (2) states,

1. In prosecutions under chapter 566 [Sexual offenses], or prosecutions related to sexual conduct under chapter 568 [Offenses against the family], opinion and reputation evidence of the complaining witness' prior sexual conduct is inadmissible; evidence of specific instances of the complaining witness' prior sexual conduct or the absence of such instances or conduct is inadmissible, except where such specific instances are:

- (1) Evidence of the sexual conduct of the complaining witness with the defendant to prove consent where consent is a defense to the alleged crime and the evidence is reasonably contemporaneous with the date of the alleged crime; or
- (2) Evidence of specific instances of sexual activity showing alternative source or origin of semen, pregnancy or disease;
- (3) Evidence of immediate surrounding circumstances of the alleged crime; or
- (4) Evidence relating to the previous chastity of the complaining witness in cases, where, by statute, previously chaste character is required to be proved by the prosecution.

2. Evidence of the sexual conduct of the complaining witness offered under this section is admissible to the extent that the court finds the evidence relevant to a material fact or issue.

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<sup>122</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.678 (Child defined) defines "child" as "a person under seventeen years of age who is the alleged victim in any criminal prosecution under chapter 565 [Offenses against the person], 566 [Sexual offenses] or 568 [Offenses against the family]."

<sup>123</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.696 (Child defined) defines "child" as "a person seventeen years of age or under who is the alleged victim of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect as such terms are defined in section 210.110."

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.075(1) (Statement of child under fourteen admissible, when) states,

A statement made by a child under the age of fourteen or a vulnerable person relating to an offense under chapter 565 [Offenses against the person], 566 [Sexual offenses], 568 [Offenses against the family] or 573 [Pornography and related offenses], performed by another, not otherwise admissible by statute or court rule, is admissible in evidence in criminal proceedings in the courts of this state as substantive evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted if:

- (1) The court finds, in a hearing conducted outside the presence of the jury that the time, content and circumstances of the statement provide sufficient indicia of reliability; and
- (2) (a) The child or vulnerable person testifies at the proceedings; or  
(b) The child or vulnerable person is unavailable as a witness; or  
(c) The child or vulnerable person is otherwise physically available as a witness but the court finds that the significant emotional or psychological trauma which would result from testifying in the personal presence of the defendant makes the child or vulnerable person unavailable as a witness at the time of the criminal proceeding.

In addition, such a statement when the child is a victim of the above offenses “is sufficient corroboration of a statement, admission or confession regardless of whether or not the child or vulnerable person is available to testify regarding the offense.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.075(2).

Protection of a child witness from additional trauma in the trial process is provided pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.680 (Court may order video recording of alleged child victim), which states,

1. In any criminal prosecution under the provisions of chapter 565 [Offenses against the person], 566 or 568 involving an alleged child victim, upon the motion of the prosecuting attorney, the court may order that an in-camera videotaped deposition of the testimony of the alleged child victim be made for use as substantive evidence at preliminary hearings and at trial.
2. If the court finds, at a hearing, that significant emotional or psychological trauma to the child which would result from testifying in the personal presence of the defendant exists, which makes the child unavailable as a witness at the time of the preliminary hearing or trial, the court shall order that an in-camera videotaped deposition of the testimony of the alleged child victim be made for use as substantive evidence at the preliminary hearings and at trial. Such recording shall be retained by the prosecuting attorney and shall be admissible in lieu of the child’s personal appearance and testimony at preliminary hearings and at trial, conflicting provisions of section 544.270 notwithstanding. A transcript of such testimony shall be made as soon as possible after the completion of such deposition and shall be provided to the defendant together with all other discoverable materials.
3. Upon a finding of trauma as provided for in subsection 2 of this statute, the court may also exclude the defendant from the videotape deposition proceedings in which the child is to testify. Where any such order of exclusion is entered, the child shall not be excused as a witness until the defendant has had a reasonable opportunity to review the videotape deposition in private with his counsel and to consult with his counsel; and until his counsel has been afforded the opportunity to cross-examine the child following such review and consultation.

