

§282. Sexual exploitation of minor

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

A. Knowing or intending that the conduct will be photographed, the person intentionally or knowingly employs, solicits, entices, persuades or uses another person, not that person's spouse, who has not in fact attained 16 years of age, to engage in sexually explicit conduct, except that it is not a violation of this paragraph if the other person is 14 or 15 years of age and the person is less than 5 years older than the other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2015, c. 394, §1 (AMD).]

A-1. Knowing or intending that the conduct will be photographed, the person intentionally or knowingly compels or induces by any threat another person, not that person's spouse, who is in fact a minor, to engage in sexually explicit conduct. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2015, c. 394, §1 (NEW).]

B. The person violates paragraph A or A-1 and, at the time of the offense, the person has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime; [PL 2015, c. 394, §1 (AMD).]

C. The person violates paragraph A or A-1 and the minor has not in fact attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime; [PL 2015, c. 394, §1 (AMD).]

D. Being a parent, legal guardian or other person having care or custody of another person who has not in fact attained 16 years of age, that person knowingly or intentionally permits that person who has not in fact attained 16 years of age to engage in sexually explicit conduct, knowing or intending that the conduct will be photographed. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; [PL 2015, c. 394, §1 (AMD).]

E. The person violates paragraph D and, at the time of the offense, the person has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime; or [PL 2007, c. 476, §5 (AMD).]

F. The person violates paragraph D and the minor has not in fact attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime. [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §12 (NEW).]

[PL 2015, c. 394, §1 (AMD).]

2. The following mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment apply to sexual exploitation of a minor.

A. A court shall impose upon a person convicted under subsection 1, paragraph A, A-1 or D a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment of at least 5 years. [PL 2015, c. 394, §2 (AMD).]

B. A court shall impose upon a person convicted under subsection 1, paragraph B or E a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment of at least 10 years. [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §12 (NEW).]

The court may not suspend a minimum term of imprisonment imposed under this section unless it sets forth in detail, in writing, the reasons for suspending the sentence. The court shall consider the nature and circumstances of the crime, the physical and mental well-being of the minor and the history and character of the defendant and may only suspend the minimum term if the court is of the opinion that the exceptional features of the case justify the imposition of another sentence. Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence.

[PL 2015, c. 394, §2 (AMD).]

3. Aggravating sentencing factor of victim under 12 years of age. If the State pleads and proves that a crime under this section was committed against an individual who had not attained 12 years of age, the court, in determining the appropriate sentence, shall treat the age of the victim as an aggravating sentencing factor.

[PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §15 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 711, §B12 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 476, §§4, 5 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 394, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §15 (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 October 1, 2025. 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.