

2019 ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MONTANA

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 Analysis¹:

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

Montana law specifically criminalizes sex trafficking of minors under 18 and does not require proof of force, fraud, or coercion. The general human trafficking offense under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702(1)² (Trafficking of persons) states,

A person commits the offense of trafficking of persons if the person purposely or knowingly:

- (a) recruits, transports, transfers, harbors, receives, provides, obtains, isolates, maintains, or entices another person intending or knowing that the person will be subjected to involuntary servitude or sexual servitude; or
- (b) benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from facilitating any conduct described in subsection (1)(a) or from participation in a venture that has subjected another person to involuntary servitude or sexual servitude.

¹ This report includes legislation enacted as of August 1, 2019.

² The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 147 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019).

Trafficking of persons is punishable by up to 50 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$100,000 when the victim is a child. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702(2)(b).³

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704(1)⁴ (Sexual servitude) specifically criminalizes sex trafficking of a minor without regard to force, fraud or coercion. It states,

- A person commits the offense of sexual servitude if the person purposely or knowingly:
- (a) uses fraud, coercion, or deception to compel an adult to engage in commercial sexual activity;⁵
 - or
 - (b) recruits, transports, transfers, harbors, receives, provides, obtains by any means, isolates, entices, maintains, or makes available a child for the purpose of commercial sexual activity.

Sexual servitude is punishable by up to 25 years imprisonment and possible fine not to exceed \$75,000 when the victim is a child. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704(3)(b).⁶

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-705(1)⁷ (Patronizing victim of sexual servitude) makes it a crime when a person “purposely or knowingly gives, agrees to give, or offers to give anything of value so that a person may engage in commercial sexual activity: (a) that involves sexual contact that is directly and not through clothing with another person who the person knows or reasonably should have known is a victim of sexual servitude; or (b) with a child.” Patronizing a victim of sexual servitude is punishable by up to 25 years imprisonment and a possible fine not to exceed \$75,000 when the victim is a child. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-705(2)(b).⁸

Additionally, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-701(5) (Definitions), “[h]uman trafficking” is defined as “the commission of an offense under 45-5-702 [Trafficking of persons], 45-5-703 [Involuntary servitude], 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude], or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude].”

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

The following statutes treat CSEC separately from non-commercial sex offenses:

1. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-603(1) (Aggravated promotion of prostitution) states,

³ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-706 (Aggravating circumstance) provides,

- (1) An aggravating circumstance during the commission of an offense under 45-5-702 [Trafficking of persons], 45-5-703 [Involuntary servitude], 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude], or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude] occurs when the defendant recruited, enticed, or obtained the victim of the offense from a shelter that serves runaway youth, foster children, homeless persons, or persons subjected to human trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault.
- (2) If the trier of fact finds that an aggravating circumstance occurred during the commission of an offense under 45-5-702, 45-5-703, 45-5-704, or 45-5-705, the defendant may be imprisoned for up to 5 years in addition to the period of imprisonment prescribed for the offense. An additional sentence prescribed by this section must run consecutively to the sentence provided for the underlying offense.

⁴ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 147 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019).

⁵ “Commercial sexual activity” is defined by Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-701(3) (Definitions) to mean “sexual activity for which anything of value is given to, promised to, or received by a person.”

⁶ See *supra* note 3.

⁷ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-705 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 147 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019).

⁸ See *supra* note 3.

A person commits the offense of aggravated promotion of prostitution if the person purposely or knowingly commits any of the following acts:

- (a) compels another to engage in or promote prostitution;
- (b) promotes prostitution of a child under the age of 18 years, whether or not the person is aware of the child's age;
- (c) promotes the prostitution of one's spouse, child, ward, or any person for whose care, protection, or support the person is responsible.

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-603(1)(b) for promoting prostitution of a child is punishable by imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended or eligible for parole, a \$50,000 fine, or both, an order to complete a sexual offender treatment program, and may be subject to supervision for the remainder of the offender's life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-603(2)(b).

2. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(2)(b)⁹ (Prostitution—patronizing a prostitute—exception) states,

A patron may be convicted of patronizing a prostitute if the patron engages in or agrees or offers to engage in sexual intercourse or sexual contact that is direct and not through clothing with another person for compensation, whether the compensation is received or to be received or paid or to be paid . . .

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(2)(b) is punishable by imprisonment up to 1 year, a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or both. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(2)(b). Subsequent offenses are punishable by imprisonment up to 5 years, a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or both. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(2)(b). If the person patronized was a child and the patron was at least 18, a conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(2)(b) is punishable by imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended or deferred ("except as provided in 46-18-222"¹⁰), and during which time the offender is not eligible for parole, is subject to a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, and an order to enroll in a treatment program, and may be subject to supervision for the remainder of the offender's life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3).

3. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602(1) (Promoting prostitution) states,

⁹ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 147 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019).

¹⁰ Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-222 (Exceptions to mandatory minimum sentences, restrictions on deferred imposition and suspended execution of sentence, and restrictions on parole eligibility) states,

Mandatory minimum sentences prescribed by the laws of this state, mandatory life sentences prescribed by 46-18-219 [Life sentence without possibility of release], the restrictions on deferred imposition and suspended execution of sentence prescribed by 46-18-201(1)(b) [Sentences that may be imposed], 46-18-205 [Mandatory minimum sentences—restrictions on deferral or suspension], 46-18-221(3) [Additional sentence for offenses committed with dangerous weapon], 46-18-224 [Additional sentence for offense committed while carrying a handgun loaded with armor-piercing ammunition], and 46-18-502(3) [Sentencing of persistent felony offender], and restrictions on parole eligibility do not apply if:

- (6) the offense was committed under . . . 45-5-601(3) [Prostitution], 45-5-602(3) [Promoting prostitution], or 45-5-603(2)(b) [Aggravated promotion of prostitution] . . . and the judge determines, based on the findings contained in a sexual offender evaluation report prepared by a qualified sexual offender evaluator pursuant to the provisions of 46-23-509, that treatment of the offender while incarcerated, while in a residential treatment facility, or while in a local community affords a better opportunity for rehabilitation of the offender and for the ultimate protection of the victim and society, in which case the judge shall include in its judgment a statement of the reasons for its determination.

A person commits the offense of promoting prostitution if the person purposely or knowingly commits any of the following acts:

- (a) owns, controls, manages, supervises, resides in, or otherwise keeps, alone or in association with others, a house of prostitution or a prostitution business;
- (b) procures an individual for a house of prostitution or a place in a house of prostitution for an individual;
- (c) encourages, induces, or otherwise purposely causes another to become or remain a prostitute;
- (d) solicits clients for another person who is a prostitute;
- (e) procures a prostitute for a patron;
- (f) transports an individual into or within this state with the purpose to promote that individual's engaging in prostitution or procures or pays for transportation with that purpose;
- (g) leases or otherwise permits a place controlled by the offender, alone or in association with others, to be regularly used for prostitution or for the procurement of prostitution or fails to make reasonable effort to abate that use by ejecting the tenant, notifying law enforcement authorities, or using other legally available means; or
- (h) lives in whole or in part upon the earnings of an individual engaging in prostitution, unless the person is the prostitute's minor child or other legal dependent incapable of self-support.

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602 (Promoting prostitution) is punishable by imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine not to exceed \$50,000, or both. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602(2). However, if the victim is a minor under 18 and the offender is at least 18 or older, then a conviction under Mont. Code § 45-5-602 is punishable by imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended, a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to complete a sexual offender treatment program, and may be subject to supervision for the remainder of the offender's life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602(3).

4. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) states in part,

A person commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if the person:

- (a) knowingly employs, uses, or permits the employment or use of a child in an exhibition of sexual conduct,¹¹ actual or simulated;¹²
- (b) knowingly photographs, films, videotapes, develops or duplicates the photographs, films, or videotapes, or records a child engaging in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;
- (c) knowingly, by any means of communication, including electronic communication,¹³ persuades,

¹¹ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(5)(b) (Sexual abuse of children) defines "sexual conduct" as

(i) actual or simulated:

- (A) sexual intercourse, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex;
- (B) penetration of the vagina or rectum by any object, except when done as part of a recognized medical procedure;
- (C) bestiality;
- (D) masturbation;
- (E) sadomasochistic abuse;
- (F) lewd exhibition of the genitals, breasts, pubic or rectal area, or other intimate parts of any person; or
- (G) defecation or urination for the purpose of the sexual stimulation of the viewer; or

(ii) depiction of a child in the nude or in a state of partial undress with the purpose to abuse, humiliate, harass, or degrade the child or to arouse or gratify the person's own sexual response or desire or the sexual response or desire of any person.

¹² Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(5)(c) (Sexual abuse of children) defines "simulated" as "any depicting of the genitals or pubic or rectal area that gives the appearance of sexual conduct or incipient sexual conduct."

¹³ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(5)(a) (Sexual abuse of children) defines "electronic communication" as "a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted or created in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system."

entices, counsels, coerces, encourages, directs, or procures a child under 16 years of age or a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age to engage in sexual conduct, actual or simulated, or view sexually explicit material or acts for the purpose of inducing or persuading a child to participate in any sexual activity that is illegal;

....

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(a)–(c) (Sexual abuse of children) is punishable by life imprisonment or a term of imprisonment up to 100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(a). However, unless punished under Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release),¹⁴ a conviction for sexual abuse of children is punishable by life imprisonment or by imprisonment for 4–100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000 if the victim is under 16 years of age. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(b). Penalties are enhanced when the child is under 13 and the offender is 18 or older to imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended (“except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5)”), a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to enroll in a treatment program, and possible supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a), (b).¹⁵

Certain non-commercial sexual offenses may be applicable in cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of a child. These include the following:

1. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-503(1) (Sexual intercourse without consent) states in part, “A person who knowingly has sexual intercourse with another person without consent or with another person who is incapable of consent commits the offense of sexual intercourse without consent” A victim under age 16 is incapable of consent. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-501(1)(b)(iv) (Definitions). Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-503(3), (4),¹⁶

¹⁴ Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219(1) (Life sentence without possibility of release) states,

(a) Except as provided in subsection (3), if an offender convicted of one of the following offenses was previously convicted of one of the following offenses or of an offense under the laws of another state or of the United States that, if committed in this state, would be one of the following offenses, the offender must be sentenced to life in prison, unless the death penalty is applicable and imposed:

....

- (ii) 45-5-303, aggravated kidnapping;
- (iii) 45-5-625, sexual abuse of children;

....

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3), if an offender convicted of one of the following offenses was previously convicted of two of the following offenses, two of any combination of the offenses listed in subsection (1)(a) or the following offenses, or two of any offenses under the laws of another state or of the United States that, if committed in this state, would be one of the offenses listed in subsection (1)(a) or this subsection, the offender must be sentenced to life in prison, unless the death penalty is applicable and imposed:

....

- (iv) 45-5-302, kidnapping;

....

- (vi) 45-5-603(2)(b), aggravated promotion of prostitution of a child.

The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 147 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019).

¹⁵ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 155 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective October 1, 2019).

