

Cybercrimes Against Children Statement

Florida Chapter 143 of 2007 enhances penalties for existing crimes related to:

- possession of child pornography when the offender possesses ten or more images and at least one image includes a child under the age of five; sadomasochistic abuse, sexual battery or sexual bestiality involving a child; or any video or live movie involving a child;
- expands the scope of state law to include using the Internet to seduce, solicit, lure or entice a child or a person thought to be a child to commit certain acts relating to sexual abuse of children;
- expands the scope of state law to include all acts of sexual conduct with a child or a person thought to be a child, actions directed at persuading the child's guardian to consent to the child's participation in sexual conduct;
- provides that each separate contact is a separate offense;
- creates a new second degree felony that applies to offenders who misrepresent their age in the course of committing an offense;
- creates a new felony offense of traveling to meet a minor for the purpose of committing specified crimes of sexual abuse of a child or any other unlawful sexual conduct with a child, or attempting to persuade the child's guardian to consent to the child's participation in sexual conduct;
- requires sexual offenders and sexual predators register any e-mail address and any instant message name they use with the state department of law enforcement and to update any changes to that information to the state department of law enforcement;
- requires the state department of law enforcement establish a method for offenders to register e-mail addresses and instant message names online;
- authorizes the state department of law enforcement to provide the e-mail addresses and instant message names of sexual offenders and sexual predators to commercial social networking websites;
- enables operators of such sites to screen for those users;
- expressly states that it does not impose civil liability on commercial social networking websites;
- authorizes prosecutors to charge an act that relates to sexual performance of a child or child pornography under any other applicable statute, including one with greater penalties;
- expands investigative and prosecutorial authority of certain law enforcement officials when a crime is facilitated by or connected to use of the Internet or an electronic data storage or transmission device;
- authorizes alternative venues for trial of any crime facilitated by communication by mail, telephone, newspaper, radio, television, Internet, or other means of electronic data communication; and
- updates statutes to incorporate new technologies used to facilitate sexual abuse of children and transfer of images of sexual abuse of children.

Submitted as:

Florida

[Chapter 2007-143](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2007.