

SEX TRAFFICKING IN WISCONSIN

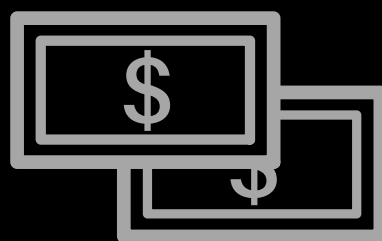
SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL, A GROUP THAT WORKS TO ERADICATE SEX TRAFFICKING, ANNUALLY SCORES STATES ON THEIR EFFORTS AND LEGAL PROVISIONS BASED ON SIX CATEGORIES: CRIMINALIZATION OF DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING, CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR DEMAND, CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR TRAFFICKERS, CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR FACILITATORS, PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS FOR THE CHILD VICTIMS, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE TOOLS FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION. HERE IS HOW, AND WHY, WISCONSIN SCORED IN 2018:



Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

7.5/10

"Trafficking of a child" is a distinct crime in Wisconsin, making the exploitation of a minor in a commercial sex act a felony offense regardless of if the child was coerced. However, the prostitution statute **does not** refer to the trafficking of a child statute to **acknowledge the intersection of prostitution with trafficking victimization.**



Criminal Provisions for Demand

25/25

A "mistake of age" defense is prohibited within Wisconsin's Criminal Code. A convicted buyer is subject to mandatory restitution to the victim. Possessing images of child sexual exploitation carries penalties comparable to those for similar federal offenses. Buyers convicted of "trafficking of a child" or any of the buyer-applicable offenses are required to register as sex offenders.



Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

15/15

"Trafficking of a child" is punishable by up to 40 years imprisonment and a fine up to \$100,000, penalties comparable to those for similar federal offenses. Parental rights may be terminated if a trafficker has been convicted of sex trafficking any minor.



Criminal Provisions for Facilitators

7.5/10

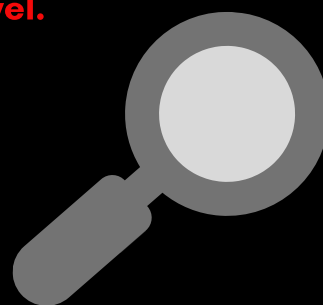
"Trafficking of a child" includes the crime of assisting, enabling or financially benefiting from the trafficking. However, **no laws make sex tourism a crime in Wisconsin, leaving the state vulnerable to businesses using commercial sex acts to sell travel.**



Protective Provisions for the Child Victims

18/27

State law **does not prohibit** a defendant from raising a **defense based on the willingness of the minor to engage in the commercial sex act.** In addition, prostitution law applies to minors under 18, meaning juvenile sex trafficking victims may face criminalization for commercial sex acts committed as a result of their victimization. Criminal proceedings must begin before the victim reaches 45 years of age, and criminal actions for "child enticement" must be brought before the victim reaches 26 years of age.



Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution

14/15

Wisconsin law **does not mandate** or authorize training or development of **training materials for law enforcement** on human trafficking or domestic minor sex trafficking. Wisconsin has established a statewide reporting and response system for missing children, but does not require reporting of located missing children.

WISCONSIN SCORES A TOTAL OF 87, OR A GRADE OF "B." IN 2018, ONLY NINE STATES RECEIVED "A" GRADES, WITH THE MAJORITY (24 STATES) RECEIVING "B" GRADES.