¹⁶ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-503 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 155 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective October 1, 2019).

- (3) (a) If the victim is less than 16 years old and the offender is 4 or more years older than the victim or if the offender inflicts bodily injury on anyone in the course of committing sexual intercourse without consent, the offender shall be punished by life imprisonment or by imprisonment in the state prison for a term of not less than 4 years or more than 100 years and may be fined not more than \$50,000, except as provided in 46-18-219 and 46-18-222.
- (b) If two or more persons are convicted of sexual intercourse without consent with the same victim in an incident in which each offender was present at the location where another offender's offense occurred during a time period in which each offender could have reasonably known of the other's offense, each offender shall be punished by life imprisonment or by imprisonment in the state prison for a term of not less than 5 years or more than 100 years and may be fined not more than \$50,000, except as provided in 46-18-219 and 46-18-222.
- (c) If the offender was previously convicted of an offense under this section or of an offense under the laws of another state or of the United States that if committed in this state would be an offense under this section and if the offender inflicted serious bodily injury on a person in the course of committing each offense, the offender shall be:
- (i) punished by death as provided in 46-18-301 through 46-18-310, unless the offender is less than 18 years of age at the time of the commission of the offense; or
- (ii) punished as provided in 46-18-219.
- (4) (a) If the victim was 12 years of age or younger and the offender in the course of committing a violation of this section was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense, the offender:
- (i) shall be punished by imprisonment in a state prison for a term of 100 years. The court may not suspend execution or defer imposition of the first 25 years of a sentence of imprisonment imposed under this subsection (4)(a)(i) except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5), and during the first 25 years of imprisonment, the offender is not eligible for parole. The exception provided in 46-18-222(6) does not apply.
- (ii) may be fined an amount not to exceed \$50,000; and
- (iii) shall be ordered to enroll in and successfully complete the educational phase and the cognitive and behavioral phase of a sexual offender treatment program provided or approved by the department of corrections.
- (b) If the offender is released after the mandatory minimum period of imprisonment, the offender is subject to supervision by the department of corrections for the remainder of the offender's life and shall participate in the program for continuous, satellite-based monitoring provided for in 46-23-1010.

If the victim is 14 years of age or older and the offender is under 19 years of age, penalties include up to 5 years imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$10,000 provided certain other conditions are met. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-503(5).

2. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(h), (i) (Sexual abuse of children) makes it a crime if a person

- (h) knowingly travels within, from, or to this state with the intention of meeting a child under 16 years of age or a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age in order to engage in sexual conduct, actual or simulated; or
- (i) knowingly coerces, entices, persuades, arranges for, or facilitates a child under 16 years of age or a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age to travel within, from, or to this state with the intention of engaging in sexual conduct, actual or simulated.

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(h), (i) is punishable by life imprisonment and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000 or a term of imprisonment up to 100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(a). However, unless punished under Mont. Code Ann. §

46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release),¹⁷ a conviction for sexual abuse of children is punishable by life imprisonment or by imprisonment for 4 –100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000 if the victim is under 16 years of age. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(b). Penalties are enhanced when the child is under 13 and the offender is 18 or older to imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended (“except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5)”), a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to enroll in a treatment program, and possible supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a), (b).

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

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(4)¹⁸ (Prostitution) acknowledges the intersection of prostitution with trafficking victimization by providing for an enhanced penalty for buyers when the person patronized is a victim of human trafficking. Further, Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-710 (Affirmative defense) establishes an affirmative defense for human trafficking victims to prostitution and related charges, and Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709 (Immunity of child—sex therapy participants) eliminates criminal liability for commercially sexually exploited children for prostitution.

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.

Montana has not enacted a racketeering statute. However, Montana’s criminal street gang law provides for enhanced sentences. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-8-404 (Additional sentence for criminal street gang-related activity) states,

- (1) (a) (Additional sentence for criminal street gang-related felony) states, “A person who is convicted of a felony that the person committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang for the purpose of promoting, furthering, or assisting any criminal conduct by criminal street gang members shall, in addition to the punishment provided for the commission of the underlying offense, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment in a state prison of not less than 1 year or more than 3 years, except as provided in 46-18-222.
(b) If the underlying felony described in subsection (1)(a) is committed on the grounds of, or within 1,000 feet of, a public school, as defined in 20-6-501, during hours when the facility is open for classes or school-related programs or when minors are using the facility, the additional term provided for in subsection (1) is 2 to 4 years.
- (2) The imposition or execution of the minimum sentences prescribed by this section may not be deferred or suspended, except as provided in 46-18-222.
- (3) An additional sentence prescribed by this section shall run consecutively to the sentence provided for the underlying offense.

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-8-405(2)(h) (Pattern of criminal street gang activity), “The offenses that form a pattern of criminal street gang activity include . . . aggravated promotion of prostitution, as defined in 45-5-603”

1.4.1 Recommendation: Enact a racketeering statute that includes the CSEC offenses of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601 (Prostitution), § 45-5-602 (Promoting prostitution), § 45-5-603

¹⁷ See *supra* note 14 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release).

¹⁸ See *supra* note 9.

(Aggravated promotion of prostitution), § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children), as well as trafficking offenses under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons), § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude), and § 45-5-705 (Patronizing victim of sexual servitude) as predicate crimes so it may be used to prosecute trafficking enterprises.

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 other electronic communication 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.*

Buyers of commercial sex with a child face prosecution and penalties under three provisions of the state human trafficking law. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-705(1)(b)¹⁹ (Patronizing victim of sexual servitude) applies directly to the conduct of buyers, stating, “[a] person commits the offense of patronizing a victim of sexual servitude if the person purposely or knowingly gives, agrees to give, or offers to give anything of value so that a person may engage in commercial sexual activity . . . with a child.”

Further, Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons) and § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude)²⁰ apply to buyers of sex with minors following federal precedent²¹ based on use of the term “obtains.” Rather than relying

¹⁹ See *supra* note 7.

²⁰ See section 1.1 for text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude).

²¹ 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

on federal precedent, however, Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 and § 45-5-704 should be amended to apply directly to the conduct of buyers in order to ensure all commercially sexually exploited youth are identified as victims under Montana’s core sex trafficking laws and have access to any protections and services that are specialized/limited to victims of these offenses.

2.1.1 Recommendation: Amend Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons) and § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude) to clarify that buyer conduct is included as a violation of sexual servitude.

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

A buyer of sex with a minor may be charged under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(2)(b)²² (Prostitution). If the victim is a minor and the offender is at least 18, a conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601 is punishable by imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended or deferred (“except as provided in 46-18-222”²³), and during which time the offender is not eligible for parole, is subject to a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000 and to an order to enroll in a treatment program, and may be subject to supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3).

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

Montana’s prostitution statute, Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601²⁴ (Prostitution), which includes the crime of soliciting prostitution, heightens the penalties for soliciting a minor under 18.²⁵ Buyers convicted of soliciting prostitution from an adult face a \$1,000 fine and one year imprisonment under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(2)(b), while buyers convicted of soliciting a child face 100 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$50,000 under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3).²⁶

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

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons) is punishable by imprisonment for up to 50 years and a fine of not more than \$100,000 if the victim is a minor. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702(2)(b). A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude) or § 45-5-705 (Patronizing victim of sexual servitude) carries a 25 year jail term and a fine of not more than \$75,000.²⁷ Mont. Code Ann. §§ 45-5-704(3)(b), 45-5-705(2)(b). A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3)(a) (Prostitution) is punishable by imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended or deferred (with certain exceptions provided in 46-18-222), and during which time the offender is not eligible for parole, is subject to a requirement to enroll in and complete a sex offender treatment program “provided or approved by the department of corrections,” and if released after serving the minimum sentence, is subject to supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3). A conviction under Mont. Code § 45-5-601(3)(a) also carries a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 45-5-601(3)(a)(ii).

trafficking laws (in particular the term “obtains”) to the extent such interpretation does not conflict with state case law.

²² See *supra* note 9.

²³ See *supra* note 10 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-222 (Exceptions to mandatory minimum sentences, restrictions on deferred imposition and suspended execution of sentence, and restrictions on parole eligibility).

²⁴ See *supra* note 9.

²⁵ See *supra* Component 1.2 for substantive provisions of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601.

²⁶ See Component 2.1 for further explanation of penalties for buyers of commercial sex acts with minors under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3) (Prostitution).

²⁷ See *supra* note 3 for penalty enhancement applicable when an aggravating circumstance is established.

In comparison, 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, if the victim is under the age of 14. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(b)(1), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). If the victim is between the ages of 14–17, a conviction is punishable by 10 years to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(b)(2), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). A conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment, however, if the buyer has a prior conviction for a federal sex offense²⁸ against a minor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(1). To the extent buyers can be prosecuted under other federal CSEC laws,²⁹ a conviction is punishable by penalties ranging from a fine of up to \$250,000 to life imprisonment plus a fine not to exceed \$250,000.³⁰

2.5 *Using the Internet or other electronic communication 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.*

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) states in part,

A person commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if the person:

....

(c) knowingly, by any means of communication, including electronic communication,³¹ persuades, entices, counsels, coerces, encourages, directs, or procures a child under 16 years of age or a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age to engage in sexual conduct,³² actual or simulated, or view sexually explicit material or acts for the purpose of inducing or persuading a child to participate in any sexual activity that is illegal;³³

....

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(c) is punishable by life imprisonment or a term of imprisonment up to 100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(a). However, unless punished under Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release),³⁴ a conviction for sexual abuse of children is punishable by life imprisonment or by imprisonment for 4 –100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$ 10,000 if the victim is under 16 years of age. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-

²⁸ Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(2), “federal sex offense” is defined as

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

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

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

³¹ *See supra* note 13 for the definition of “electronic communication.”

³² *See supra* note 11 for the definition of “sexual conduct.”

³³ *See supra* note 12 for the definition of “simulated.”

³⁴ *See supra* note 14 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release).

625(2)(b). Penalties are enhanced when the child is under 13 and the offender is 18 or older to imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended (“except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5)”), a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to enroll in a treatment program, and possible supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a), (b).³⁵

Although more limited in scope, buyers may also face penalties under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-504 (Indecent exposure) for using the Internet to lure, entice, or purchase commercial sex acts with a minor. Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-504,

(1) A person commits the offense of indecent exposure if the person knowingly or purposely exposes the person's genitals or intimate parts by any means, including electronic communication as defined in 45-5-625(5)(a), under circumstances in which the person knows the conduct is likely to cause affront or alarm in order to:

(a) abuse, humiliate, harass, or degrade another; or

(b) arouse or gratify the person's own sexual response or desire or the sexual response or desire of any person.

....

(3) (a) A person commits the offense of indecent exposure to a minor if the person commits an offense under subsection (1) and the person knows the conduct will be observed by a person who is under 16 years of age and the offender is more than 4 years older than the victim.

....

Indecent exposure is punishable by a minimum of 4 years imprisonment and a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, “unless the judge makes a written finding that there is good cause to impose a term of less than 4 years and imposes a term of less than 4 years, or more than 100 years, or both.”

