

§853. Sex Trafficking

1. A person is guilty of sex trafficking if:

A. The person knowingly promotes prostitution. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or [PL 2013, c. 407, §3 (NEW).]

B. The person violates paragraph A and has 2 or more prior convictions in this State for any combination of the Maine offenses listed in this paragraph or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that of the Maine offenses listed in this paragraph in another jurisdiction. The Maine offenses are any violation of this section or section 852, 853-B or 855 or attempts to commit any of these crimes. Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime. [PL 2023, c. 316, §6 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 316, §6 (AMD).]

2.

[PL 2013, c. 407, §3 (RP).]

3. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the person engaged in sex trafficking because the person was compelled to do so as described in section 852, subsection 2.

[PL 2017, c. 416, §3 (NEW).]

4. It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the act alleged to constitute sex trafficking consisted of the person publicly soliciting a patron to engage in prostitution only with the person.

[PL 2023, c. 316, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 407, §3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 360, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 416, §3 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 316, §§6, 7 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2026. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.