

CHAPTER 11

SEXUAL ASSAULTS

§251. Definitions and general provisions

1. In this chapter the following definitions apply.

A. "Spouse" means a person legally married to the actor, but does not include a legally married person living apart from the actor under a defacto separation. [PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

B. [PL 1989, c. 401, Pt. A, §2 (RP).]

C. "Sexual act" means:

(1) Any act between 2 persons involving direct physical contact between the genitals of one and the mouth or anus of the other, or direct physical contact between the genitals of one and the genitals of the other;

(2) Any act between a person and an animal being used by another person which act involves direct physical contact between the genitals of one and the mouth or anus of the other, or direct physical contact between the genitals of one and the genitals of the other; or

(3) Any act involving direct physical contact between the genitals or anus of one and an instrument or device manipulated by another person when that act is done for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire or for the purpose of causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact.

A sexual act may be proved without allegation or proof of penetration. [PL 1985, c. 495, §5 (RPR).]

D. "Sexual contact" means any touching of the genitals or anus, directly or through clothing, other than as would constitute a sexual act, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire or for the purpose of causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact. [PL 1985, c. 495, §6 (AMD).]

E. "Compulsion" means the use of physical force, a threat to use physical force or a combination thereof that makes a person unable to physically repel the actor or produces in that person a reasonable fear that death, serious bodily injury or kidnapping might be imminently inflicted upon that person or another human being.

"Compulsion" as defined in this paragraph places no duty upon the victim to resist the actor. [PL 1991, c. 457 (AMD).]

E-1. "Consent" means a word or action by a person that indicates a freely given agreement. [PL 2023, c. 280, §1 (NEW).]

F. "Safe children zone" means on or within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school or on or within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a day care center licensed pursuant to Title 22, section 8301-A. [PL 1997, c. 768, §1 (NEW).]

G. "Sexual touching" means any touching of the breasts, buttocks, groin or inner thigh, directly or through clothing, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire. [PL 2003, c. 138, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 280, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 740, §44 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 252, §1 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 495, §§5,6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 401, §A2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 457 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 768, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 138, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 280, §1 (AMD).

§252. Rape

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 740, §§45-47 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 252, §2 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 247, §1 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 414, §1 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 255, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 401, §A3 (RP).

§253. Gross sexual assault

1. A person is guilty of gross sexual assault if that person engages in a sexual act with another person and:

A. The other person submits as a result of compulsion, as defined in section 251, subsection 1, paragraph E. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime; [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]

B. The other person, not the actor's spouse, has not in fact attained the age of 14 years. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime; or [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]

C. The other person, not the actor's spouse, has not in fact attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime. [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]

2. A person is guilty of gross sexual assault if that person engages in a sexual act with another person and:

A. The actor has substantially impaired the other person's power to appraise or control the other person's sexual acts by furnishing, as defined in section 1101, subsection 18, paragraph A, administering or employing drugs, intoxicants or other similar means. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2007, c. 474, §1 (AMD).]

B. The actor compels or induces the other person to engage in the sexual act by any threat. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §15 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

C. The other person suffers from mental disability that is reasonably apparent or known to the actor, and which in fact renders the other person substantially incapable of appraising the nature of the contact involved or of understanding that the person has the right to deny or withdraw consent. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §15 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

D. The other person is unconscious or otherwise physically incapable of resisting and has not consented to the sexual act. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §15 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

E. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is under official supervision as a probationer, a parolee, a sex offender on supervised release, a prisoner on supervised community confinement status or a juvenile on community reintegration status or is detained in a hospital, prison or other institution, and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary authority over the other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2007, c. 102, §1 (AMD).]

F. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is a student enrolled in a private or public elementary, secondary or special education school, facility or institution and the actor is a teacher, employee or other official having instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student or the actor

was a substitute teacher who had instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student at any time during the 12 months prior to the sexual act. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2021, c. 360, §1 (AMD).]

G. The other person, not the actor's spouse, has not attained the age of 18 years and is a resident in or attending a children's home, child care facility, facility operated by a family child care provider, children's residential care facility, drug treatment center, youth camp licensed under Title 22, section 2495 or similar school, facility or institution regularly providing care or services for children, and the actor is a teacher, employee or other person having instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the other person or the actor was a substitute teacher who had instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student at any time during the 12 months prior to the sexual act. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2021, c. 360, §2 (AMD).]