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

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude) and § 45-5-705 (Patronizing victim of sexual servitude) expressly prohibit the use of a mistake of age as a defense to prosecution. Specifically, Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704(2) states in part, “It is not a defense in a prosecution under subsection (1)(b) [Sexual servitude involving a minor victim] . . . that the defendant believed the child was an adult” Similarly, Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-705(2)(b) imposes a heightened penalty “if the individual patronized was a child . . . whether or not the person believed the child was an adult”

Additionally, under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3)(a) (Prostitution), buyers are not allowed a mistake of age defense. This section is violated “[i]f the person patronized was a child and the patron was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense, whether or not the patron was aware of the child's age.” Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3)(a).

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-511(1) (Provisions generally applicable to sexual crimes) provides, “When criminality depends on the victim being less than 16 years old, it is a defense for the offender to prove that the offender reasonably believed the child to be above that age. The belief may not be considered reasonable if the child is less than 14 years old.” As the heading of this statute indicates, this defense likely only applies to offenses under Part 5 (Sexual crimes).

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

Montana’s buyer-applicable trafficking and CSEC laws do not stagger penalties based on a minor’s age and provide sufficiently high penalties. A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons) is

³⁵ See *supra* note 15.

punishable by imprisonment for up to 50 years, while a conviction under either Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude) or § 45-5-705 (Patronizing victim of sexual servitude) is punishable by imprisonment up to 25 years. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 45-5-702(2)(b), 45-5-704(3)(b), 45-5-705(2)(b).

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3)(a) (Prostitution) is punishable by imprisonment for up to 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended or deferred (“except as provided in 46-18-222”), if the victim was a child and the buyer was at least 18. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-601(3).

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.*

Convicted buyers face fines up to \$100,000, depending on the offense. If the victim is a minor, a conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons) is punishable by a possible fine not to exceed \$100,000, while a conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude) or § 45-5-705 (Patronizing victim of sexual servitude) is punishable by a possible fine not to exceed \$75,000. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 45-5-702(2)(b), 45-5-704(3)(b), 45-5-705(2)(b). A conviction under Mont. Code § 45-5-601(3)(a) (Prostitution) is punishable by a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 45-5-601(3)(a)(ii).

Buyers are subject to a mandatory order of restitution in any case that the victim suffers “an economic loss” pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-241(1) (Condition of restitution), which states,

As provided in 46-18-201,³⁶ a sentencing court shall, as part of the sentence, require an offender to make full restitution to any victim who has sustained pecuniary loss, including a person suffering an economic loss. The duty to pay full restitution under the sentence remains with the offender or the offender’s estate until full restitution is paid, whether or not the offender is under state supervision. If the offender is under state supervision, payment of restitution is a condition of any probation or parole.

If a buyer’s property was used or intended for use in violation of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702, § 45-5-704, or § 45-5-705, that property is subject to asset forfeiture under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-707(1) (Property subject to forfeiture – human trafficking), which provides,

-
- (b) Property is subject to criminal forfeiture under this section if it is used or intended for use in violation of 45-5-702, 45-5-703, 45-5-704, or 45-5-705.
 - (c) The following property is subject to criminal forfeiture under this section:

³⁶ Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-201(5) (Sentences that may be imposed) provides,

In addition to any other penalties imposed, if a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere and the sentencing judge finds that a victim, as defined in 46-18-243, has sustained a pecuniary loss, the sentencing judge shall, as part of the sentence, require payment of full restitution to the victim, as provided in 46-18-241 through 46-18-249, whether or not any part of the sentence is deferred or suspended.

Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-243(2)(a)(i) states,

- (2) (a) “Victim” means:
 - (i) a person who suffers loss of property, bodily injury, or death as a result of:
 - (A) the commission of an offense;
 -

Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-243(2)(b) further provides, “Victim does not include a person who is accountable for the crime or accountable for a crime arising from the same transaction.”

- (i) money, raw materials, products, equipment, and other property of any kind;
- (ii) property used or intended for use as a container for property enumerated in subsection (1)(c)(i);
- (iii) except as provided in subsection (2), a conveyance, including an aircraft, vehicle, or vessel;³⁷
- (iv) books, records, research products and materials, formulas, microfilm, tapes, and data;
- (v) anything of value furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for the provision of labor or services or commercial sexual activity and all proceeds traceable to the exchange;
- (vi) negotiable instruments, securities, and weapons; and
- (vii) personal property constituting or derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from the provision of labor or services or commercial sexual activity.

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

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) states,

A person commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if the person:

....

- (e) knowingly possesses any visual or print medium,³⁸ including a medium by use of electronic communication in which a child is engaged in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;

....

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(e) is punishable by imprisonment up to 10 years, a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or both. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(c). However, if the victim is under 13 and the offender is 18 or older, a conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(e) is punishable by imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended (“except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5)”), a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to enroll in a treatment program, and possible supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a), (b).³⁹

In comparison, a federal conviction for possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM)⁴⁰ is generally punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁴¹ Subsequent convictions, however, are punishable by imprisonment up to 40 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁴²

³⁷ Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-707(2), “A conveyance is not subject to criminal forfeiture under this section unless the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance knowingly used the conveyance or knowingly consented to its use for the purposes described in subsection (1)(b).”

³⁸ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(5)(d) defines “visual medium” as

- (i) any film, photograph, videotape, negative, slide, or photographic reproduction that contains or incorporates in any manner any film, photograph, videotape, negative, or slide; or
- (ii) any disk, diskette, or other physical media that allows an image to be displayed on a computer or other video screen and any image transmitted to a computer or other video screen by telephone line, cable, satellite transmission, or other method.

³⁹ See *supra* note 15.

⁴⁰ 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).

⁴¹ 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

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

Under the Sexual or Violent Offender Registration Act, Mont. Code Ann. § 46-23-504(1) (Persons required to register—procedure) states,

Except as provided in 41-5-1513 [Disposition—delinquent youth—restrictions], a sexual or violent offender:

- (a) shall register immediately upon conclusion of the sentencing hearing if the offender is not sentenced to confinement or is not sentenced to the department and placed in confinement by the department;
- (b) must be registered as provided in 46-23-503 [Release of sexual or violent offender from place of confinement--duties of official in charge] at least 10 days prior to release from confinement if sentenced to confinement or sentenced to the department and placed in confinement by the department;
- (c) shall register within 3 business days of entering a county of this state for the purpose of residing or setting up a temporary residence for 10 days or more or for an aggregate period exceeding 30 days in a calendar year; and
- (d) who is a transient shall register within 3 business days of entering a county of this state.

Mont. Code Ann. § 46-23-502(10) (Definitions) defines “sexual or violent offender” as “a person who has been convicted of or, in youth court, found to have committed or been adjudicated for a sexual or violent offense.” Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 46-23-502(9), “sexual offense” is defined as the following:

- (a) any violation of or attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a violation of . . . 45-5-502(3) [Sexual assault] (if the victim is less than 16 years of age and the offender is 3 or more years older than the victim), 45-5-503(1), (3), or (4) [Sexual intercourse without consent], . . . 45-5-504(3) [Indecent exposure] (if the victim is less than 16 years of age and the offender is 4 or more years older than the victim), . . . 45-5-601(3) [Prostitution], . . . 45-5-625 [(Sexual abuse of children), which includes possession of images of child sexual exploitation], 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude], or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude]; or
- (b) any violation of a law of another state, a tribal government, or the federal government that is reasonably equivalent to a violation listed in subsection (9)(a) or for which the offender was required to register as a sexual offender after an adjudication or conviction.

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).

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

Legal Components:

- 3.1 *Penalties for trafficking a child for sexual exploitation are as high as federal penalties.*
- 3.2 *Creating and distributing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) carries penalties as high as similar federal offenses.*
- 3.3 *Using the Internet or other electronic communication 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.*

Traffickers convicted under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons) face imprisonment up to 50 years, a fine not to exceed \$100,000, or both if the victim is a minor. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702(2)(b). A conviction of sexual servitude⁴³ under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude) carries a prison term of up to 25 years and a fine of \$75,000 when the victim is a minor. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704(3)(b).

If the victim is a minor under 18 and the buyer is at least 18 or older, a conviction under Mont. Code § 45-5-602 (Promoting prostitution) is punishable by imprisonment for 100 years, the first 25 of which cannot be suspended or eligible for parole, a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to complete a sexual offender treatment program, and may be subject to supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602(3).

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-603(1)(b) (Aggravated promotion of prostitution) is punishable by imprisonment for 100 years, the first 25 of which cannot be suspended or eligible for parole, a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to complete a sexual offender treatment program, and may be subject to supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-603(2)(b).

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) is generally punishable by life imprisonment or a term of imprisonment up to 100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(a). However, unless punished under Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release),⁴⁴ a conviction for sexual abuse of children is punishable by life imprisonment or by imprisonment for 4–100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000 if the victim is under 16 years of age. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(b). Penalties are enhanced when the child is under 13 and the offender is 18 or older to imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended (“except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5)”), a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to enroll in a treatment program, and possible supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a), (b).⁴⁵

⁴³ See *supra* Component 1.1 for a discussion of “Sexual servitude.”

⁴⁴ See *supra* note 14 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release).

⁴⁵ See *supra* note 15.

Traffickers may also face prosecution for money laundering pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(1), (2) (Money laundering), for receiving, acquiring or engaging in transactions involving the proceeds of any unlawful activity. A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(1) is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,500, up to 6 months imprisonment, or both. However, “if the money laundering is part of a common scheme or if the value of the proceeds or item of value exceeds \$1,500, the person shall be fined not to exceed \$50,000 or be imprisoned in the state prison for a term not to exceed 20 years, or both.” Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(2).

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 offense⁴⁶ 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.*

Creating and distributing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) is prohibited within the same statute as other forms of commercial sex abuse of a minor. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) states,

A person commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if the person:

(a) knowingly employs, uses, or permits the employment or use of a child in an exhibition of sexual conduct,⁴⁷ actual or simulated;⁴⁸

(b) knowingly photographs, films, videotapes, develops or duplicates the photographs, films, or videotapes, or records a child engaging in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;

....

(d) knowingly processes, develops, prints, publishes, transports, distributes, sells, exhibits, or advertises any visual or print medium, including a medium by use of electronic communication⁴⁹ in which a child is engaged in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;

....

(g) possesses with intent to sell any visual or print medium, including a medium by use of electronic communication in which a child is engaged in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;

....

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) is generally punishable by life imprisonment or a term of imprisonment up to 100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(a). However, unless punished under Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release),⁵⁰ a conviction for sexual abuse of children is punishable by life imprisonment or by imprisonment for 4–100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000 if the victim is under 16 years of age. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(b). Penalties are enhanced when the child is under 13 and the offender is 18 or older to imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended (“except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5)”), a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to enroll in a treatment program, and possible supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a), (b).⁵¹

⁴⁶ See *supra* note 28 for the definition of “federal sex offense.”

⁴⁷ See *supra* note 11 for the definition of “sexual conduct.”

⁴⁸ See *supra* note 12 for the definition of “simulated.”

