

Overview of Vermont's Prostitution and Human Trafficking Laws

The majority of Vermont's laws on prostitution were adopted more than 100 years ago and have remained largely unchanged since that time.

Under current Vermont law, the term "prostitution" includes "the offering or receiving of the body for sexual intercourse for hire and shall also be construed to include the offering or receiving of the body for indiscriminate sexual intercourse without hire."

Subchapter 2 of Chapter 59 of Title 13 (Prostitution) can be found here:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/13/059>

Prostitution (13 V.S.A. § 2632)

A person shall not:

- (1) occupy a place, structure, building, or conveyance for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness, or assignation;
- (2) knowingly permit a place, structure, building, or conveyance owned by the person or under the person's control to be used for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness, or assignation;
- (3) receive or offer, or agree to receive, a person into a place, structure, building, or conveyance for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness, or assignation;
- (4) permit a person to remain in a place, structure, building, or conveyance for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness, or assignation;
- (5) direct, take or transport, or offer or agree to take or transport a person to a place, structure, building, or conveyance or to any other person knowingly, or with reasonable cause to know that the purpose of such directing, taking, or transporting is prostitution, lewdness, or assignation;
- (6) procure or solicit or offer to procure or solicit a person for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness, or assignation;
- (7) reside in, enter or remain in a place, structure, or building or enter or remain in a conveyance for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness, or assignation;
- (8) engage in prostitution, lewdness, or assignation; or
- (9) aid or abet prostitution, lewdness, or assignation, by any means whatsoever.

Penalties

1st offense is a one-year misdemeanor, fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.

2nd or subsequent offense is a three-year felony.

Slave traffic (13 V.S.A. § 2635)

A person shall not:

(1) induce, entice, or procure a person to come into the State or to go from the State for the purpose of prostitution or for any immoral purpose or to enter a house of prostitution in the State;

(2) willfully or knowingly aid such person in obtaining transportation to or within the State for such purposes;

(3) place a person in the charge or custody of another person for immoral purposes or in a house of prostitution;

(4) induce, entice, procure, or compel such person to reside in a house of prostitution;
or

(5) induce, entice, procure, or compel such person to live a life of prostitution.

Penalty

Minimum one-year and maximum of 10 years imprisonment, fine of not less than \$200 and not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

Unlawful procurement (13 V.S.A. § 2536)

A person shall not:

(1) induce, entice, procure, or compel a person, for the purpose of prostitution or for any other immoral purposes, to enter a house of prostitution;

(2) receive money or other valuable consideration for or on account of placing a person in a house of prostitution;

(3) pay money or other valuable consideration to procure a person for the purpose of placing such person for immoral purposes in a house of prostitution, with or without the person's consent; or

(4) knowingly receive money or other valuable thing for or on account of procuring or placing a person in a house of prostitution for immoral purposes, with or without the person's consent.

Penalty

Minimum one-year and maximum of 10 years imprisonment, fine of not less than \$200 and not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

Vermont's human trafficking laws were adopted in 2011 and Chapter 60 of Title 13 can be found here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/13/060>

Human trafficking (13 V.S.A. § 2652)

No person shall knowingly:

(1) recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means a person under 18 years of age for the purpose of having the person engage in a commercial sex act;

(2) recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain any person through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of having the person engage in a commercial sex act or compel any person through force, fraud, or coercion to engage in a commercial sex act; and

(3) patronize a person under 18 years of age for a commercial sex act or patronize any person for a commercial sex act who is being compelled through force, fraud, or coercion to engage in a commercial sex act.

“*Coercion*” as it applies to compelling a person to engage in a commercial sex act means:

(1) the threat of serious harm, including physical or financial harm to or physical restraint against any person;

(2) any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious bodily or financial harm to or physical restraint of any person;

- (3) the abuse or threatened abuse of law or the legal process;
- (4) withholding, destroying, or confiscating any actual or purported passport, immigration document, or any other government identification document of another person;
- (5) providing a drug, including alcohol, to another person with the intent to impair the person's judgment or maintain a state of chemical dependence;
- (6) wrongfully taking, obtaining, or withholding any property of another person;
- (7) blackmail;
- (8) asserting control over the finances of another person;
- (9) debt bondage; or
- (10) withholding or threatening to withhold food or medication.

Penalty

Up to and include life imprisonment, \$500,000.00 fine, or both

Aggravated human trafficking (13 V.S.A. § 2653)

A person commits the crime of aggravated human trafficking if;

- (1) the offense involves a victim of human trafficking who is a child under the age of 18;
- (2) the person has previously been convicted of human trafficking;
- (3) the victim of human trafficking suffers serious bodily injury or death; or
- (4) the actor commits the crime of human trafficking under circumstances that constitute the crime of sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault of a child.

Penalty

20-year minimum and life maximum imprisonment, \$100,000.00 fine, or both.