H. The other person has not in fact attained the age of 18 years and the actor is a parent, stepparent, foster parent, guardian or other similar person responsible for the long-term care and welfare of that other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §16 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

I. The actor is a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or counseling professional or purports to be a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or counseling professional to the other person and the other person, not the actor's spouse, is a current patient or client of the actor. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2019, c. 494, §1 (AMD).]

J. The actor owns, operates or is an employee of an organization, program or residence that is operated, administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and the other person, not the actor's spouse, receives services from the organization, program or residence and the organization, program or residence recognizes the other person as a person with an intellectual disability or autism. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this paragraph that the actor receives services for an intellectual disability or autism or is a person with an intellectual disability, as defined in Title 34-B, section 5001, subsection 3, or autism, as defined in Title 34-B, section 6002. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2011, c. 542, Pt. A, §11 (AMD).]

K. The actor owns, operates or is an employee of an organization, program or residence that is operated, administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and the other person, not the actor's spouse, receives services from the organization, program or residence and suffers from a mental disability that is reasonably apparent or known to the actor. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2017, c. 300, §1 (AMD).]

L. The actor is employed to provide care to a dependent person, who is not the actor's spouse or domestic partner and who is unable to perform self-care because of advanced age or physical or mental disease, disorder or defect. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2021, c. 567, §8 (AMD).]

M. The other person has not consented to the sexual act and the actor is criminally negligent with regard to whether the other person has consented. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or [PL 2023, c. 280, §2 (AMD).]

N. The actor is a law enforcement officer acting in performance of official duties and the other person, not the actor's spouse, is under arrest, in custody or being interrogated or temporarily detained, including during a traffic stop or questioning pursuant to an investigation of a crime. For the purposes of this paragraph, "law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in Title 25, section 2801-A, subsection 5. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime. [PL 2019, c. 438, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 280, §2 (AMD).]

3.

[PL 2017, c. 300, §3 (RP).]

4.

[PL 2001, c. 383, §18 (RP); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

5.

[PL 2001, c. 383, §19 (RP); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

6.

[PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §12 (RP).]

7.

[PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §13 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 740, §§48,49 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 701, §21 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 252, §3 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 326, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 247, §2 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 414, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 495, §§7,8 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 544 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 737, §A41 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 255, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 401, §A4 (RPR). PL 1991, c. 569 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 432, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 687, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 429, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §K82 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §K83 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 768, §2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 354, §3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §§14-20 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF). RR 2003, c. 2, §25 (COR). PL 2003, c. 711, §B2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 102, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 474, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 211, Pt. B, §15 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 423, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 464, §5 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 542, Pt. A, §11 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §13 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 179, §2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 509, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 300, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §§12, 13 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 438, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 494, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 360, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 567, §8 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 608, Pt. E, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 280, §2 (AMD).

§253-A. Special sentencing provisions for gross sexual assault

1. Any term of years; nonmandatory sentence alternative. If the State pleads and proves that the defendant is a repeat sexual assault offender, the court may impose a definite term of imprisonment for any term of years. The court also may impose as part of the sentence either a period of probation of any term of years pursuant to section 1804, subsection 4 or a period of supervised release of any term of years pursuant to section 1881, subsection 2, paragraph A.

As used in this subsection, "repeat sexual assault offender" means a person who commits a new gross sexual assault after having been convicted previously and sentenced for any of the following:

- A. Gross sexual assault, formerly denominated as gross sexual misconduct; [PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]
- B. Rape; [PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]
- C. Attempted murder accompanied by sexual assault; [PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]
- D. Murder accompanied by sexual assault; or [PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]
- E. Conduct substantially similar to a crime listed in paragraphs A to D that is a crime under the laws of another jurisdiction. [PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]

For purposes of determining whether a defendant is a repeat sexual assault offender, the date of sentencing is the date of the oral pronouncement of the sentence by the trial court, even if an appeal is taken.

"Accompanied by sexual assault" as used with respect to attempted murder, murder and crimes involving substantially similar conduct in another jurisdiction is satisfied if it was definitionally an element of the crime or was pleaded and proved.

[PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]

2. Any term of years; mandatory sentence alternative. If the State pleads and proves that a crime under section 253 was committed against an individual who had not yet attained 12 years of age, the court shall impose a definite term of imprisonment for any term of years. In determining the basic term of imprisonment as the first step in the sentencing process specified in section 1602, subsection 1, paragraph A, the court shall select a definite term of at least 20 years. The court shall also impose as part of the sentence a period of supervised release to immediately follow that definite term of imprisonment as mandated by section 1881, subsection 1.

[PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]

3. Aggravating sentencing factors. The court shall treat the following as an aggravating sentencing factor.

A. If the State pleads and proves that a Class A crime of gross sexual assault was committed by an individual who had previously been convicted and sentenced for a Class B or Class C crime of unlawful sexual contact, or an essentially similar crime in another jurisdiction, the court, in determining the appropriate sentence, shall treat as an aggravating sentencing factor that prior conviction. [PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]

B. If the State pleads and proves that a violation of section 253, subsection 1 or 2 was committed in a safe children zone, the court, in determining the appropriate sentence, shall treat this as an aggravating sentencing factor. [PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]

C. In using a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment for an individual convicted of violating section 253, a court, in determining the maximum period of incarceration as the 2nd step in the sentencing process specified in section 1602, subsection 1, paragraph B, shall treat each prior Maine conviction for a violation of section 253 as an aggravating sentencing factor.

(1) When the sentencing class for a prior conviction under section 253 is Class A, the court shall enhance the basic period of incarceration by a minimum of 4 years of imprisonment.

(2) When the sentencing class for a prior conviction under section 253 is Class B, the court shall enhance the basic period of incarceration by a minimum of 2 years of imprisonment.

(3) When the sentencing class for a prior conviction under section 253 is Class C, the court shall enhance the basic period of incarceration by a minimum of one year of imprisonment.

[PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]

D. In arriving at the final sentence as the 3rd step in the sentencing process specified in section 1602, subsection 1, paragraph C, the court may not suspend that portion of the maximum term of incarceration based on a prior conviction. [PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §14 (NEW).

§254. Sexual abuse of minors

1. A person is guilty of sexual abuse of a minor if:

A. The person engages in a sexual act with another person, not the actor's spouse, who is either 14 or 15 years of age and the actor is at least 5 years older than the other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §21 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

A-1. The person violates paragraph A and the actor knows that the other person is related to the actor within the 2nd degree of consanguinity. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §21 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

A-2. The person violates paragraph A and the actor is at least 10 years older than the other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §21 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

B. [PL 1989, c. 401, Pt. A, §5 (RP).]

C. The person is at least 21 years of age and engages in a sexual act with another person, not the actor's spouse, who is either 16 or 17 years of age and is a student enrolled in a private or public elementary, secondary or special education school, facility or institution and the actor is a teacher, employee or other official in the school district, school union, educational unit, school, facility or institution in which the student is enrolled. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §21 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

D. The person violates paragraph C and the actor knows that the student is related to the actor within the 2nd degree of consanguinity. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or [PL 2011, c. 464, §6 (AMD).]

E. The person violates paragraph C and the actor is at least 10 years older than the student. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime. [PL 2011, c. 464, §7 (AMD).]

F. [PL 2011, c. 464, §8 (RP).]

[PL 2011, c. 464, §§6-8 (AMD).]

2. It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection 1, paragraphs A, A-1, A-2 and F, that the actor reasonably believed the other person is at least 16 years of age.

[PL 2003, c. 138, §4 (AMD).]

3.

[PL 2001, c. 383, §21 (RP); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

4. As used in this section, "related to the actor within the 2nd degree of consanguinity" has the meaning set forth in section 556.

[PL 2001, c. 383, §21 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 740, §50 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 495, §§9,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 401, §A5 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 451, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 104, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 460, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §21 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 138, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 464, §§6-8 (AMD).

§254-A. Written notification not to pursue charges for sexual abuse of a minor

A prosecutor who elects not to commence a criminal proceeding for an alleged violation of section 254 shall, at the request of a parent, surrogate parent or guardian of the alleged victim, inform that person in writing of the reason for not commencing the proceeding. [PL 2005, c. 328, §14 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 308, §1 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 328, §14 (AMD).

§255. Unlawful sexual contact

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 740, §51 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 701, §22 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 326, §§5-7 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 247, §3 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 401, §A6 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 451, §2 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 453, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 687, §§4-7 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 717, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 104, §§4-7 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §K82 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §K83 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 460, §4 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 354, §3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §22 (RP). PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).

