

POLICY GOAL 1.5 Use of a law enforcement decoy is not an available defense in child sex trafficking cases.

State ¹	Does state law expressly prohibit an offender from raising a defense to trafficking charges based on the use of a law enforcement decoy?	If not, could a general prohibition provide prosecutors with an alternative avenue to prosecute those cases (e.g., an attempt law)?
Alabama	No	Yes
Alaska	No	Yes
Arizona	Yes	N/A
Arkansas	No	Yes
California	No	Yes
Colorado	No	Yes
Connecticut	No	Yes
Delaware	No	Yes
District of Columbia	No	Yes
Florida	Yes	N/A
Georgia	Yes	N/A
Hawaii	No	Yes
Idaho	No	Yes
Illinois	No	Yes
Indiana	Yes	N/A
Iowa	No	No
Kansas	No	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	N/A
Louisiana	Yes	N/A
Maine	Yes	N/A
Maryland	No	Yes
Massachusetts	No	Yes
Michigan	No	Yes
Minnesota	No	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	No
Missouri	No	Yes
Montana	No	Yes

¹ Evaluations of state laws are based on legislation enacted as of July 1, 2023. Responses do not include an analysis of case law, agency rules, regulations, or practices/initiatives that exist outside of statutory law. For more information on the importance of this policy goal, please visit <https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/related-resources/#1.5>.

State ¹	Does state law expressly prohibit an offender from raising a defense to trafficking charges based on the use of a law enforcement decoy?	If not, could a general prohibition provide prosecutors with an alternative avenue to prosecute those cases (e.g., an attempt law)?
Nebraska	No	Yes
Nevada	No	Yes
New Hampshire	No	Yes
New Jersey	No	Yes
New Mexico	No	Yes
New York	No	Yes
North Carolina	No	Yes
North Dakota	No	Yes
Ohio	No	Yes
Oklahoma	No	Yes
Oregon	No	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	Yes
Rhode Island	No	Yes
South Carolina	No	Yes
South Dakota	No	Yes
Tennessee	Yes	N/A
Texas	No	Yes
Utah	No	Yes
Vermont	No	Yes
Virginia	No	Yes
Washington	Yes	N/A
West Virginia	Yes	N/A
Wisconsin	No	No
Wyoming	No	Yes
Totals:	11 states expressly prohibit an offender from raising a defense to trafficking charges based on the use of a law enforcement decoy.	38 other states² have a general prohibition that could provide prosecutors with an alternative avenue to prosecute those cases.

² Though not technically a state, District of Columbia has been included in the overall state count for statistical purposes.