⁴⁹ See *supra* note 13 for the definition of “electronic communication.”

⁵⁰ See *supra* note 14 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release).

⁵¹ See *supra* note 15.

In comparison, 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, if the victim is under the age of 14. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(b)(1), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). If the victim is between the ages of 14–17, a conviction is punishable by 10 years to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(b)(2), 3559(a)(1), 3571(b)(3). A conviction is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment, however, if the trafficker has a prior conviction for a federal sex offense⁵² against a minor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)(1). Additionally, a federal conviction for distribution of CSAM⁵³ is generally punishable by imprisonment for 5–20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁵⁴ Subsequent convictions, however, are punishable by imprisonment up to 40 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.⁵⁵

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

Use of the Internet to lure, entice, recruit, or purchase commercial sex acts with a minor is not a separate crime, but Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) provides,

A person commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if the person:

....

(c) knowingly, by any means of communication, including electronic communication, persuades, entices, counsels, coerces, encourages, directs, or procures a child under 16 years of age or a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age to engage in sexual conduct, actual or simulated, or view sexually explicit material or acts for the purpose of inducing or persuading a child to participate in any sexual activity that is illegal;

....

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(c) is punishable by life imprisonment or a term of imprisonment up to 100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(a). However, unless punished under Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release),⁵⁶ a conviction for sexual abuse of children is punishable by life imprisonment or by imprisonment for 4–100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000 if the victim is under 16 years of age. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(b). Penalties are enhanced when the child is under 13 and the offender is 18 or older to imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended (“except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5)”), a

⁵² See *supra* note 28 for the definition of “federal sex offense.”

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

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

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

⁵⁶ See *supra* note 14 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release).

possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to enroll in a treatment program, and possible supervision for the remainder of the offender's life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a), (b).⁵⁷

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

Traffickers convicted under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons) face financial penalties up to \$100,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702(2)(b). Under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude) convicted traffickers face a fine of up to \$75,000 when the victim is a minor. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704(3)(b). Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602 (Promoting prostitution) or § 45-5-603(1)(b) (Aggravated promotion of prostitution) face a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 45-5-602(3)(a)(ii), 45-5-603(2)(b)(i)(B).

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) is generally punishable by a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000, but if the child is under 16, then the offense is punishable by a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(a), (b). A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625 when the victim was 12 or younger is punishable by a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a)(ii).

Mandatory restitution must be ordered where the victim suffers "an economic loss," pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-241(1) (Condition of restitution), which states,

As provided in 46-18-201,⁵⁸ a sentencing court shall, as part of the sentence, require an offender to make full restitution to any victim who has sustained pecuniary loss, including a person suffering an economic loss. The duty to pay full restitution under the sentence remains with the offender or the offender's estate until full restitution is paid, whether or not the offender is under state supervision. If the offender is under state supervision, payment of restitution is a condition of any probation or parole.

If convicted of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(1) (Money laundering), a trafficker faces a fine not to exceed \$1,500, unless "the money laundering is part of a common scheme or if the value of the proceeds or item of value exceeds \$1,500," in which case the fine is not to exceed \$50,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(2). In addition, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(3)(a), the court shall order a convicted trafficker to forfeit

- (i) money, including digital currency, and raw materials, products, equipment of any kind, and any other personal property involved in the money laundering;
- (ii) personal property constituting or derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from the money laundering; and
- (iii) real property, including any right, title, and interest in any lot or tract of land and any appurtenances or improvements, that is directly used or intended to be used in any manner to commit or facilitate the commission of, or that is derived from or maintained by the proceeds resulting from, the money laundering.

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(3)(b), "The sheriff of the county where forfeited property is located shall sell the property at auction. The proceeds of the sale must be deposited in the state general fund."

Traffickers also face asset forfeiture when convicted of human trafficking offenses, including Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons), § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude), and § 45-5-705 (Patronizing victim of sexual servitude). Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-707(1) (Property subject to forfeiture – human trafficking),

⁵⁷ See *supra* note 15.

⁵⁸ See *supra* note 36 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-201 (Sentences that may be imposed).

....

- (b) Property is subject to criminal forfeiture under this section if it is used or intended for use in violation of 45-5-702, 45-5-703, 45-5-704, or 45-5-705.
- (c) The following property is subject to criminal forfeiture under this section:
 - (i) money, raw materials, products, equipment, and other property of any kind;
 - (ii) property used or intended for use as a container for property enumerated in subsection (1)(c)(i);
 - (iii) except as provided in subsection (2), a conveyance, including an aircraft, vehicle, or vessel;⁵⁹
 - (iv) books, records, research products and materials, formulas, microfilm, tapes, and data;
 - (v) anything of value furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for the provision of labor or services or commercial sexual activity and all proceeds traceable to the exchange;
 - (vi) negotiable instruments, securities, and weapons; and
 - (vii) personal property constituting or derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from the provision of labor or services or commercial sexual activity.

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

Under the Sexual or Violent Offender Registration Act, Mont. Code Ann. § 46-23-504(1) (Persons required to register—procedure) requires that a sex offender,

Except as provided in 41-5-1513 [Disposition—delinquent youth—restrictions], a sexual or violent offender:

- (a) shall register immediately upon conclusion of the sentencing hearing if the offender is not sentenced to confinement or is not sentenced to the department and placed in confinement by the department;
- (b) must be registered as provided in 46-23-503 [Release of sexual or violent offender from place of confinement--duties of official in charge] at least 10 days prior to release from confinement if sentenced to confinement or sentenced to the department and placed in confinement by the department;
- (c) shall register within 3 business days of entering a county of this state for the purpose of residing or setting up a temporary residence for 10 days or more or for an aggregate period exceeding 30 days in a calendar year; and
- (d) who is a transient shall register within 3 business days of entering a county of this state.

Mont. Code Ann. § 46-23-502(10) (Definitions) defines “sexual or violent offender” as “a person who has been convicted of or, in youth court, found to have committed or been adjudicated for a sexual or violent offense.” Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 46-23-502(9),⁶⁰ “sexual offense” is defined as the following:

- (a) any violation of or attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a violation of 45-5-301 [Unlawful restraint] (if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is not a parent of the victim), 45-5-302 [Kidnapping] (if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is not a parent of the victim), 45-5-303 [Aggravated kidnapping] (if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is not a parent of the victim), 45-5-502(3) [Sexual assault] (if the victim is less than 16 years of age and the offender is 3 or more years older than the victim), 45-5-503(1), (3), or (4) [Sexual intercourse without consent], . . . 45-5-601(3) [Prostitution if the prostitute was a child and the patron was 18 years

⁵⁹ Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-707(2), “A conveyance is not subject to criminal forfeiture under this section unless the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance knowingly used the conveyance or knowingly consented to its use for the purposes described in subsection (1)(b).”

The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-23-502 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 147 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019).

of age or older], 45-5-602(3) [Promoting prostitution], 45-5-603(1)(b) or (2)(b) or (2)(c) [Aggravated promotion of prostitution], 45-5-625 [Sexual abuse of children (including creating or distributing images of child sexual exploitation)], 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude], . . . or
(b) any violation of a law of another state, a tribal government, or the federal government that is reasonably equivalent to a violation listed in subsection (9)(a) or for which the offender was required to register as a sexual offender after an adjudication or conviction.

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.*

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-609(1) (Criteria for termination),

The court may order a termination of the parent-child legal relationship upon a finding established by clear and convincing evidence, except as provided in the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, if applicable, that any of the following circumstances exist:

. . . .

(c) the parent is convicted of a felony in which sexual intercourse occurred or is a minor adjudicated a delinquent youth because of an act that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony in which sexual intercourse occurred and, as a result of the sexual intercourse, the child is born;

(d) the parent has subjected a child to any of the circumstances listed in 41-3-423(2)(a) [Reasonable efforts required to prevent removal of child or to return -- exemption -- findings -- permanency plan] through (2)(e);

. . . .

The grounds provided pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-423(2)(a) include when a parent has “subjected a child to aggravated circumstances, including but not limited to abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, or sexual abuse or chronic, severe neglect of a child.”

Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(28)(a)⁶¹ (Definitions) states, “‘Sexual abuse’ means the commission of sexual assault, sexual intercourse without consent, aggravated sexual intercourse without consent, indecent exposure, deviate sexual conduct, sexual abuse, ritual abuse, or incest, as described in Title 45, chapter 5.” Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(7)(a), (b)(i),

(a) “Child abuse or neglect” means:

- (i) actual physical or psychological harm to a child;
- (ii) substantial risk of physical or psychological harm to a child; or
- (iii) abandonment.

(b) (i) The term includes:

(A) actual physical or psychological harm to a child or substantial risk of physical or psychological harm to a child by the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the child’s welfare;

. . . .

(C) any form of child sex trafficking or human trafficking.

Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(21)(a) states,

⁶¹ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bills 640, 502, and 549 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 1, 2019, October 1, 2019, and October 1, 2019, respectively).

“Physical or psychological harm to a child” means the harm that occurs whenever the parent or other person responsible for the child’s welfare:

- (i) inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical abuse, physical neglect, or psychological abuse or neglect;
- (ii) commits or allows sexual abuse or exploitation of the child;
-

Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(29) defines “sexual exploitation” as

- (a) allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in a prostitution offense, as described in 45-5-601 through 45-5-603 [Prostitution, Promoting prostitution, Aggravated promotion of prostitution];
- (b) allowing, permitting, or encouraging sexual abuse of children as described in 45-5-625; or
- (c) allowing, permitting, or encouraging sexual servitude as described in 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude] or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude].

Additionally, if a child sex trafficking victim has a child as a result of sexual intercourse without consent, the offender forfeits and terminates all parental rights. Mont. Code § 45-5-503(8) (Sexual intercourse without consent) states,

If as a result of sexual intercourse without consent a child is born, the offender who has been convicted of an offense under this section, and who is the biological parent of the child resulting from the sexual intercourse without consent, forfeits all parental and custodial rights to the child if the provisions of 46-1-401 have been followed.

Parenting plans may be altered and subject to court ordered mediation when trafficking occurs. However, termination of parental rights is not specifically listed in these provisions. Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 40-4-219(1), (8)(a) (Amendment of parenting plan—mediation),

The court may in its discretion amend a prior parenting plan if it finds, upon the basis of facts that have arisen since the prior plan or that were unknown to the court at the time of entry of the prior plan, that a change has occurred in the circumstances of the child and that the amendment is necessary to service the best interest of the child. In determining the child’s best interest under this section, the court may, in addition to the criteria in 40-4-212 [Best interest of the child], also consider whether . . . a parent or other person residing in that parent’s household has been convicted of any of the crimes listed in subsection 8(b)

Mont. Code Ann. § 40-4-219(8)(b) includes the following crimes:

-
- (iii) sexual assault, as described in 45-5-502,
- (iv) sexual intercourse without consent, as described in 45-5-503,
-
- (vii) aggravated promotion of prostitution of a child, as described in 45-5-603(1)(b);
- (viii) endangering the welfare of children, as described in 45-5-622,
-
- (x) sexual abuse of children, as described in 45-5-625
-

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.*

The state sex trafficking law includes financially benefitting from domestic minor sex trafficking as prohibited conduct under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702(1)⁶² (Trafficking of persons) which provides,

A person commits the offense of trafficking of persons if the person purposely or knowingly:

....