§255-A. Unlawful sexual contact

1. A person is guilty of unlawful sexual contact if the actor intentionally subjects another person to any sexual contact and:

A. The other person has not consented to the sexual contact and the actor is criminally negligent with regard to whether the other person has consented. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2023, c. 280, §3 (AMD).]

B. The other person has not consented to the sexual contact, the actor is criminally negligent with regard to whether the other person has consented and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2023, c. 280, §4 (AMD).]

C. The other person is unconscious or otherwise physically incapable of resisting and has not consented to the sexual contact. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

D. The other person is unconscious or otherwise physically incapable of resisting and has not consented to the sexual contact and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

E. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is in fact less than 14 years of age and the actor is at least 3 years older. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

E-1. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is in fact less than 12 years of age and the actor is at least 3 years older. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §3 (NEW).]

F. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is in fact less than 14 years of age and the actor is at least 3 years older and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

F-1. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is in fact less than 12 years of age and the actor is at least 3 years older and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime; [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §3 (NEW).]

F-2. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is in fact either 14 or 15 years of age and the actor is at least 10 years older than the other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2011, c. 464, §9 (NEW).]

G. The other person suffers from a mental disability that is reasonably apparent or known to the actor that in fact renders the other person substantially incapable of appraising the nature of the contact involved or of understanding that the other person has the right to deny or withdraw consent. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

H. The other person suffers from a mental disability that is reasonably apparent or known to the actor that in fact renders the other person substantially incapable of appraising the nature of the contact involved or of understanding that the other person has the right to deny or withdraw consent and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

I. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is under official supervision as a probationer, a parolee, a sex offender on supervised release, a prisoner on supervised community confinement status or a juvenile on community reintegration status or is detained in a hospital, prison or other institution and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary authority over the other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2007, c. 102, §2 (AMD).]

J. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is under official supervision as a probationer, a parolee, a sex offender on supervised release, a prisoner on supervised community confinement status or a juvenile on community reintegration status or is detained in a hospital, prison or other institution and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary authority over the other person and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2007, c. 102, §3 (AMD).]

K. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is a student enrolled in a private or public elementary, secondary or special education school, facility or institution and the actor is a teacher, employee or other official having instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student or the actor was a substitute teacher who had instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student at any time during the 12 months prior to the sexual contact. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2021, c. 360, §3 (AMD).]

L. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is a student enrolled in a private or public elementary, secondary or special education school, facility or institution and the actor is a teacher, employee or other official having instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student and the sexual contact includes penetration or the actor was a substitute teacher who had instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student at any time during the 12 months prior to the sexual contact and the sexual contact included penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2021, c. 360, §4 (AMD).]

M. The other person is in fact less than 18 years of age and the actor is a parent, stepparent, foster parent, guardian or other similar person responsible for the long-term general care and welfare of that other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

N. The other person is in fact less than 18 years of age and the actor is a parent, stepparent, foster parent, guardian or other similar person responsible for the long-term general care and welfare of that other person and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

O. The other person submits as a result of compulsion. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

P. The other person submits as a result of compulsion and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF).]

Q. The actor owns, operates or is an employee of an organization, program or residence that is operated, administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and the other person, not the actor's spouse, receives services from the organization, program or residence and the organization, program or residence recognizes that other person as a person with an intellectual disability or autism. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this paragraph that the actor receives services for an intellectual disability or autism or is a person with an intellectual disability, as defined in Title 34-B, section 5001, subsection 3, or autism, as defined in Title 34-B, section 6002. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2011, c. 542, Pt. A, §12 (AMD).]

R. The actor owns, operates or is an employee of an organization, program or residence that is operated, administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and the other person, not the actor's spouse, receives services from the organization, program or residence and the organization, program or residence recognizes that other person as a person with an intellectual disability or autism and the sexual contact includes penetration. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this paragraph that the actor receives services for an intellectual disability or autism or is a person with an intellectual disability, as defined in Title 34-B, section 5001, subsection 3, or autism, as defined in Title 34-B, section 6002. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2011, c. 542, Pt. A, §12 (AMD).]

R-1. The actor owns, operates or is an employee of an organization, program or residence that is operated, administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and the other person, not the actor's spouse, receives services from the organization, program or residence and suffers from a mental disability that is reasonably apparent or known to the actor. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2011, c. 423, §4 (NEW).]

