Idaho’s human trafficking law includes the sex trafficking of minors without regard to force, fraud, or coercion; however, the human trafficking law is only violated if the offender engages in human trafficking while committing another specified crime, including certain commercial sexual exploitation of a child (CSEC) offenses. CSEC crimes include: “inducing person under eighteen years of age into prostitution,” “utilizing a person under eighteen years of age for prostitution,” and “sexual exploitation of a child.” The prostitution law does not refer to the human trafficking law to acknowledge the intersection of prostitution with trafficking victimization. Idaho’s racketeering law includes human trafficking and several CSEC offenses in the definition of racketeering activity.

**Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking**

The human trafficking law applies to buyers who induce a minor to perform a commercial sex act in violation of state prostitution and sexual offense laws. Buyers may also be prosecuted for the CSEC offense of “utilizing a person under eighteen years of age for prostitution.” “Human trafficking” is punishable by up to 25 years imprisonment, while “utilizing a person under eighteen years of age for prostitution” is punishable by up to life imprisonment and a $50,000 fine. The general solicitation law does not distinguish buying sex from a minor versus an adult. Buyers may also be prosecuted for enticing children under 16 through the Internet or other communication device to engage in a sexual act. Idaho’s buyer-applicable trafficking and CSEC offenses are silent on mistake of age. Buyers convicted of trafficking face mandatory victim restitution, but not asset forfeiture. Possessing images of child sexual exploitation (ICSE) carries penalties comparable to those for similar federal offenses. Buyers convicted of sex trafficking, CSEC, and ICSE offenses are required to register as sex offenders.

**Criminal Provisions for Demand**

The human trafficking law applies to buyers who induce a minor to perform a commercial sex act in violation of state prostitution and sexual offense laws. Buyers may also be prosecuted for the CSEC offense of “utilizing a person under eighteen years of age for prostitution.” “Human trafficking” is punishable by up to 25 years imprisonment, while “utilizing a person under eighteen years of age for prostitution” is punishable by up to life imprisonment and a $50,000 fine. The general solicitation law does not distinguish buying sex from a minor versus an adult. Buyers may also be prosecuted for enticing children under 16 through the Internet or other communication device to engage in a sexual act. Idaho’s buyer-applicable trafficking and CSEC offenses are silent on mistake of age. Buyers convicted of trafficking face mandatory victim restitution, but not asset forfeiture. Possessing images of child sexual exploitation (ICSE) carries penalties comparable to those for similar federal offenses. Buyers convicted of sex trafficking, CSEC, and ICSE offenses are required to register as sex offenders.
Criminal Provisions for Facilitators

“Human trafficking” does not include the crime of benefitting from or assisting and aiding human trafficking, and none of the CSEC laws apply to facilitators, though facilitators may face prosecution under prostitution-related laws that are not specific to the prostitution of children. Promoting or selling ICSE is punishable under “sexual exploitation of a child” as a felony by up to 30 years imprisonment and a fine up to $50,000. Facilitators could also be subject to money laundering, criminal gang, and racketeering laws leading to additional penalties and will be subject to asset forfeiture if convicted under racketeering laws, or if the facilitator’s property is deemed a moral nuisance. No laws in Idaho address sex tourism.

Protective Provisions for the Child Victims

All commercially sexually exploited children are defined as juvenile sex trafficking victims. However, victims of sex trafficking and CSEC are not fully protected as victims under Idaho’s laws. The human trafficking and CSEC laws do not prohibit a defense based on a minor’s willingness to engage in a commercial sex act. Prosecution offenses apply to minors under 18, meaning juvenile sex trafficking victims face criminalization for commercial sex acts committed as a result of their victimization. Further, Idaho law does not provide juvenile sex trafficking victims with a statutory avenue to specialized services. However, a victim could receive a protective response through child welfare, as the definition of “abuse” includes “human trafficking” and the commercial sexual exploitation of a child through prostitution and ICSE regardless of the child’s relationship to the perpetrator of the abuse. Crime victims’ compensation is available for victims of CSEC offenses; however, being considered an accomplice to the crime, not fully cooperating with law enforcement, and not reporting the crime and filing a claim for compensation within specified time limits could prevent CSEC victims from receiving compensation. Victim-friendly criminal justice procedures are also limited. While child witnesses are permitted to give testimony via an alternative method preventing interaction with the perpetrator at trial, Idaho’s “rape shield” law only applies in criminal cases of rape, leaving testifying CSEC victims unprotected from the trauma of cross-examination at trials of their traffickers. Idaho law does not provide a mechanism for minors to vacate delinquency adjudications related to trafficking victimization, and juvenile records may only be expunged after a waiting period. Criminal restitution is mandatory for victims of human trafficking and may be awarded to victims of other crimes; however, civil remedies are only available to victims of “sexual exploitation of a child” or “racketeering.” Prosecutions for human trafficking and CSEC offenses must be brought within six years of the crime. For civil actions for childhood sexual abuse, including sexual exploitation of a child, a five year statute of limitations does not begin until the earlier of the victim turning 18, or the time the victim “reasonably should have discovered” the exploitation. Civil remedies for racketeering must be brought within three years of the crime, except that the statute of limitations will toll for six years past a minor victim’s 18th birthday.

Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution

Idaho law encourages, but does not require, law enforcement to receive training on human trafficking. State law permits single party consent to audiotaping. Wiretapping is allowed in investigations for any crime that is dangerous to “life, limb or property” and that may be punished by imprisonment for more than one year, which includes CSEC and human trafficking offenses (but not the predicate offense of patronizing prostitution for buyers). While the sex trafficking and CSEC statutes do not prohibit a defense based on the use of a law enforcement decoy posing as a minor in an investigation for the buying or selling of sex with a child, the defense is prohibited under the Internet enticement statute. Using the Internet or electronic communications is an available investigative technique. Idaho has established a statewide reporting and response system, which requires reporting of missing and recovered missing children.