(b) benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from facilitating any conduct described in subsection (1)(a) or from participation in a venture that has subjected another person to involuntary servitude or sexual servitude.

Trafficking of persons is punishable by up to 50 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$100,000 when the victim is a child. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702(2)(b).⁶³

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602 (Promoting prostitution) is also applicable to facilitators who participate in transporting minors or provide premises for domestic minor sex trafficking. If the victim is a minor and the offender is at least 18 or older, a conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602 is punishable by imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended, a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to complete a sexual offender treatment program, and may be subject to supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602(3).

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-603(1)(b)–(c) (Aggravated promotion of prostitution) may also be applicable to facilitation. Subsections (b)–(c) state,

A person commits the offense of aggravated promotion of prostitution if the person purposely or knowingly commits any of the following acts:

....

(b) promotes prostitution of a child, whether or not the person is aware of the child’s age;
 (c) promotes the prostitution of one’s spouse, child, ward, or any person for whose care, protection, or support the person is responsible.

⁶² See *supra* note 2.

⁶³ See *supra* note 3.

As discussed above, promotion of prostitution includes the keeping a house of prostitution, procuring an individual for prostitution, transporting an individual with the purpose to promote that individual's engaging prostitution, leases or permits a place to be used for prostitution. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602(1)(a) (g).

A facilitator may also face charges under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(i) (Sexual abuse of children), assuming it encompasses transporting a child to engage in sexual conduct with a third party.⁶⁴ A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(i) is punishable by life imprisonment or a term of imprisonment up to 100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(a). However, unless punished under Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release),⁶⁵ a conviction for sexual abuse of children is punishable by life imprisonment or by imprisonment for 4–100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$ 10,000 if the victim is under 16 years of age. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(b). Penalties are enhanced when the child is under 13 and the offender is 18 or older to imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended (“except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5)”), a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to enroll in a treatment program, and possible supervision for the remainder of the offender's life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a), (b).⁶⁶

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(1), (2) (Money laundering),

- (1) A person commits the offense of money laundering if the person knowingly:
 - (a) receives or acquires the proceeds of, or engages in transactions involving proceeds of, any activity that is unlawful under the laws of the United States or the state in which the activity occurred;
 - (b) gives, sells, transfers, trades, invests, conceals, transports, or otherwise makes available anything of value that the person knows is intended to be used for the purpose of committing or furthering the commission of any activity that is unlawful under the laws of the United States or the state in which the committing or furthering of the commission of the activity occurs;
 - (c) directs, plans, organizes, initiates, finances, manages, supervises, or facilitates the transportation or transfer of proceeds that the person knows are derived from any activity that is unlawful under the laws of the United States or the state in which the activity occurred; or
 - (d) conducts a financial transaction involving proceeds that the person knows are derived from any activity that is unlawful under the laws of the United States or the state in which the activity occurred when the transaction is designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the proceeds or to avoid a transaction reporting requirement under federal law.
- (2) A person convicted of money laundering shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$1,500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both. If the money laundering is part of a common scheme or if the value of the proceeds or item of value exceeds \$1,500, the person shall be fined not to exceed \$50,000 or be imprisoned in the state prison for a term not to exceed 20 years, or both.

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

Facilitators convicted under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons) face fines up to \$100,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702(2)(b). A facilitator convicted under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602(1)(g) (Promoting prostitution) faces a fine of up to \$50,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-602(3)(a)(ii).

⁶⁴ See *supra* Component 1.2 for the relevant text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1)(i) (Sexual abuse of children).

⁶⁵ See *supra* note 14 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release).

⁶⁶ See *supra* note 15.

Restitution must be ordered by the court in any case that the victim suffers “an economic loss,” pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-241(1) (Condition of restitution), which states,

As provided in 46-18-201,⁶⁷ a sentencing court shall, as part of the sentence, require an offender to make full restitution to any victim who has sustained pecuniary loss, including a person suffering an economic loss. The duty to pay full restitution under the sentence remains with the offender or the offender’s estate until full restitution is paid, whether or not the offender is under state supervision. If the offender is under state supervision, payment of restitution is a condition of any probation or parole.

Convicted facilitators face asset forfeiture for human trafficking offenses. If a facilitator’s property was used or intended for use in violation of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons), § 45-5-704 (Sexual servitude), or § 45-5-705 (Patronizing victim of sexual servitude), that property is subject to asset forfeiture under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-707(1) (Property subject to forfeiture – human trafficking), which provides,

-
- (b) Property is subject to criminal forfeiture under this section if it is used or intended for use in violation of 45-5-702, 45-5-703, 45-5-704, or 45-5-705.
 - (c) The following property is subject to criminal forfeiture under this section:
 - (i) money, raw materials, products, equipment, and other property of any kind;
 - (ii) property used or intended for use as a container for property enumerated in subsection (1)(c)(i);
 - (iii) except as provided in subsection (2), a conveyance, including an aircraft, vehicle, or vessel;⁶⁸
 - (iv) books, records, research products and materials, formulas, microfilm, tapes, and data;
 - (v) anything of value furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for the provision of labor or services or commercial sexual activity and all proceeds traceable to the exchange;
 - (vi) negotiable instruments, securities, and weapons; and
 - (vii) personal property constituting or derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from the provision of labor or services or commercial sexual activity.

Forfeiture may also be available to the extent that trafficker is found guilty of money laundering under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(1) (Money laundering).⁶⁹ If convicted, a facilitator faces a fine not to exceed \$1,500, unless “the money laundering is part of a common scheme or if the value of the proceeds or item of value exceeds \$1,500,” in which case the fine is not to exceed \$50,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(2). In addition, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(3)(a), the court shall order a convicted trafficker to forfeit

- (i) money, including digital currency, and raw materials, products, equipment of any kind, and any other personal property involved in the money laundering;
- (ii) personal property constituting or derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from the money laundering; and
- (iii) real property, including any right, title, and interest in any lot or tract of land and any appurtenances or improvements, that is directly used or intended to be used in any manner to commit or facilitate the commission of, or that is derived from or maintained by the proceeds resulting from, the money laundering.

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(3)(b), “The sheriff of the county where forfeited property is located shall sell the property at auction. The proceeds of the sale must be deposited in the state general fund.”

⁶⁷ See *supra* note 36 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-201 (Sentences that may be imposed).

⁶⁸ See *supra* note 37.

⁶⁹ See *supra* Component 3.4 for the relevant provisions of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-6-341(1) (Money laundering).

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

Montana has no specific provision expressly prohibiting the promotion or sale of child sex tourism.

- 4.3.1 Recommendation: Enact a law that prohibits selling or offering to sell travel services that include or facilitate travel in or outside of Montana for the purpose of engaging in commercial sexual exploitation of a minor under the age of 18.

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

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) states,

A person commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if the person:

....

(d) knowingly processes, develops, prints, publishes, transports, distributes, sells, exhibits, or advertises any visual or print medium, including a medium by use of electronic communication in which a child is engaged in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;

....

(f) finances any of the activities described in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d) and (1)(g), knowing that the activity is of the nature described in those subsections;

(g) possesses with intent to sell any visual or print medium, including a medium by use of electronic communication in which a child is engaged in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;

....

A conviction under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) is generally punishable by life imprisonment or a term of imprisonment up to 100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(a). However, unless punished under Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release),⁷⁰ a conviction for sexual abuse of children is punishable by life imprisonment or by imprisonment for 4–100 years and a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000 if the victim is under 16 years of age. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(2)(b). Penalties are enhanced when the child is under 13 and the offender is 18 or older to imprisonment for 100 years, 25 years of which cannot be suspended (“except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5)”), a possible fine not to exceed \$50,000, an order to enroll in a treatment program, and possible supervision for the remainder of the offender’s life. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(4)(a), (b).⁷¹

⁷⁰ See *supra* note 14 for the substantive provision of Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-219 (Life sentence without possibility of release).

⁷¹ See *supra* note 15.

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.⁷²*

Montana’s human trafficking offense includes all commercial sexual exploitation of minors. Under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons), when the victim is a minor, means of force, fraud, or coercion are not required.⁷³ In addition, the human trafficking law applies to buyers; thus, buying commercial sex with a person who is under the age of eighteen constitutes human trafficking.⁷⁴ Finally, in establishing the crime of sex trafficking, third party control is not required. Consequently, Montana’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.

- 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.*

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704(2) (Sexual servitude) expressly prohibits a defense to prosecution based on the minor’s willingness to engage in the commercial sex act. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-704(2) states, “It is not a defense in a prosecution under subsection (1)(b) that the child consented to engage in commercial sexual activity or that the defendant believed the child was an adult.”

⁷² See generally Shared Hope International, “Eliminating the Third Party Control Barrier to Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims,” JuST Response Policy Paper (2015), http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Policy-Paper_Eliminating-Third-Party-Control_Final1.pdf (discussing need to include all commercially sexually exploited children within sex trafficking definitions and corresponding need to include buyer conduct in core sex trafficking offenses regardless of whether victim is under control of a third party).

⁷³ See *supra* Component 1.1.

⁷⁴ See *supra* Component 2.1.

Further, Mont. Code Ann. § 45-2-211(2)⁷⁵ (Consent as defense) states,

Consent is ineffective if:

....

(e) for offenses under 45-5-502 [Sexual assault], 45-5-503 [Sexual intercourse without consent], . . . 45-5-601 [Prostitution], 45-5-602 [Promoting prostitution], 45-5-603 [Aggravated promotion of prostitution], or Title 45, chapter 5, part 7 [Human Trafficking], it is given by a person who the offender knew or reasonably should have known was a victim of human trafficking, as defined in 45-5-701 [Definitions], or was subjected to force, fraud, or coercion, either of which caused the person to be in the situation where the offense occurred.

5.3 *State law prohibits the criminalization of minors under 18 for prostitution offenses.*⁷⁶

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709⁷⁷ (Immunity of child—sex therapy participants) prohibits the criminalization of minors for prostitution. Further, a minor who has been identified as a trafficking victim will also be protected from criminalization for promoting prostitution and non-violent offenses. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709 states,

(1) A person is not criminally liable or subject to proceedings under Title 41, chapter 5 [Youth Court Act], for prostitution, promoting prostitution, or other nonviolent offenses if the person was a child at the time of the offense and committed the offense as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking.

(2) A person who has engaged in commercial sexual activity is not criminally liable or subject to proceedings under Title 41, chapter 5 [Youth Court Act], for prostitution if the person was a child at the time of the offense.

(3) A child who under subsection (1) or (2) is not subject to criminal liability or proceedings under Title 41, chapter 5 [Youth Court Act], is presumed to be a youth in need of care under Title 41, chapter 3 [Child Abuse and Neglect], and is entitled to specialized services and care, which may include access to protective shelter, food, clothing, medical care, counseling, and crisis intervention services, if appropriate.⁷⁸

....