R-2. The actor owns, operates or is an employee of an organization, program or residence that is operated, administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and the other person, not the actor's spouse, receives services from the organization, program or residence and suffers from a mental disability that is reasonably apparent or known to the actor and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2011, c. 423, §4 (NEW).]

S. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is in fact less than 18 years of age and is a student enrolled in a private or public elementary, secondary or special education school, facility or institution and the actor, who is at least 21 years of age, is a teacher, employee or other official in the school district, school union, educational unit, school, facility or institution in which the student is enrolled. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; [PL 2005, c. 450, §1 (AMD).]

T. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is in fact less than 18 years of age and is a student enrolled in a private or public elementary, secondary or special education school, facility or institution and the actor, who is at least 21 years of age, is a teacher, employee or other official in the school district, school union, educational unit, school, facility or institution in which the student is enrolled and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2005, c. 450, §1 (AMD).]

U. The actor is a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or counseling professional or purports to be a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or counseling professional to the other person and the other person, not the actor's spouse, is a current patient or client of the actor. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2019, c. 494, §2 (AMD).]

V. The actor is a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or counseling professional or purports to be a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or counseling professional to the other person and the other person, not the actor's spouse, is a current patient or client of the actor and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2019, c. 494, §3 (AMD).]

W. The actor is employed to provide care to a dependent person, who is not the actor's spouse or domestic partner and who is unable to perform self-care because of advanced age or physical or mental disease, disorder or defect. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or [PL 2021, c. 567, §9 (AMD).]

X. The actor is employed to provide care to a dependent person, who is not the actor's spouse or domestic partner and who is unable to perform self-care because of advanced age or physical or mental disease, disorder or defect and the sexual contact includes penetration. For the purposes of

this paragraph, "domestic partners" means 2 unmarried adults who are domiciled together under a long-term arrangement that evidences a commitment to remain responsible indefinitely for each other's welfare. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime. [PL 2011, c. 423, §6 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 280, §§3, 4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 354, §3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §23 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF). RR 2003, c. 2, §26 (COR). PL 2003, c. 711, §B3 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 450, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 102, §2, 3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 423, §§4-6 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 464, §§9-11 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 542, Pt. A, §12 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §§14, 15 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 509, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 494, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 360, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 567, §9 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 608, Pt. E, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 280, §§3, 4 (AMD).

§256. Visual sexual aggression against child

1. A person is guilty of visual sexual aggression against a child if:

A. For the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire or for the purpose of causing affront or alarm, the actor, having in fact attained 18 years of age, exposes the actor's genitals to another person or causes the other person to expose that person's genitals to the actor and the other person, not the actor's spouse, has not in fact attained 14 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2005, c. 655, §1 (AMD).]

B. For the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire, the actor, having in fact attained 18 years of age, exposes the actor's genitals to another person or causes the other person to expose that person's genitals to the actor and the other person, not the actor's spouse, has not in fact attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; [PL 2005, c. 655, §1 (AMD).]

C. For the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire, the actor, having in fact attained 18 years of age, intentionally engages in visual surveillance, aided or unaided by mechanical or electronic equipment, of the uncovered breasts, buttocks, genitals, anus or pubic area of another person, not the actor's spouse and not having in fact attained 14 years of age, under circumstances in which a reasonable person would expect to be safe from such visual surveillance. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or [PL 2007, c. 688, §1 (AMD).]

D. For the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire, the actor, having in fact attained 18 years of age, intentionally engages in visual surveillance, aided or unaided by mechanical or electronic equipment, of the uncovered breasts, buttocks, genitals, anus or pubic area of another person, not the actor's spouse and not having in fact attained 12 years of age, under circumstances in which a reasonable person would expect to be safe from such visual surveillance. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime. [PL 2007, c. 688, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2007, c. 688, §1 (AMD).]

2.

[PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §4 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 72, §1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 711, §B4 (RPR). PL 2005, c. 655, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 688, §1 (AMD).

§257. Factors aiding in predicting high-risk sex offenders for sentencing purposes (REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 429, §2 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 476, §3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 299, Pt. D, §1 (RP).

§258. Sexual misconduct with a child under 14 years of age

1. A person is guilty of sexual misconduct with a child under 14 years of age if that person, having in fact attained 18 years of age, knowingly displays any sexually explicit materials to another person, not the actor's spouse, who has not in fact attained the age of 14 years, with the intent to encourage the other person to engage in a sexual act or sexual contact. Violation of this subsection is a Class D crime. [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §5 (AMD).]