...<sup>124</sup>

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.685(1) (Defendant may be excluded from child victim deposition proceedings, when) also provides, “On motion of the prosecuting attorney, the court may exclude the defendant from any or all deposition proceedings at which the child is to testify,” so long as the defendant is able to review the videotape

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<sup>124</sup> However, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.690 (Provisions of sections 491.675 to 491.693 not to apply where defendant has waived right to counsel—exceptions) states that “[w]here a defendant has waived the right to counsel and elected to represent himself, the provisions of sections 491.675 to 491.693 shall not apply, except in the discretion of the court, under such rules, procedures and restrictions as the court may, in the interests of justice, impose.”

with his attorney and his attorney has the opportunity to cross-examine the child after that review. Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 491.685(2), “The court may also order, on motion of the prosecuting attorney, during all predeposition procedures, recesses, and post-deposition matters that the child be sequestered from the view and presence of the defendant.”

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 492.304(1) (Visual and aural recordings of child under fourteen admissible, when), “In addition to the admissibility of a statement under the provisions of section 492.303, the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal statement of a child when under the age of fourteen who is alleged to be a victim of an offense under the provisions of chapter 565 [Offenses against the person], 566 [Sexual offenses] or 568 [Offenses against the family], is admissible into evidence if” the requirements of the statute are met.

However, pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 492.304(2), (3),

If the child does not testify at the proceeding, the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal statement of the child shall not be admissible under this section unless the recording qualifies for admission under section 491.075 . . . . If the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal<sup>125</sup> statement of a child is admissible under this section and the child testifies at the proceeding, it shall be admissible in addition to the testimony of the child at the proceeding whether or not it repeats or duplicates the child’s testimony.

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.209(1)(1)–(6), (11) (Rights of victims and witnesses), victims of dangerous felonies<sup>126</sup> or attempts to commit dangerous felonies are entitled to certain rights, upon written request, including the right to be informed about the crime, the filing of charges, trial dates, all other hearing dates, the status of the case, availability of victim compensation, availability of restitution, any release or escape of the offender from confinement, and the availability of videotape statements in lieu of court appearance. Such victims also have “the right to reasonable protection from the defendant or any person acting on behalf of the defendant from harm and threats of harm arising out of their cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.209(1)(9).

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.160(1) (Guardian ad litem) requires a guardian ad litem to be appointed to represent the interests of an abused or neglected child subject to the proceedings as set out in the statute. In addition, “The court may designate volunteer advocates, who may or may not be attorneys licensed to practice law, to assist in the performance of the guardian ad litem duties for the court.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.160(5).

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<sup>125</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 492.304(4) states, “As used in this section, a nonverbal statement shall be defined as any demonstration of the child by his or her actions, facial expressions, demonstrations with a doll or other visual aid whether or not this demonstration is accompanied by words.”

<sup>126</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 556.061(19) (Code definitions) defines “dangerous felony” as

the felonies of . . . attempted rape in the first degree if physical injury results, attempted forcible rape if physical injury results, attempted sodomy in the first degree if physical injury results, attempted forcible sodomy if physical injury results, rape in the first degree, forcible rape, sodomy in the first degree, forcible sodomy, . . . kidnapping in the first degree, kidnapping, . . . statutory rape in the first degree when the victim is a child less than twelve years of age at the time of the commission of the act giving rise to the offense, statutory sodomy in the first degree when the victim is a child less than twelve years of age at the time of the commission of the act giving rise to the offense, child molestation in the first or second degree, abuse of a child if the child dies as a result of injuries sustained from conduct chargeable under section 568.060 [Abuse or neglect of child, penalty], child kidnapping, [and] parental kidnapping committed by detaining or concealing the whereabouts of the child for not less than one hundred twenty days under section 565.153, . . . .

Lastly, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.663 (Program created, purposes, procedures) authorizes the use of designated addresses for victims of human trafficking under Missouri’s “Address Confidentiality Program,” and Mo. Rev. Stat. § 595.226(1) (Identifiable information in court records to be redacted, when—access to information permitted, when—disclosure of identifying information regarding defendant, when) requires the court to keep the victim’s “name, home or temporary address, telephone number, Social Security number, place of employment, or physical characteristics including an unobstructed visual image of the victim’s face or body” confidential. However, the court, at its discretion, may

publicly disclose identifying information regarding the defendant which could be used to identify or locate the victim of the crime. The victim may provide a statement to the court regarding whether he or she desires such information to remain closed. When making the decision to disclose such information, the judge shall consider the welfare and safety of the victim and any statement to the court received from the victim regarding the disclosure.

5.9 *Child sex trafficking victims may vacate delinquency adjudications and expunge related records for prostitution and other offenses arising from trafficking victimization, without a waiting period.*

Missouri law does not provide a mechanism for minors to vacate delinquency adjudications related to trafficking victimization, and juvenile court records may only be sealed after a waiting period.