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 Montana law, a juvenile sex trafficking victim will likely be identified as a youth in need of care, rather than as delinquent or as a youth in need of intervention; further, services are required to be specialized to the needs of these children.

⁷⁵ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-2-211 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 147 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019).

⁷⁶ For more information regarding recent federal legislation impacting this component see:

<http://go.sharedhope.org/stateimpactmemo>.

⁷⁷ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 147 and House Bill 549 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019 and October 1, 2019, respectively).

⁷⁸ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709(4) further provides that “[s]ubsections (1) through (3) do not apply in a prosecution under 45-5-601 [Prostitution] or a proceeding under Title 41, chapter 5 [Youth Court Act], for patronizing a prostitute.”

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709(3)⁷⁹ (Immunity of child—sex therapy participants), “[a] child who under subsection (1) or (2) is not subject to criminal liability or proceedings under Title 41, chapter 5, is presumed to be a youth in need of care under Title 41, chapter 3, and is entitled to specialized services and care, which may include access to protective shelter, food, clothing, medical care, counseling, and crisis intervention services, if appropriate.”

Under subsections (1) and (2), juvenile sex trafficking victims are not criminally liable for prostitution, promoting prostitution, or non-violent acts related to their victimization. Specifically, Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709(1), (2) states,

(1) A person is not criminally liable or subject to proceedings under Title 41, chapter 5, for prostitution, promoting prostitution, or other nonviolent offenses if the person was a child at the time of the offense and committed the offense as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking.

(2) A person who has engaged in commercial sexual activity is not criminally liable or subject to proceedings under Title 41, chapter 5, for prostitution if the person was a child at the time of the offense.

To the extent that a juvenile sex trafficking victim is charged with an offense that does not fall under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709(1) or (2), however, the child faces possible adjudication under Montana’s Youth Court Act⁸⁰ as a “youth in need of intervention” or as a “delinquent youth.”⁸¹

Summary

Juvenile sex trafficking victims are presumed to be youth in need of care and may avoid delinquency adjudications for prostitution, promoting prostitution, and non-violent offenses related to their victimization. Further, Montana law mandates the provision of specialized services and care.

⁷⁹ See *supra* note 77.

⁸⁰ Mont. Code Ann. §§ 41-5-101– 2510.

⁸¹ Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 41-5-103 (Definitions),

....
(12) “Delinquent youth” means a youth who is adjudicated under formal proceedings under the Montana Youth Court Act as a youth:

- (a) who has committed an offense that, if committed by an adult, would constitute a criminal offense; or
- (b) who has been placed on probation as a delinquent youth and who has violated any condition of probation; or
- (c) who has violated the terms and conditions of the youth’s conditional release agreement.

....
(52) “Youth in need of intervention” means a youth who is adjudicated as a youth and who”
(a) commits an offense prohibited by law that if committed by an adult would not constitute a criminal
(b) has committed any of the acts of a delinquent youth but whom the youth court, in its discretion, chooses to regard as a youth in need of intervention.

See *infra* note 94.

5.5 *Child sex trafficking is identified as a type of abuse and neglect within child protection statutes.*⁸²

Child sex trafficking is identified as a type of abuse within Montana’s child protection statutes; further, the definition of “child abuse and neglect” includes victims of certain CSEC offenses based on the definition of “sexual exploitation.” Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(7)(a) (Definitions) defines “child abuse or neglect” as

- (i) actual physical or psychological harm to a child;
- (ii) substantial risk of physical or psychological harm to a child; or
- (iii) abandonment.

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(7)(b)(i)(C),⁸³ “child abuse and neglect” includes “any form of child sex trafficking or human trafficking.”

Further, Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(21)(a) defines “physical or psychological harm to a child” as

[H]arm that occurs whenever the parent or other person responsible for the child’s welfare:

- (i) inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical abuse, physical neglect, or psychological abuse or neglect;
- (ii) commits or allows sexual abuse or exploitation of the child;
-
- (v) exposes or allows the child to be exposed to an unreasonable risk to the child’s health or welfare by failing to intervene or eliminate the risk; or;
-

In turn, Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(29) defines “sexual exploitation” as

- (a) allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in a prostitution offense, as described in 45-5-601 [Prostitution] through 45-5-603 [Aggravated promotion of prostitution];
- (b) allowing, permitting, or encouraging sexual abuse of children as described in 45-5-625 [Sexual abuse of children]; or
- (c) allowing, permitting, or encouraging sexual servitude as described in 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude] or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude].

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 “a person responsible for a child’s welfare” is not a barrier to a sex trafficked child accessing the protection of child welfare. Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(2)(a) (Definitions) defines “a person responsible for a child’s welfare” to include “an adult who resides in the same home in which the child resides.” Although this definition is too narrow to apply to an exploiter who is not a family member or household member, the definition of “child abuse and neglect”⁸⁴ does not require there to be a relationship between the child and exploiter in trafficking cases. Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102(7)(b)(i)(C).⁸⁵

Further, the definition of “person responsible for a child’s welfare” does not appear to limit child welfare’s authority to intervene on behalf of a juvenile sex trafficking victim because Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709(3)⁸⁶

⁸² For more information regarding recent federal legislation impacting this component see:

<http://go.sharedhope.org/stateimpactmemo>.

⁸³ See *supra* note 61.

⁸⁴ See *supra* Component 5.5 for definition of “child abuse and neglect.”

⁸⁵ See *supra* note 61.

⁸⁶ See *supra* note 77.

(Immunity of child—sex therapy participants) provides that “[a] child who under subsection (1)⁸⁷ or (2)⁸⁸ is not subject to criminal liability or proceedings under Title 41, chapter 5 [Youth Court Act], is presumed to be a youth in need of care under Title 41, chapter 3, and is entitled to specialized services and care, which may include access to protective shelter, food, clothing, medical care, counseling, and crisis intervention services, if appropriate.”

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

Mont. Code Ann. § 44-4-1502 (Eligibility for benefit or service) identifies victims of human trafficking as victims for purposes of accessing crime victims’ compensation and provides a specific exemption to ineligibility factors for juvenile sex trafficking victims, stating, “A child who has engaged in commercial sexual activity is eligible for a benefit or service available through the state, including compensation under Title 53, chapter 9, part 1, regardless of immigration status or factors described in 53-9-125 [Mont. Code Ann. § 53-9-125 (Limitations on awards)].”

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

There are victim-friendly criminal justice procedures provided in the court system process in Montana. In addition to Montana’s rape shield law under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-511 (Provisions generally applicable to sexual crimes),⁸⁹ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-708 (Past sexual behavior of victim) provides,

In a prosecution for an offense under 45-5-702 [Trafficking of persons], 45-5-703 [Involuntary servitude], 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude], or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude] or a civil action under 27-1-755 [Civil action—human trafficking victim], evidence concerning a specific instance of the victim’s past sexual behavior or reputation or opinion evidence of the victim’s past sexual behavior is inadmissible unless the evidence is admitted in accordance with 45-5-511(2)⁹⁰ or offered by the prosecution to prove a pattern of human trafficking by the defendant.

⁸⁷ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709(1) states, “A person is not criminally liable or subject to proceedings under Title 41, chapter 5 [Youth Court Act], for prostitution, promoting prostitution, or other nonviolent offenses if the person was a child at the time of the offense and committed the offense as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking.”

⁸⁸ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-709(2) states, “A person who has engaged in commercial sexual activity is not criminally liable or subject to proceedings under Title 41, chapter 5 [Youth Court Act], for prostitution if the person was a child at the time of the offense.”

⁸⁹ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-511(2)–(5) (Provisions generally applicable to sexual crimes) provides,

(2) Evidence concerning the sexual conduct of the victim is inadmissible in prosecutions under this part except evidence of the victim’s past sexual conduct with the offender or evidence of specific instances of the victim’s sexual activity to show the origin of semen, pregnancy, or disease that is at issue in the prosecution.

(3) If the defendant proposes for any purpose to offer evidence described in subsection (2), the trial judge shall order a hearing out of the presence of the jury to determine whether the proposed evidence is admissible under subsection (2).

(4) Evidence of failure to make a timely complaint or immediate outcry does not raise any presumption as to the credibility of the victim.

(5) Resistance by the victim is not required to show lack of consent. Force, fear, or threat is sufficient alone to show lack of consent.

⁹⁰ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-511(2) (Provisions generally applicable to sexual crimes) provides, “Evidence concerning the sexual conduct of the victim is inadmissible in prosecutions under this part except evidence of the victim’s past sexual conduct with the offender or evidence of specific instances of the victim’s sexual activity to show the origin of semen, pregnancy, or disease that is at issue in the prosecution.”

There are also rules of evidence in cases involving sexual offenses—including Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-603 (Aggravated promotion of prostitution) and § 45-5-625 (Sexual abuse of children)—which are victim-friendly. Mont. Code Ann. § 46-16-226 (Definitions). Under Mont. Code Ann. § 46-16-220 (Child hearsay exception—criminal proceedings), a court may allow the out-of-court statement of a child under 15 who is “an alleged victim of a sexual offense⁹¹ or other crime of violence” and “unavailable as a witness” in certain circumstances if the requirements of the statute are met. Mont. Code Ann. § 46-16-220(1), (4). Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 46-16-229(1), (2) (Order for two-way electronic audio-video communication testimony—finding by court—procedure for conducting testimony),

(1) The court shall order that the testimony of a child witness be taken by two-way electronic audio-video communication if, after considering the factors set forth in 46-16-228(3) [Hearing—procedure—evidence that may be received—protection for child witness],⁹² the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the child witness is unable to testify in open court in the presence of the defendant for any of the following reasons:

- (a) the child witness is unable to testify because of fear caused by the presence of the defendant;
- (b) the child witness would suffer substantial emotional trauma from testifying in the presence of the defendant; or
- (c) conduct by the defendant or the defendant's attorney causes the child witness to be unable to continue testifying.

(2) If the court orders that the child witness's testimony be taken by two-way electronic audio-video communication, the testimony must be taken outside the courtroom in a suitable location designated by the judge. Examination and cross-examination of the child witness must proceed as though the child witness were testifying in the courtroom

Mont. Code Ann. § 44-5-311 (Nondisclosure of information about victim) states,

(1) If a victim of an offense requests confidentiality, a criminal justice agency may not disseminate, except to another criminal justice agency, the address, telephone number, or place of employment of the victim or a member of the victim's family unless disclosure is of the location of the crime scene, is required by law, is necessary for law enforcement purposes, or is authorized by a district court upon a showing of good cause.

(2) The court may not compel a victim or a member of the victim's family who testifies in a criminal justice proceeding to disclose on the record in open court a residence address or place of employment unless the court determines that disclosure of the information is necessary.

⁹¹ Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 46-16-226(2) (Definitions) “‘Sexual offense’ means any violation of or attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a violation of 45-5-502 [Sexual assault], 45-5-503 [Sexual intercourse without consent], 45-5-504 [Indecent exposure], 45-5-507 [Incest], 45-5-603 [Aggravated promotion of prostitution], or 45-5-625 [Sexual abuse of children].”

