

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Brady Brammer

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill criminalizes certain conduct relating to child sexual abuse material.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ amends the definition of child sexual abuse material;
- ▶ provides a severability clause; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

76-5b-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 231

76-5b-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 231, 330

76-5b-201.1, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 231

ENACTS:

76-5b-303, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:



28 Section 1. Section **76-5b-103** is amended to read:

29 **76-5b-103. Definitions.**

30 As used in this chapter:

31 (1) "Child sexual abuse material" means any visual depiction, including any live
32 performance, photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or
33 picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually
34 explicit conduct, where:

35 (a) the production of the visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in
36 sexually explicit conduct;

37 (b) the visual depiction is:

38 (i) of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; [~~or~~]

39 (ii) a depiction that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that a minor is
40 engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or

41 (iii) artificially generated and depicts an individual with substantial characteristics of a
42 minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or

43 (c) the visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an
44 identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

45 (2) "Distribute" means the selling, exhibiting, displaying, wholesaling, retailing,
46 providing, giving, granting admission to, or otherwise transferring or presenting child sexual
47 abuse material or vulnerable adult sexual abuse material with or without consideration.

48 (3) "Identifiable minor" means [~~a person~~] an individual:

49 (a) (i) who was a minor at the time the visual depiction was created, adapted, or
50 modified; or

51 (ii) whose image as a minor was used in creating, adapting, or modifying the visual
52 depiction; and

53 (b) who is recognizable as an actual [~~person~~] individual by the [~~person's~~] individual's
54 face, likeness, or other distinguishing characteristic, such as a birthmark, or other recognizable
55 feature.

56 (4) "Identifiable vulnerable adult" means [~~a person~~] an individual:

57 (a) (i) who was a vulnerable adult at the time the visual depiction was created, adapted,
58 or modified; or

59 (ii) whose image as a vulnerable adult was used in creating, adapting, or modifying the
60 visual depiction; and

61 (b) who is recognizable as an actual ~~[person]~~ individual by the ~~[person's]~~ individual's
62 face, likeness, or other distinguishing characteristic, such as a birthmark, or other recognizable
63 feature.

64 (5) "Lacks capacity to consent" ~~[is-as]~~ means the same as that term is defined in
65 Section [76-5-111.4](#).

66 (6) "Live performance" means any act, play, dance, pantomime, song, or other activity
67 performed by live actors in person.

68 (7) "Minor" means ~~[a person]~~ an individual who is younger than 18 years old.

69 (8) "Nudity or partial nudity" means any state of dress or undress in which the human
70 genitals, pubic region, buttocks, or the female breast, at a point below the top of the areola, is
71 less than completely and opaquely covered.

72 (9) "Produce" means:

73 (a) the photographing, filming, taping, directing, producing, creating, designing, or
74 composing of child sexual abuse material or vulnerable adult sexual abuse material; or

75 (b) the securing or hiring of ~~[persons]~~ individuals to engage in the photographing,
76 filming, taping, directing, producing, creating, designing, or composing of child sexual abuse
77 material or vulnerable adult sexual abuse material.

78 (10) "Sexually explicit conduct" means actual or simulated:

79 (a) sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal,
80 whether between ~~[persons]~~ individuals of the same or opposite sex;

81 (b) masturbation;

82 (c) bestiality;

83 (d) sadistic or masochistic activities;

84 (e) lascivious exhibition of the genitals, pubic region, buttocks, or female breast of any
85 ~~[person]~~ individual;

86 (f) the visual depiction of nudity or partial nudity for the purpose of causing sexual
87 arousal of any ~~[person]~~ individual;

88 (g) the fondling or touching of the genitals, pubic region, buttocks, or female breast; or

89 (h) the explicit representation of the defecation or urination functions.

90 (11) "Simulated sexually explicit conduct" means a feigned or pretended act of
91 sexually explicit conduct which duplicates, within the perception of an average person, the
92 appearance of an actual act of sexually explicit conduct.

93 (12) "Vulnerable adult" ~~[is as]~~ means the same as that term is defined in Subsection
94 76-5-111(1).

95 (13) "Vulnerable adult sexual abuse material" means any visual depiction, including
96 any live performance, photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated
97 image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of
98 sexually explicit conduct, where:

99 (a) the production of the visual depiction involves the use of a vulnerable adult
100 engaging in sexually explicit conduct;

101 (b) the visual depiction is of a vulnerable adult engaging in sexually explicit conduct;

102 or

103 (c) the visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an
104 identifiable vulnerable adult is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

105 Section 2. Section **76-5b-201** is amended to read:

106 **76-5b-201. Sexual exploitation of a minor -- Offenses.**

107 (1) Terms defined in Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.

108 (2) An actor commits sexual exploitation of a minor when the actor knowingly
109 possesses or intentionally views child sexual abuse material.

110 (3) (a) A violation of Subsection (2) is a second degree felony.

111 (b) It is a separate offense under this section:

112 (i) for each minor depicted in the child sexual abuse material; and

113 (ii) for each time the same minor is depicted in different child sexual abuse material.