1-A. A person is guilty of sexual misconduct with a child under 12 years of age if that person, having in fact attained 18 years of age, knowingly displays any sexually explicit materials to another person, not the actor's spouse, who has not in fact attained 12 years of age, with the intent to encourage the other person to engage in a sexual act or sexual contact. Violation of this subsection is a Class C crime. [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §6 (NEW).]

2. As used in this section, "sexually explicit materials" means any book, magazine, print, negative, slide, motion picture, videotape or other mechanically reproduced visual material that the person knows or should know depicts a person, minor or adult, engaging in sexually explicit conduct, as that term is defined in section 281. [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §7 (AMD).]

3. [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §8 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 143, §1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 711, §§B5-8 (AMD).

§259. Solicitation of child by computer to commit a prohibited act (REPEALED)**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1999, c. 349, §3 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 383, §§24,25 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 383, §156 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 711, §§B9-11 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 597, §2 (RP).

§259-A. Solicitation of a child to commit a prohibited act

1. A person is guilty of soliciting a child to commit a prohibited act if:

A. The actor, with the intent to engage in a prohibited act with the other person, knowingly solicits directly or indirectly that person by any means to engage in a prohibited act and the actor:

- (1) Is at least 16 years of age;
- (2) Knows or believes that the other person is less than 14 years of age; and
- (3) Is at least 3 years older than the age expressed by the other person.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or [PL 2011, c. 597, §3 (NEW).]

B. The actor, with the intent to engage in a prohibited act with the other person, knowingly solicits directly or indirectly that person by any means to engage in a prohibited act and the actor:

- (1) Is at least 16 years of age;
- (2) Knows or believes that the other person is less than 12 years of age; and
- (3) Is at least 3 years older than the age expressed by the other person.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime. [PL 2011, c. 597, §3 (NEW).]
[PL 2011, c. 597, §3 (NEW).]

2. For purposes of this section, "prohibited act" means:

- A. A sexual act; [PL 2011, c. 597, §3 (NEW).]
- B. Sexual contact; or [PL 2011, c. 597, §3 (NEW).]
- C. Sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 282. [PL 2011, c. 597, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 597, §3 (NEW).

§259-B. Solicitation of child for commercial sexual exploitation

1. A person is guilty of soliciting a child for commercial sexual exploitation if the actor knowingly solicits directly or indirectly by any means a person the actor knows or believes is under 18 years of age to engage in an act of prostitution, as defined in section 851.

[PL 2023, c. 316, §3 (AMD).]

2. Violation of this section is a Class C crime.

[PL 2023, c. 316, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 135, §1 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 316, §3 (AMD).

§260. Unlawful sexual touching

1. **Unlawful sexual touching.** A person is guilty of unlawful sexual touching if the actor intentionally subjects another person to any sexual touching and:

A. The other person has not consented to the sexual touching and the actor is criminally negligent with regard to whether the other person has consented. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2023, c. 280, §5 (AMD).]

B. The other person is unconscious or otherwise physically incapable of resisting and has not consented to the sexual touching. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2003, c. 138, §5 (NEW).]

C. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is in fact less than 14 years of age and the actor is at least 5 years older. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2003, c. 138, §5 (NEW).]

D. The other person suffers from a mental disability that is reasonably apparent or known to the actor that in fact renders the other person substantially incapable of appraising the nature of the touching involved or of understanding that the other person has the right to deny or withdraw consent. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2003, c. 138, §5 (NEW).]

E. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is under official supervision as a probationer, a parolee, a sex offender on supervised release, a prisoner on supervised community confinement status or a juvenile on community reintegration status or is detained in a hospital, prison or other institution and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary authority over the other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2007, c. 102, §4 (AMD).]

F. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is a student enrolled in a private or public elementary, secondary or special education school, facility or institution and the actor is a teacher, employee or other official having instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student or the actor was a substitute teacher who had instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student at any time during the 12 months prior to the sexual touching. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2021, c. 360, §5 (AMD).]

G. The other person is in fact less than 18 years of age and the actor is a parent, stepparent, foster parent, guardian or other similar person responsible for the long-term general care and welfare of that other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2003, c. 138, §5 (NEW).]

H. The other person submits as a result of compulsion. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2003, c. 138, §5 (NEW).]

