

U.S. Prostitution Law — 50-State Comparison

Adult sellers, buyers, minor protections, and major modern legislative reforms | Current trends

Measure	Count	Key national findings
States reviewed	50	Maine
Statewide adult-seller decriminalization	1	Nevada
Limited licensed-brothel exceptions	1	All states
States otherwise criminalizing	48	Important caution

How to use this workbook

Use the 50-State Comparison sheet for the current high-level rule and primary statute penalties, minor immunity, safe harbor, or victim relief. This is a research guide, not legal advice.

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through August 17, 2026

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Only statewide model that does not criminalize an adult solely for selling their own sexual services.

Licensed prostitution is permitted only in authorized counties and licensed brothels; it is not legal statewide.

Buying or arranging commercial sex involving a minor is criminal; offense labels and penalties vary.

Safe-harbor laws vary: some provide immunity, others diversion, an affirmative defense, or services only.

. Use Major Reforms for legislation that materially changed seller liability, buyer legal advice; verify the current statute and local ordinances before relying on it.