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.321(5)<sup>127</sup> (Juvenile court records, confidentiality, exceptions—records of peace officers, exceptions, release of certain information to victim),

The court may, either on its own motion or upon application by the child or his or her representative, or upon application by the juvenile officer, enter an order to destroy all social histories, records, and information, other than the official court file, and may enter an order to seal the official court file, as well as all peace officers' records, at any time after the child has reached his or her eighteenth birthday if the court finds that it is in the best interest of the child that such action or any part thereof be taken, unless the jurisdiction of the court is continued beyond the child's eighteenth birthday, in which event such action or any part thereof may be taken by the court at any time after the closing of the child's case.

Because a child sex trafficking victim must turn 18 before court records may be sealed, however, he or she may face collateral consequences associated with having an accessible delinquency record during that time.

Regarding expungement and vacatur, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.131<sup>128</sup> (Expungement of juvenile prostitution records involving expungement) states,

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 610.140 to the contrary, a person who at the time of the offense was under the age of eighteen, and has pleaded guilty or has been convicted for the offense of prostitution under section 567.020 may apply to the court in which he or she pled guilty or was sentenced for an order to expunge from all official records all recordations of his or her arrest, plea, trial, or conviction. If the court determines that such person was under the age of eighteen or was acting under the coercion, as defined in section 566.200, of an agent when committing the offense that resulted in a plea of guilty or conviction under section 567.020, the court shall enter an order of expungement.

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<sup>127</sup> The text of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.321 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 793 during the 2018 Regular Session of Missouri’s 99th General Assembly (effective January 1, 2021).

<sup>128</sup> The text of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.131 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 397 during the 2019 Regular Session of Missouri’s 100th General Assembly (effective August 28, 2019).

(2) Upon granting the order of expungement, the records and files maintained in any administrative or court proceeding in an associate or circuit division of the circuit court under this section shall be confidential and only available to the parties or by order of the court for good cause shown. The effect of such order shall be to restore such person to the status he or she occupied prior to such arrest, plea, or conviction and as if such event had never taken place. No person as to whom such order has been entered shall be held thereafter under any provision of any law to be guilty of perjury or otherwise giving a false statement by reason of his or her failure to recite or acknowledge such arrest, plea, trial, conviction, or expungement in response to any inquiry made of him or her for any purpose whatsoever and no such inquiry shall be made for information relating to an expungement under this section.

However, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.131 applies specifically to convictions, not delinquency adjudications.<sup>129</sup> Further, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.131 applies only to prostitution offenses, foreclosing the law’s applicability to other offenses committed pursuant to the child’s trafficking victimization.

5.9.1 Recommendation: Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.131 (Expungement of juvenile prostitution records involving expungement) to allow minors to vacate delinquency adjudications and expunge related records for prostitution and other offenses arising from trafficking victimization, without requiring proof of coercion.

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.*

Mandatory restitution is provided to trafficking victims under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.218 (Restitution required for certain offenders), which provides,

[A] person found guilty of violating any provisions of section . . . 566.210 [Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty], [or] 566.211 [Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty] shall be ordered by the sentencing court to pay restitution to the victim of the offense regardless of whether the defendant is sentenced to a term of imprisonment or probation. The minimum restitution ordered by the court shall be in the amount determined by the court necessary to compensate the victim for the value of the victim’s labor and/or for the mental and physical rehabilitation of the victim and any child of the victim.

In addition to restitution, trafficking victims may pursue a civil action against traffickers and facilitators. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(6) (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to apply, when) provides that “[a] victim of trafficking may bring a civil action against a person or persons who plead guilty to or are found guilty of a violation of section . . . 566.212,<sup>130</sup> or 566.213<sup>131</sup>, to recover the actual damages sustained by the victim, court costs, including reasonable attorney’s fees, and punitive damages, when determined to be appropriate by the court.” Furthermore, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(7) permits the attorney general to

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<sup>129</sup> Beginning January 1, 2021, “the juvenile court or the family court in circuits that have a family court . . . shall have exclusive original jurisdiction in proceedings . . . involving any child who is alleged to have violated a state law or municipal ordinance, or any person who alleged to have violated a state law or municipal ordinance prior to attaining the age of eighteen years . . .” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.031(1)(3) (Juvenile court to have exclusive jurisdiction, when—exceptions—home schooling, attendance violations, how treated). Accordingly, all minors found in violation of Missouri’s prostitution law should be adjudicated delinquent, not convicted.