114 ~~[(4) (a) It is an affirmative defense to a charge of violating this section that no minor
115 was actually depicted in the visual depiction or used in producing or advertising the visual
116 depiction.]~~

117 ~~[(b)]~~ (4) For a charge of violating this section, it is an affirmative defense that:

118 ~~[(i)]~~ (a) the defendant:

119 ~~[(A)]~~ (i) did not solicit the child sexual abuse material from the minor depicted in the
120 child sexual abuse material;

121 ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) is not more than two years older than the minor depicted in the child sexual
122 abuse material; and

123 ~~[(C)]~~ (iii) upon request of a law enforcement agent or the minor depicted in the child
124 sexual abuse material, removes from an electronic device or destroys the child sexual abuse
125 material and all copies of the child sexual abuse material in the defendant's possession; and

126 ~~[(ii)]~~ (b) the child sexual abuse material does not depict an offense under Chapter 5,
127 Part 4, Sexual Offenses.

128 (5) In proving a violation of this section in relation to an identifiable minor, proof of
129 the actual identity of the identifiable minor is not required.

130 (6) The following are not criminally or civilly liable under this section when acting in
131 good faith compliance with Section 77-4-201:

132 (a) an entity or an employee, director, officer, or agent of an entity when acting within
133 the scope of employment, for the good faith performance of:

134 (i) reporting or data preservation duties required under federal or state law; or

135 (ii) implementing a policy of attempting to prevent the presence of child sexual abuse
136 material on tangible or intangible property, or of detecting and reporting the presence of child
137 sexual abuse material on the property;

138 (b) a law enforcement officer acting within the scope of a criminal investigation;

139 (c) an employee of a court who may be required to view child sexual abuse material
140 during the course of and within the scope of the employee's employment;

141 (d) a juror who may be required to view child sexual abuse material during the course
142 of the individual's service as a juror;

143 (e) an attorney or employee of an attorney who is required to view child sexual abuse
144 material during the course of a judicial process and while acting within the scope of
145 employment;

146 (f) an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services who is required to
147 view child sexual abuse material within the scope of the employee's employment; or

148 (g) an attorney who is required to view child sexual abuse material within the scope of
149 the attorney's responsibility to represent the Department of Health and Human Services,
150 including the divisions and offices within the Department of Health and Human Services.

151 Section 3. Section 76-5b-201.1 is amended to read:

152 **76-5b-201.1. Aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor.**

153 (1) As used in this section:

154 (a) "Physical abuse" or "physically abused" means the same as the term "physical
155 abuse" is defined in Section 80-1-102.

156 (b) The terms defined in Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.

157 (2) An actor commits aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor if the actor:

158 (a) intentionally distributes child sexual abuse material;

159 (b) knowingly produces child sexual abuse material; or

160 (c) is the minor's parent or legal guardian and knowingly consents to or permits the
161 minor to be sexually exploited as described in Subsection (2)(a) or (b) or Section 76-5b-201.

162 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b) or (c), a violation of Subsection (2) is a
163 first degree felony.

164 (b) If an actor is under 18 years old at the time of the offense, a violation of Subsection
165 (2) is a second degree felony.

166 (c) A violation of Subsection (2)(a) is a second degree felony if the child sexual abuse
167 material depicts an individual who is:

168 (i) 14 years old or older; or

169 (ii) pubescent.

170 (4) It is a separate offense under this section:

171 (a) for each minor depicted in the child sexual abuse material; and

172 (b) for each time the same minor is depicted in different child sexual abuse material.

173 ~~[(5) (a) It is an affirmative defense to a charge of violating this section that no minor
174 was actually depicted in the visual depiction or used in producing or advertising the visual
175 depiction.]~~

176 ~~[(b)]~~ (5) In proving a violation of this section in relation to an identifiable minor, proof
177 of the actual identity of the identifiable minor is not required.

178 (6) The following are not criminally or civilly liable under this section when acting in
179 good faith compliance with Section 77-4-201:

180 (a) an entity or an employee, director, officer, or agent of an entity when acting within
181 the scope of employment, for the good faith performance of:

182 (i) reporting or data preservation duties required under federal or state law; or

183 (ii) implementing a policy of attempting to prevent the presence of child sexual abuse
184 material on tangible or intangible property, or of detecting and reporting the presence of child
185 sexual abuse material on the property;

186 (b) a law enforcement officer acting within the scope of a criminal investigation;

187 (c) an employee of a court who may be required to view child sexual abuse material
188 during the course of and within the scope of the employee's employment;

189 (d) a juror who may be required to view child sexual abuse material during the course
190 of the individual's service as a juror;

191 (e) an attorney or employee of an attorney who is required to view child sexual abuse
192 material during the course of a judicial process and while acting within the scope of
193 employment;

194 (f) an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services who is required to
195 view child sexual abuse material within the scope of the employee's employment; or

196 (g) an attorney who is required to view child sexual abuse material within the scope of
197 the attorney's responsibility to represent the Department of Health and Human Services,
198 including the divisions and offices within the Department of Health and Human Services.

199 Section 4. Section **76-5b-303** is enacted to read:

200 **76-5b-303. Severability.**

201 (1) If any provision of this chapter or the application of any provision to any person or
202 circumstance is held invalid by a final decision of a court, the remainder of this chapter shall be
203 given effect without the invalid provision or application.

204 (2) The provisions of this chapter are severable.

205 Section 5. **Effective date.**

206 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.