⁹² Mont. Code Ann. § 46-16-228(3) states,

In ruling on the motion, the court shall consider the following factors:

- (a) the age and maturity of the child witness;
- (b) the possible effect that testifying in person might have on the child witness;
- (c) the extent of the trauma that the child witness has already suffered;
- (d) the nature of the testimony to be given by the child witness;
- (e) the nature of the offense;
- (f) threats made to the child witness or the child witness's family in order to prevent or dissuade the child witness from attending or giving testimony at any trial or court proceeding;
- (g) conduct on the part of the defendant or the defendant's attorney that causes the child witness to be unable to continue the child witness's testimony; and
- (h) any other matter that the court considers relevant.

(3) A criminal justice agency may not disseminate to the public any information directly or indirectly identifying the victim of an offense committed under . . . 45-5-702 [Trafficking of persons], . . . 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude], or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude] unless disclosure is of the location of the crime scene, is required by law, is necessary for law enforcement purposes, or is authorized by a district court upon a showing of good cause.

Further, Mont. Code Ann. § 40-15-102⁹³ (Eligibility for order of protection) allows victims of human trafficking as defined in Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-701 (Definitions) and of sexual abuse of children as defined in Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625 (Sexual abuse of children) to file a petition for an order of protection regardless of the child's relationship to the perpetrator. Lastly, Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-255(3) (Sentence upon conviction -- restriction on employment and residency) states, "If requested by a victim of a sexual offense committed by the defendant, or if requested by an immediate family member of the victim, the judge sentencing a person convicted of a sexual offense shall, as a condition to probation, parole, or deferment or suspension of sentence, impose on the defendant a restriction prohibiting the defendant from directly or indirectly contacting the victim or the immediate family member of the victim. If the victim is a minor, a parent or guardian of the victim may make the request on the victim's behalf."

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.*

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

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 41-5-216(1), (3) (Disposition of youth court, law enforcement, and department records—sharing and access to records), juvenile records may only be sealed after a minor turns 18 and destroyed 10 years after being sealed. Specifically, Mont. Code Ann. § 41-5-216 states,

(1) Formal and informal youth court records, law enforcement records, and department records that are not exempt from sealing under subsections (4) and (6) and that pertain to a youth covered by this chapter must be physically sealed on the youth's 18th birthday. In those cases in which jurisdiction of the court or any agency is extended beyond the youth's 18th birthday, the records must be physically sealed upon termination of the extended jurisdiction.

....

(3) Except as provided in subsection (6), this section does not prohibit the destruction of records with the consent of the youth court judge or county attorney after 10 years from the date of sealing.

....

(5) After formal and informal youth court records, law enforcement records, and department records are sealed, they are not open to inspection except, upon order of the youth court, for good cause to:

(a) those persons and agencies listed in 41-5-215(2) [Youth court and department records—notification of school]; and

(b) adult probation and parole staff preparing a presentence report on an adult with an existing sealed youth court record.

....

(7) (a) Informal youth court records for a youth for whom formal proceedings have been filed must be physically sealed on the youth's 18th birthday or, in those cases in which jurisdiction of the court or any agency is extended beyond the youth's 18th birthday, upon termination of the extended jurisdiction and may be inspected only pursuant to subsection (5).

(b) The informal youth court records are confidential and may be shared only with those persons and agencies listed in 41-5-215(2).

⁹³ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 40-15-102 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 114 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 2, 2019).

(c) Except as provided in subsection (7)(a), when a youth becomes 18 years of age or when extended supervision ends and the youth was involved only in informal proceedings, informal youth court records that are in hard-copy form must be destroyed and any electronic records in the youth court management information system must disassociate the offense and disposition information from the name of the youth and may be used only for the following purposes:

- (i) for research and program evaluation authorized by the office of the court administrator and subject to any applicable laws; and
- (ii) as provided in Title 5, chapter 13.

....

Because Mont. Code Ann. § 41-5-216 mandates a waiting period to both seal and destroy records and allows records to be unsealed at any time for good cause, a child sex trafficking victim may face collateral consequences associated with having an accessible juvenile record.

Regarding vacatur, Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-608 (Motion to vacate conviction—human trafficking victims) states,

(1) On the motion of a person, a court may vacate a person’s conviction of prostitution, promoting prostitution, or another nonviolent offense if the court finds that the person’s participation in the offense was a direct result of having been a victim of human trafficking or of sex trafficking under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. 7103 through 7112.

(2) The motion must:

- (a) be made within a reasonable time after the person ceased to be involved in human trafficking or sought services for human trafficking victims . . .

....

(3) No official determination or documentation is required to grant a motion by a person under this section, but official documentation from a local government or a state or federal agency of the person’s status as a victim of human trafficking creates a rebuttable presumption that the person’s participation in the offense was a direct result of having been a victim of human trafficking.

....

However, Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-608(1) applies specifically to “convictions.” Mont. Code Ann. § 41-5-103(10), (12)⁹⁴ (Definitions) distinguishes between “criminally convicted youth” who have been convicted in a district court for select offenses and “delinquent youth” who have been adjudicated in the youth court. Because the terms “conviction” and “adjudication” have different meanings, delinquency adjudications will not be eligible for vacatur.

Upon vacatur, “all records and data relating to the conviction are confidential criminal justice information, as defined in 44-5-103 [Definitions], and public access to the information may be obtained only by district court order upon good cause shown.” Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-608(4)(b). However, these records are not expunged, making separate proceedings necessary to obtain both vacatur and expungement.

- 5.9.1 Recommendation: Amend Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-608 (Motion to vacate prostitution conviction—trafficking victims) to allow child sex trafficking victims to vacate delinquency adjudications and expunge related records for prostitution and other offenses arising from trafficking victimization, without a waiting period.

⁹⁴ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 41-5-103 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 111 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective July 1, 2019).

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.*

Restitution is mandatory in a case where the victim suffers “an economic loss,” pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-241(1) (Condition of restitution), which states,

As provided in 46-18-201,⁹⁵ a sentencing court shall, as part of the sentence, require an offender to make full restitution to any victim⁹⁶ who has sustained pecuniary loss, including a person suffering an economic loss. The duty to pay full restitution under the sentence remains with the offender or the offender’s estate until full restitution is paid, whether or not the offender is under state supervision. If the offender is under state supervision, payment of restitution is a condition of any probation or parole.

Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-249 (Civil actions by victim) provides,

(1) The total amount that a court orders to be paid to a victim may be treated as a civil judgment against the offender and may be collected by the victim at any time, including after state supervision of the offender ends, using any method allowed by law, including execution upon a judgment, for the collection of a civil judgment. However, 46-18-241 through 46-18-248 and this section do not limit or impair the right of a victim to sue and recover damages from the offender in a separate civil action.

(2) The findings in the sentencing hearing and the fact that restitution was required or paid are not admissible as evidence in a separate civil action and have no legal effect on the merits of a separate civil action.

(3) Any restitution paid by the offender to the victim under a restitution order contained in a criminal sentence, including an amount or amounts paid in a civil proceeding to enforce payment of a restitution order contained in a criminal sentence, must be set off against any pecuniary loss awarded to the victim in a separate civil action arising out of the facts or events that were the basis for the restitution. The court trying the separate civil action shall determine the amount of any setoff asserted by the defendant under this section.

In addition, Mont. Code Ann. § 27-1-104 (Bases for civil actions) states, “A civil action arises out of: (1) an obligation; [or] (2) an injury.”⁹⁷ Mont. Code Ann. § 27-1-202 (Right to compensatory damages) states, “Every person who suffers detriment⁹⁸ from the unlawful act or omission of another may recover from the person in fault a compensation therefor [sic] in money, which is called damages.”

Mont. Code Ann. § 27-1-755(1) (Civil action—human trafficking victim) allows victims to bring a civil claim⁹⁹ “for compensatory damages, punitive damages, injunctive relief, and any other appropriate relief”

⁹⁵ See *supra* note 36.

⁹⁶ Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-243(2)(a)(i) states,

(2) (a) “Victim” means:

(i) a person who suffers loss of property, bodily injury, or death as a result of:

(A) the commission of an offense

Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-243(2)(b) further provides, “Victim does not include a person who is accountable for the crime or accountable for a crime arising from the same transaction.”

⁹⁷ Mont. Code Ann. § 27-1-106(1)(a) (Injury defined) defines “injury” as “to the person.”

⁹⁸ Mont. Code Ann. § 27-1-201 defines “detriment” as “a loss or harm suffered in person or property.”

⁹⁹ Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 27-1-755 (Civil action—human trafficking victim),

. . . .

(2) If a victim prevails in an action under this section, the court shall award the victim reasonable attorney fees and costs.

against “a person who commits an offense against the victim under 45-5-702 [Trafficking of persons], 45-5-703 [Involuntary servitude], 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude], or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude].”

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.

Montana law eliminates the criminal statutes of limitations, and extends the civil statutes of limitations, for actions related to sexual servitude and CSEC. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-1-205¹⁰⁰ (General time limitations) establishes the statutes of limitations in prosecutions as follows:

- (1)
 - (c) A prosecution for an offense under 45-5-502 [Sexual assault], 45-5-503 [Sexual intercourse without consent], 45-5-504 [Indecent exposure], 45-5-507 [Incest], 45-5-508 [Aggravated sexual intercourse without consent], 45-5-602 [Promoting prostitution], 45-5-603 [Aggravated promotion of prostitution], 45-5-625 [Sexual abuse of children], 45-5-627 [Ritual abuse of minor], 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude], or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude] may be commenced at any time if the victim was less than 18 years of age at the time that the offense occurred.
-
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (7)(b) or as otherwise provided by law, prosecutions for other offenses are subject to the following periods of limitation:
 - (a) A prosecution for a felony must be commenced within 5 years after it is committed.
 - (b) A prosecution for a misdemeanor must be commenced within 1 year after it is committed
-

Statutes of limitations for civil actions brought by human trafficking victims are specifically lengthened under Mont. Code Ann. § 27-1-755(3) (Civil Action—human trafficking victim), which provides,

- An action under this section must be commenced not later than 10 years after the later of:
- (a) the date on which the victim no longer was subject to human trafficking; or
 - (b) the date on which the victim reached 18 years of age.

Statutes of limitations for related civil actions are extended under Mont. Code Ann. § 27-2-216¹⁰¹ (Tort actions—childhood sexual abuse), which provides,

-
-
 - (4) This section does not preclude any other remedy available to the victim under federal or state law.
 - (5) For the purposes of this section, the term “human trafficking” has the meaning provided in section 1 [Definitions].

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-701(5), “‘Human trafficking’ means the commission of an offense under 45-5-702 [Trafficking of persons], 45-5-703 [Involuntary servitude], 45-5-704 [Sexual servitude], or 45-5-705 [Patronizing victim of sexual servitude].”

¹⁰⁰ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-1-205 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 640 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019).

¹⁰¹ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 27-2-216 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 640 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective May 7, 2019).

