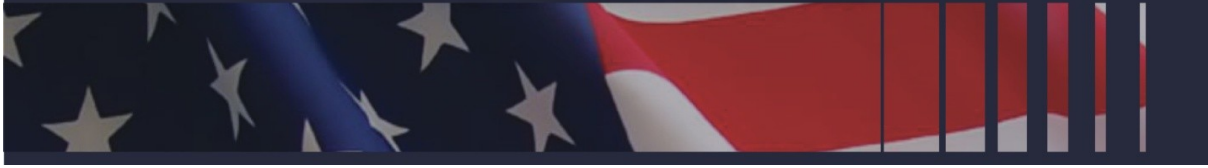


PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.



Florida State Facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. Florida has several sex trafficking laws. Force, fraud or coercion is a required element of trafficking even when the victim is a minor, except if the trafficker is a parent or guardian or the exploitation is through pornography or sexual performance.
2. Data collected by the Department of Children and Families since instituting a human trafficking maltreatment code for Florida hotline operators indicate that from May 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, 156 trafficking incidents were reported. 22 verified trafficking cases resulted from these reports, most of which occurred in Broward, Hillsborough, Lee, and Miami-Dade counties.¹

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

3. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi was one of 51 Attorneys General who signed a letter to Backpage.com calling on the company to disclose its efforts to identify and delete advertisements that facilitate sex trafficking, specifically of minors.²
4. Operation Blue Shepherd by the Pensacola police netted 25 men in one week for soliciting sex acts with children ages 12-14 in July 2011. The buyers are charged with several state commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) crimes, including attempted lewd and lascivious acts on a minor 12–16 years old and using the Internet to solicit a minor.³

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

5. Paul Aaron, a Haines City school bus monitor, was charged with sex trafficking under the state law in July 2011 for forcing minors into prostitution in his home and local clubs. Haines City police officer Demetrius Condry also faces charges he used his position as an officer to intimidate the victims and receive sexual favors “on the house.”⁴

¹ Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, Florida Strategic Plan on Human Trafficking (October 2010), pg. 39. http://www.cahr.fsu.edu/sub_category/floridastrategicplanonhumantrafficking.pdf.

² <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/cases/backpage/backpageletter.pdf>

³ <http://www.examiner.com/sex-trafficking-in-national/child-sex-trafficking-florida-25-arrested-for-seeking-sex-acts-with-minors>

⁴ <http://www.cfnews13.com/article/news/2011/july/279070/Deputies-arrest-police-officer-bus-attendant-for-sexcrimes?cid=rss>

6. In May 2011, four girls ages 14-17 were rescued in Ft. Lauderdale after being held against their will, forced to dance nude and prostitute in their captor's home. Three people were charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking under the state law. Twelve other men were found in the home at the time of the rescue.⁵

Protective Provisions for Child Victims

7. Despite their status as victims under the state sex trafficking laws, commercially sexually exploited children may be identified as delinquents for prostitution related offenses that may prevent them from receiving treatment consistent with their status.
8. Since 2004, the FBI, with help from the Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, has recovered 147 children in Miami, Tampa and Jacksonville as part of the national Innocence Lost Initiative.⁶

⁵ <http://www.examiner.com/sex-trafficking-in-national/ft-lauderdale-is-hot-spot-for-arrests-convictions-of-sex-trafficking-of-minors>

⁶ http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/19/2124399_p3/a-walk-on-the-seamy-side-to-help.html