The text of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.031 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 793 during the 2018 Regular Session of Missouri’s 99th General Assembly (effective January 1, 2021).

<sup>130</sup> See *supra* note 49.

<sup>131</sup> See *supra* note 50.

bring a civil action, in the circuit court in which the victim of trafficking was found, to recover from any person or entity that benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from violations of section . . . 566.212,<sup>132</sup> or 566.213,<sup>133</sup> a civil penalty of not more than fifty thousand dollars for each violation . . . and injunctive and other equitable relief as the court may, in its discretion, order. The first priority of any money or property collected under such an action shall be to pay restitution to the victims of trafficking on whose behalf the civil action was brought.

Victims depicted in child sexual abuse material (CSAM) may also bring a civil suit for damages. Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.047(1) (Civil action for damages authorized, sexual and pornographic offenses involving a minor—statute of limitations),

Any person who, while a child<sup>134</sup> or minor<sup>135</sup> as defined by section 573.010, was a victim of a violation of sections 573.023 [Sexual exploitation of a minor], 573.025 [Promoting child pornography in the first degree], 573.035 [Promoting child pornography in the second degree], or 573.037 [Possession of child pornography], and who suffers physical or psychological injury or illness as a result of such violation, shall be entitled to bring a civil action to recover the actual damages sustained as a result of the violation, and shall also be entitled to recover the costs of the civil action and reasonable fees for attorneys and expert witnesses. A psychological injury or illness as described under this section need not be accompanied by physical injury or illness.

*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 to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal action and legal remedies.*

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 556.037 (Time limitations for prosecutions for sexual offenses involving a person under eighteen) eliminates the criminal statutes of limitation for offenses that require registration as a sex offender under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.400 (Registration of certain offenders with chief law officers of county of residence) and § 589.414 (Registrant’s duties on change of address—time limitations for certain notifications—change in online identifiers, duty to report), which include child sex trafficking and CSEC offenses; it provides,

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 556.036, prosecutions for unlawful sexual offenses involving a person eighteen years of age or under may be commenced at any time.
- (2) For purposes of this section, “sexual offenses” include, but are not limited to, all offenses for which registration is required under sections 589.400 to 589.425.<sup>136</sup>

Regarding civil actions, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(6) (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to apply, when) states in relevant part that “a civil action against a person or persons who plead guilty to or are found guilty to” the listed trafficking offenses “shall be filed within ten years after of: (1) The final order in the related criminal case; (2) The victim’s emancipation from the defendant; or (3) The victim’s eighteenth birthday.”

The time for minor victims of sex offenses to bring civil actions for injuries resulting from their victimization is extended under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.046(2) (Childhood sexual abuse, injury or illness defined—action for damages may be brought, when), which provides,

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<sup>132</sup> See *supra* note 49.

<sup>133</sup> See *supra* note 50.

<sup>134</sup> “Child” is defined in Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(3) as “any person under the age of fourteen.”

<sup>135</sup> “Minor” is defined in Mo. Rev. Stat. § 573.010(9) as “any person less than eighteen years of age.”

<sup>136</sup> See *supra* Components 2.10 and 3.5 for a list of offense that require registration as a sex offender under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.400 and § 589.414.

Any action to recover damages from injury or illness caused by childhood sexual abuse in an action brought pursuant to this section shall be commenced within ten years of the plaintiff attaining the age of twenty-one or within three years of the date the plaintiff discovers, or reasonably should have discovered, that the injury or illness was caused by childhood sexual abuse,<sup>137</sup> whichever later occurs.<sup>138</sup>

Similarly, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.047(2) (Civil action for damages authorized, sexual and pornographic offenses involving a minor—statute of limitations) states that a cause of action<sup>139</sup> “shall be commenced within ten years of the plaintiff attaining the age of twenty-one, or within three years of the date the plaintiff discovers that the injury or illness was caused by the violation of an offense enumerated in subsection 1 of this section, whichever later occurs.” Additionally, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.047(3) states, “A cause of action under this section may arise only if the violation that caused the injury occurs on or after August 28, 2007.”

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 516.110(3) (What action shall be commenced within ten years), the statute of limitations for civil “[a]ctions for relief, not herein otherwise provided for” is ten years, and Mo. Rev. Stat. § 516.140 (What actions within two years) requires that actions for “assault, battery, false imprisonment,” among other listed actions, “shall be brought within two years after the cause accrued.”