I. The actor owns, operates or is an employee of an organization, program or residence that is operated, administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and the other person, not the actor's spouse, receives services from the organization, program or residence and the organization, program or residence recognizes that other person as a person with an intellectual disability or autism. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this paragraph that the actor receives services for an intellectual disability or autism or is a person with an intellectual disability, as defined in Title 34-B, section 5001, subsection 3, or autism, as defined in Title 34-B, section 6002. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2011, c. 542, Pt. A, §13 (AMD).]

J. The other person, not the actor's spouse, is in fact less than 18 years of age and is a student enrolled in a private or public elementary, secondary or special education school, facility or institution and the actor, who is at least 21 years of age, is a teacher, employee or other official in the school district, school union, educational unit, school, facility or institution in which the student is enrolled. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; [PL 2011, c. 423, §7 (AMD).]

K. The actor is a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or counseling professional or purports to be a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or counseling professional to the other person and the other person, not the actor's spouse, is a current patient or client of the actor. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; [PL 2019, c. 494, §4 (AMD).]

L. The actor owns, operates or is an employee of an organization, program or residence that is operated, administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and the other person, not the actor's spouse, receives services from the organization, program or residence and suffers from a mental disability that is reasonably apparent or known to the actor. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or [PL 2011, c. 423, §9 (NEW).]

M. The actor is employed to provide care to a dependent person, who is not the actor's spouse or domestic partner and who is unable to perform self-care because of advanced age or physical or mental disease, disorder or defect. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime. [PL 2021, c. 567, §10 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 280, §5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2003, c. 2, §27 (COR). PL 2003, c. 138, §5 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 450, §§3-5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 102, §4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 423, §§7-9 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 464, §12 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 542, Pt. A, §13 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §16 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 509, §3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 494, §4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 360, §5 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 567, §10 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 608, Pt. E, §4 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 280, §5 (AMD).

§261. Prohibited contact with a minor; sex offender restricted zone

1. A person is guilty of prohibited contact with a minor if that person:

A. Was convicted on or after June 30, 1992 of an offense under this chapter or chapter 12 against another person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age or was convicted on or after June 30, 1992 in another jurisdiction for conduct substantially similar to that contained in this chapter or chapter 12 against another person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age; and [PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

B. [PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. A, §1 (RP).]

C. Intentionally or knowingly initiates direct or indirect contact with another person who has not in fact attained 14 years of age. [PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

Violation of this subsection is a Class E crime.

[PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

2. A person is guilty of prohibited contact with a minor in a sex offender restricted zone if that person:

A. Was convicted on or after June 30, 1992 of an offense under this chapter or chapter 12 against another person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age or was convicted on or after June 30, 1992 in another jurisdiction for conduct substantially similar to that contained in this chapter or chapter 12 against another person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age; and [PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. A, §2 (AMD).]

B. [PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. A, §2 (RP).]

C. Intentionally or knowingly initiates direct or indirect contact in a sex offender restricted zone with another person who has not in fact attained 14 years of age. [PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. A, §2 (AMD).]

Violation of this subsection is a Class D crime.

[PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. A, §2 (AMD).]

3. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the parent, foster parent, guardian or other similar person responsible for the person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age, knowing the conviction status described in subsections 1 and 2, gave consent that the defendant initiate, have or continue direct or indirect contact. It is also an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that any contact is incidental to and directly related to the defendant's employment. [PL 2007, c. 393, §1 (NEW).]

4. For purposes of this section, "sex offender restricted zone" means the real property comprising a public or private elementary or middle school; the real property comprising a child care center, a child care facility, a day care operated by a family child care provider, a nursery school or a small child care facility as defined under Title 22, section 8301-A; or an athletic field, park, playground, recreational facility, youth camp licensed under Title 22, section 2495 or other place where children are the primary users.

[PL 2009, c. 211, Pt. B, §16 (AMD).]

5. For purposes of this section, "indirect contact" includes, but is not limited to, a person photographing another person who has not in fact attained 14 years of age after the person's having been notified, in writing or otherwise, by a law enforcement officer, corrections officer or judicial officer not to engage in that conduct. The notification not to engage in that conduct expires one year after the date the notification is given. For purposes of this subsection, "photographing" means making, capturing, generating or saving a print, negative, slide, motion picture, computer data file, videotape or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material.

[PL 2017, c. 354, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 393, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 518, §6 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 211, Pt. B, §16 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. A, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 354, §1 (AMD).

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