(1) Except as provided in subsection (4), an action based on intentional conduct brought by a person for recovery of damages for injury suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse against the individual who committed the acts must be commenced:

(a) before the victim of the act of childhood sexual abuse that is alleged to have caused the injury reaches 27 years of age; or

(b) not later than 3 years after the plaintiff discovers or reasonably should have discovered that the injury was caused by the act of childhood sexual abuse.

(2) As used in this section, “childhood sexual abuse” means any act committed against a plaintiff who was less than 18 years of age at the time the act occurred and that would have been a violation of 45-5-502 [Sexual assault], 45-5-503 [Sexual intercourse without consent], 45-5-504 [Indecent Exposure], 45-5-507 [Incest], 45-5-508 [Aggravated sexual intercourse without consent], 45-5-602 [Promoting prostitution], 45-5-603 [Aggravated promotion of prostitution], 45-5-625 [Sexual abuse of children], or prior similar laws in effect at the time the act occurred.

....

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 27-2-204(1) (Tort actions—general and personal injury), the “commencement of an action upon a liability not founded upon an instrument in writing is within 3 years.” Statute of limitations can be tolled under Mont. Code Ann. § 27-2-401(1), if the person bringing the action “is, at the time the cause of action accrues, either a minor or has been committed pursuant to 53-21-127 [Post trial disposition], the time of the disability is not part of the time limit for commencing the action. However, the time limit cannot be extended more than 5 years by the disability of commitment.”

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.*

Legal Analysis:

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

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 44-10-201 (Department of justice to govern academy), “[t]he Montana law enforcement academy shall be governed by the department of justice” and pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 44-10-202 (Powers and duties of department), the department of justice shall

- (1) establish qualifications for admission to the academy;
- (2) select from among qualified applicants those officers and other individuals who are to attend the academy each year;
- (3) determine the curriculum and methods of training for officers and other individuals attending the academy;
- (4) select and hire staff as it considers necessary to implement this chapter;
- (5) establish rules for the conduct of officers and other individuals enrolled at the academy;
- (6) award appropriate certificates to officers and other individuals who successfully complete their training;
- (7) provide for the keeping of permanent records of enrollment, attendance, and graduation and other records as the department considers necessary;
- (8) make a yearly report in writing of the activities of the academy. Copies of this report shall be sent to the governor, attorney general, and secretary of state.
- (9) do all other things necessary and desirable for the establishment and operation of the academy not inconsistent with this chapter or the constitution and statutes of the state of Montana;
- (10) accept and expend grants from federal, state, county, and city governments or private persons, associations, or corporations.

Mont. Code Ann. § 44-4-1504 (Human trafficking education account) establishes a “human trafficking education account in the state special revenue fund for the purposes of preventing and detecting human trafficking. Money in this account may be expended by the department of justice to . . . educate . . . law enforcement on how to prevent and detect human trafficking in this state.”

Further, Mont. Code Ann. § 20-7-1316(3) (Child sex trafficking prevention) encourages the office of public instruction to “coordinat[e] educational and prevention efforts with law enforcement, the department of public health and human services, and local organizations that work to prevent child sex trafficking”

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

Mont. Code Ann. § 45-8-213¹⁰² (Privacy in communications) states,

(1) Except as provided in 69-6-104 [Control of telephone communications to and from a person holding hostages—nonliability of telephone company officials], a person commits the offense of violating privacy in communications if the person knowingly or purposely:

....

(c) records or causes to be recorded a conversation by use of a hidden electronic or mechanical device that reproduces a human conversation without the knowledge of all parties to the conversation

(2) (a) Subsection (1)(c) does not apply to:

(i) elected or appointed public officials or to public employees when the transcription or recording is done in the performance of official duty;

....

....

(3) Except as provided in 69-6-104, a person commits the offense of violating privacy in communications if the person purposely intercepts an electronic communication.¹⁰³ This subsection does not apply to elected or appointed public officials or to public employees when the interception is done in the performance of official duty or to persons given warning of the interception.

....

Consequently, law enforcement would not be prohibited from utilizing listening devices in the course of performing official duties in relation to sex trafficking and CSEC investigations.

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

Wiretapping is an available tool to investigate sex trafficking and CSEC offenses. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-8-213¹⁰⁴ (Privacy in communications) states,

(1) Except as provided in 69-6-104 [Control of telephone communications to and from a person holding hostages—nonliability of telephone company officials], a person commits the offense of violating privacy in communications if the person knowingly or purposely:

....

(c) records or causes to be recorded a conversation by use of a hidden electronic or mechanical device that reproduces a human conversation without the knowledge of all parties to the conversation

(2) (a) Subsection (1)(c) does not apply to:

(i) elected or appointed public officials or to public employees when the transcription or recording is done in the performance of official duty;

....

....

(3) Except as provided in 69-6-104 [Control of telephone communications to and from a person holding hostages—nonliability of telephone company officials], a person commits the offense of violating

¹⁰² The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-8-213 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 192 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective October 1, 2019).

¹⁰³ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-8-213(6)(a) (Privacy in communications) defines “electronic communication” as “any transfer between persons of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system.”

¹⁰⁴ See *supra* note 102.

privacy in communications if the person purposely intercepts an electronic communication.¹⁰⁵ This subsection does not apply to elected or appointed public officials or to public employees when the interception is done in the performance of official duty or to persons given warning of the interception.
.....

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.*

Montana’s human trafficking offenses, including Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-702 (Trafficking of persons), do not prohibit a defense as to the use of a law enforcement decoy posing as a minor to investigate the buying or selling of sex acts with a child. However, the buyer-applicable CSEC offense of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children) likely prohibits the defense. Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) states,

A person commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if the person:

.....

(c) knowingly, by any means of communication, including electronic communication, persuades, entices, counsels, coerces, encourages, directs, or procures a child under 16 years of age or a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age to engage in sexual conduct, actual or simulated, or view sexually explicit material or acts for the purpose of inducing or persuading a child to participate in any sexual activity that is illegal;

.....

(i) knowingly coerces, entices, persuades, arranges for, or facilitates a child under 16 years of age or a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age to travel within, from, or to this state with the intention of engaging in sexual conduct, actual or simulated.

The language “a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age” indicates that a buyer is prohibited from raising the defense if the “child” is actually a law enforcement decoy. Therefore, the defense is unavailable for charges brought under this offense, including those brought through against buyers through reverse sting operations, which are the most likely situations in which a defendant would try to use such a defense.

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

Law enforcement may use the Internet or electronic communications to investigate buyers and traffickers under Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-625(1) (Sexual abuse of children), which states,

A person commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if the person:

.....

(c) knowingly, by any means of communication, including electronic communication, persuades, entices, counsels, coerces, encourages, directs, or procures a child under 16 years of age or a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age to engage in sexual conduct, actual or simulated, or view sexually explicit material or acts for the purpose of inducing or persuading a child to participate in any sexual activity that is illegal;

.....

The language “a person the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age” indicates that a law enforcement officer may use the Internet in investigations.

¹⁰⁵ Mont. Code Ann. § 45-8-213(6)(a) (Privacy in communications) defines “electronic communication” as “any transfer between persons of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system.”

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

Under Montana’s Missing Children Act of 1985, Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-503 (Missing children information program) states,

- (1) The department of justice shall establish a missing children¹⁰⁶ information program to create a central repository to aid in the location of missing children in Montana.
- (2) The missing children information program shall:
 - (a) establish a system of intrastate communication of information relating to any child determined to be missing by the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child or by a law enforcement authority;
 - (b) provide a centralized file for the exchange of information on missing children within the state, including information obtained under the provisions of 44-2-401;
 - (c) interface with the national crime information center computer system for exchange of information on children suspected of interstate travel; and
 - (d) provide the superintendent of public instruction each month with a list of missing Montana school children for the purposes of 44-2-506.

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-505¹⁰⁷ (Duties of law enforcement authority),

Whenever a parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child files a report with a law enforcement authority that the child is missing, the law enforcement authority shall within 2 hours of the report:

- (1) inform all on-duty law enforcement officers of the existence of the missing child report;¹⁰⁸
- (2) communicate the report to all other law enforcement authorities having jurisdiction in the county;
- (3) enter the missing child report into the national crime information center computer system; and
- (4) if the missing child is enrolled in a Montana public school district, request the child’s directory photograph from the superintendent of public instruction . . . If a directory photograph is available, it must be included with the missing child report.

Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-506¹⁰⁹ (List of missing Montana school children) mandates

- (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall assist the missing children information program provided for in 44-2-503 [Missing children information program] in identifying and locating missing children who are enrolled in Montana public school districts in kindergarten through grade 12 by:
 - (a) collecting each month a list of missing Montana school children as provided by the missing children information program provided for in 44-2-503;

¹⁰⁶ Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-502(1)(a) (Definitions) defines “missing child” as “any person who has been reported as missing to a law enforcement authority and: (i) who is under 21 years of age; (ii) whose temporary or permanent residence is in Montana or is believed to be in Montana; and (iii) whose location has not been determined.”

The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-502 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 54 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective October 1, 2019).

¹⁰⁷ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-502 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 20 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective July 1, 2019).

¹⁰⁸ Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-502(1)(b) (Definitions) defines “missing child report” as “a report prepared on a form designed by the department of justice for use by private citizens and law enforcement authorities to report information about missing children to the missing children information program provided for in 44-2-503.”

¹⁰⁹ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-506 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of Senate Bill 20 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective July 1, 2019).

- (b) distributing the list of missing school children on a monthly basis, unless the list has no change from the previous month's information, to all school districts admitting children to kindergarten through grade 12;
 - (c) designing the list to include pertinent available information for identification of the missing school child, including a directory photograph of the child if available . . . ; and
 - (d) notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency and the missing children information program as soon as any additional information is obtained or contact is made with respect to a missing school child.
- (2) Each school district in Montana shall:
- (a) distribute to each school building within the district the list of missing school children provided for in subsection (1); and
 - (b) notify the appropriate law enforcement agency at the earliest known contact with any child whose name appears on the list of missing school children.

When a missing child is located, Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-504(3)¹¹⁰ (Reports to missing children information program) states that the “parent, guardian, or legal custodian responsible for notifying the missing children information program or a law enforcement authority of a missing child shall immediately notify the authority and the program if the child’s location has been determined.”

Mont. Code Ann. § 46-4-307 (Sexual abuse of children—report to national center for missing and exploited children) states

A peace officer who, pursuant to a criminal investigation, recovers images or movies of a child in an exhibition of sexual conduct, actual or simulated, or images or movies of a child engaging in sexual conduct, actual or simulated, shall:

- (1) provide the images or movies to the law enforcement contact at the child victim identification program at the national center for missing and exploited children;
- (2) request the law enforcement contact at the child victim identification program to identify any images or movies recovered that contain an identified victim of child sexual abuse as defined by 45-5-625; and
- (3) provide case information to the child victim identification program in any case in which the peace officer identifies a previously unidentified victim of child sexual abuse.

¹¹⁰ The text of Mont. Code Ann. § 44-2-504 cited here and elsewhere in this report includes amendments made by the enactment of House Bill 54 during the 2019 Regular Session of the Montana Legislature (effective October 1, 2019).

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