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<sup>137</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.046(1)(1) defines “childhood sexual abuse” as “any act committed by the defendant against the plaintiff which act occurred when the plaintiff was under the age of eighteen years and which act would have been a violation of section 566.030 [First degree rape and attempted first degree rape, penalties—suspended sentences not granted], . . . 566.060 [Sodomy in the first degree], . . . 566.100 [First degree sexual abuse] . . .”

<sup>138</sup> Although Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.046(3) further states that “[t]his section shall apply to any action commenced on or after August 28, 2004, including any action which would have been barred by the application of the statute of limitation applicable prior to that date,” the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri has determined that this language “clearly contravenes the constitutional prohibition against retrospective laws.” *Walker v. Barrett*, No. 08-3426, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 93865, at \*7–8 (W.D. Mo. Sept. 9, 2010) (quoting *Doe v. Roman Catholic Diocese of Jefferson City*, 862 S.W.2d 338 (Mo. 1993), *aff’d*, 650 F.3d 1198 (8th Cir. 2011)).

<sup>139</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.047(1) establishes that the applicable causes of action include when the child or minor was a victim of violations of “sections 573.023 [Sexual exploitation of a minor], 573.025 [Promoting child pornography in the first degree], 573.035 [Promoting child pornography in the second degree], or 573.037 [Possession of child pornography], and who suffers physical or psychological injury or illness as a result of such violation.” The statute further clarifies that “psychological injury or illness . . . need not be accompanied by physical injury or illness.”

***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 audiotaping is permitted in law enforcement investigations.*
  - 6.3 *Wiretapping is an available tool to investigate domestic minor sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).*
  - 6.4 *Using a law enforcement decoy to investigate buying or selling commercial sex 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 *State law requires reporting of missing children and located missing children.*
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***Legal Analysis:***

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

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(3) (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to apply, when) authorizes training programs for law enforcement on human trafficking. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.223(3) states,

The department of public safety is authorized to establish procedures for identifying victims of trafficking under sections 566.200 to 566.223. The department may establish training programs as well as standard protocols for appropriate agencies to educate officials and employees on state statutes and federal laws regulating human trafficking and with the identification and assistance of victims of human trafficking. Such agencies may include but not be limited to state employees and contractors, including the children’s division of the department of social services, juvenile courts, state law enforcement agencies, health care professionals, and runaway and homeless youth shelter administrators.

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

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.402 (Penalty for illegal wiretapping, permitted activities) specifically provides an exception for law enforcement officers and their agents wearing a listening device in undercover operations. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.402(1)(2) states that, “except as otherwise specifically provided in sections 542.400 to 542.422,” a person is guilty of a class D felony if he

[k]nowingly uses, endeavors to use, or procures any other person to use or endeavor to use any electronic, mechanical, or other device to intercept any oral communication when such device transmits communications by radio or interferes with the transmission of such communication; provided, however, that nothing in sections 542.400 to 542.422 shall be construed to prohibit the use by law enforcement officers of body microphones and transmitters in undercover investigations for the acquisition of evidence and the protection of law enforcement officers and others working under their direction in such investigations.

In addition, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.402(2)(2) and (3) permit single party consent to audiotaping. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.402(2)(2) provides that it is not unlawful “[f]or a person acting under law to intercept a wire or oral communication, where such person is a party to the communication or where one of the parties to the

communication has given prior consent to such interception.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.402(2)(3) provides that it is not unlawful

[f]or a person not acting under law to intercept a wire communication where such person is a party to the communication or where one of the parties to the communication has given prior consent to such interception unless such communication is intercepted for the purpose of committing any criminal or tortious act.

6.3 *Wiretapping is an available tool to investigate domestic minor sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).*

The exception in Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.404 (Application for an order—authorization by attorney general—approval by judge, probable cause required) to the prohibition on wiretapping in Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.402 (Penalty for illegal wiretapping, permitted activities) does not apply to investigations of domestic minor sex trafficking. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.404(1) provides that authorization for interception may be granted

in conformity with sections 542.400 to 542.422, . . . if there is probable cause to believe that the interception may provide evidence of a felony which involves the manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance, . . . or the felony of murder, arson, or kidnapping, or a terrorist threat, . . . or any conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing.

6.3.1 Recommendation: Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.404 (Application for an order—authorization by attorney general—approval by judge, probable cause required) to include investigations of suspected violations of Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.211 (Sexual trafficking of a child—penalty) and § 566.210 (Sexual trafficking of a child under age twelve—affirmative defense not allowed, when—penalty) within the exception to the prohibition on wiretapping in Mo. Rev. Stat. § 542.402 (Penalty for illegal wiretapping, permitted activities).

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

None of Missouri’s trafficking or CSEC laws expressly prohibit a defense to prosecution based on the use of a law enforcement decoy posing as a minor to investigate the offense. However, use of a decoy is specifically permitted within the text of two non-commercial Missouri statutes relating to sex crimes against children. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(2) (Enticement of a child) and § 566.083(3) (Sexual misconduct involving a child) provide that “[i]t is not a defense to prosecution for a violation of this section that the other person was a peace officer masquerading as a minor.”

However, a defendant may still be able to assert a defense based on a law enforcement decoy posing as a minor to investigate other buyer-applicable offenses through reverse sting operations, which are the most likely situations in which a defendant would try to use such a defense. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030 (Patronizing prostitution—penalty) is a buyer applicable CSEC offense<sup>140</sup> that does not prohibit this defense, meaning that buyers charged for attempting to solicit or purchase sex with a minor under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030(1)(3) would not be prohibited from raising a defense based on the fact that an actual minor was not involved.

6.4.1 Recommendation: Amend Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030 (Patronizing prostitution—penalty) to prohibit a defense to prosecution based on the use of a law enforcement decoy posing as a minor.

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<sup>140</sup> See *supra* Component 2.2 for more information about Mo. Rev. Stat. § 567.030.

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

Pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.083(2) (Sexual misconduct involving a child), “The provisions of this section shall apply regardless of whether the person violates the section in person or via the internet or other electronic means,” and subsection (3) states that “[i]t is not a defense to prosecution for a violation of this section that the other person was a peace officer masquerading as a minor.” In addition, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(1) (Enticement of a child) states that

[a] person twenty-one years of age or older commits the offense of enticement of a child if he or she persuades, solicits, coaxes, entices, or lures whether by words, actions or through communication via the internet or any electronic communication, any person who is less than fifteen years of age for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct.

This statute also applies regardless of whether the “victim” was actually a law enforcement officer acting as a minor. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 566.151(2).

6.6 *State law requires reporting of missing children and located missing children.*

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 43.402 (Missing persons unit established, duties) states,

The superintendent of the patrol [Missouri state highway patrol] shall organize a missing persons unit within the patrol, which unit shall be the central repository for this state for information regarding missing persons. The head of this missing person unit shall, with the approval of the superintendent of the patrol, establish the services deemed necessary to aid in the location of missing persons including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Collecting and disseminating information regarding missing persons in order to assist in locating such persons;
- (2) Establishing a system of interstate and intrastate communication of information relating to children determined to be missing by the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child, or by a law enforcement agency;
- (3) Providing a centralized file for the exchange of information on missing children with appropriate private or federal agencies which serve as national coordinators of missing children incidents;
- (4) Assisting in the investigation of reports of missing persons by a uniformed or commissioned member of the patrol.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 43.403 (Responsibilities of other agencies) states, “The director of the department of social services, the director of the department of mental health, school districts, and juvenile courts, shall establish appropriate procedures to ensure that all possible instances of missing children are reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency or the highway patrol as required by sections 43.400 [Definitions] to 43.409 [Registrar and school to be notified when missing child is located].” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 43.404 (Parent or guardian may report missing child) states that “[a]ny parent, guardian, or legal custodian may submit a missing child report to the patrol on any child whose whereabouts are unknown,” but the parent shall subsequently notify the agency “when the location of the child reported missing has been determined.” Mo. Rev. Stat. § 43.404.

In cases where a missing child is believed to have been abducted,<sup>141</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.1012(1) (Amber alert system created) establishes “a statewide program called the ‘Amber Alert System’ . . . to aid in the identification

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<sup>141</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.1012(2) defines “abducted child” as “a child whose whereabouts are unknown and who is one of the following:

and location of an abducted child.” However, Mo Rev. Stat. § 210.1012(6) states that “[p]articipation in an Amber alert system is entirely at the option of local law enforcement agencies and federally licensed radio and television broadcasters.”

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- (1) Less than eighteen years of age and reasonably believed to be the victim of the crime of kidnapping as defined by section 565.110, as determined by local law enforcement;
  - (2) Reasonably believed to be the victim of the crime of child kidnapping as defined by section 565.115, as determined by local law enforcement; or
  - (3) Less than eighteen years of age and at least fourteen years of age and who, if under the age of fourteen, would otherwise be reasonably believed to be a victim of child kidnapping as defined by section 565.115, as determined by local law enforcement.

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