



# North Dakota Legislative Council

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## CRIMINALIZATION OF CHILD SEXUAL GROOMING AND CHILD SEX DOLLS

This memorandum provides an overview of federal and state legislation addressing child sexual grooming and child sex dolls.

### CHILD SEXUAL GROOMING

Child sexual grooming is a process by which an adult manipulates a minor victim into compromising situations that facilitate sexual abuse while preventing the victim from disclosing the abuse or allowing others to recognize the inappropriate behaviors.<sup>1</sup> Grooming behaviors are influenced by the age, gender, and supervision status of the victim, and may take place online or in person.

Anti-grooming legislation is intended to allow prosecution of abusers before the commission of abuse to protect children from the long-term impacts associated with child sexual abuse. The legislation must balance the need to protect children against the risk of including overly broad conduct not exclusively indicative of child sexual grooming. The inclusion of overly broad conduct may trigger challenges related to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

#### Federal Law

Federal criminalization of coercion and enticement has provided a path to prosecute certain instances of grooming in the absence of a federal law specifically defining or criminalizing child sexual grooming. Federal law prohibits an individual, within the jurisdiction of the United States or using any means of interstate or foreign commerce, from persuading, inducing, coercing, or enticing another individual to engage in illegal sexual activity.<sup>2</sup> However, the statute criminalizing coercion and enticement does not recognize the involvement of a minor victim or take into account the prolonged abuse associated with grooming. Generally, cases prosecuted under federal law involving grooming behaviors occur after the commission of child sexual abuse.

#### North Dakota Law

North Dakota Century Code Section 12.1-20-05 addresses the corruption or solicitation of a minor. An adult who engages in, solicits with intent to engage in, or causes another to engage in a sexual act with a minor age 15 or older is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. If the offense is committed within 50 feet of a school, the offense is elevated to a Class C felony. If the minor is under age 15 and the adult is age 22 or older, the crime is a Class C felony. If the minor is under age 15, the adult is age 22 or older, and the offense is committed within 50 feet of a school, the offense is elevated to a Class B felony.

Section 12.1-20-05.1 addresses luring minors by electronic means. Luring occurs when an adult, through electronic communication and believing the person the adult is communicating with is a minor:

- Implicitly or explicitly discusses or depicts nudity, sexual acts, sexual content, sadomasochistic abuse, or any sexual performance; and
- Invites or induces the person believed to be a minor to engage in a sexual performance or sexual conduct for the adult's benefit.

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<sup>1</sup> *An Analysis of Child Sexual Grooming Legislation in the United States*, Journal of Psychology, Crime, and Law (2022).

<sup>2</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 2422.

The classification of an offense under Section 12.1-20-05.1 is based on the age of the adult and the purported age of the minor. An adult convicted of a Class B or Class C felony for luring a minor by electronic means is subject to a mandatory 1-year term of imprisonment if a substantial step was taken to meet the minor.

### Other States

In addition to North Dakota, all other states have enacted laws criminalizing the solicitation or enticement of a minor or targeting specific grooming behaviors. In some states, these offenses require the use of an electronic device and do not apply to in-person conduct. Recent state legislation aims to define the act of grooming and associated behaviors more explicitly. The following table provides a summary of state laws related to solicitation, enticement, and grooming:

State	Criminal Offense and Statutory Description <sup>3</sup>
<b>Alabama</b> Ala. Code § 13A-6-122	Electronic Solicitation of a Child - A person who knowingly entices, or attempts to entice, by electronic means a child 3 or more years younger than the defendant, or a child believed to be 3 or more years younger than the defendant, to meet with the defendant or another person for the purpose of engaging or directing the child to engage in sexual conduct.
<b>Alaska</b> Alaska Stat. Ann. § 11.41.452	Enticement of a Minor - A person, age 18 or older, who knowingly communicates with a child under age 16, or a person believed to be under age 16, to entice the child to engage in sexual conduct.
<b>Arizona</b> Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 13-1430	Child Enticement - A person who knowingly uses an electronic device to entice or attempt to entice a minor to distribute a visual depiction of an individual's genitals or a female's breast, or commits an act in furtherance of or to facilitate sexual abuse of the minor.
<b>Arkansas</b> Ark. Code Ann. § 5-27-307	Sexual Grooming - A person who purposefully entices or grooms a child under age 13 to engage in sexual conduct by disseminating to the child a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct or bribing the child to participate in sexual conduct.
<b>California</b> Cal. Penal Code § 288.3	Sexual Solicitation - A person who contacts, communicates, or attempts to contact or communicate with a minor, or an individual reasonably known to be a minor, with intent to commit a sexual offense or act.
<b>Colorado</b> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 18-3-305	Child Enticement - A person who invites, persuades, or attempts to invite or persuade, a child under age 15 to a secluded place with the intent to engage in sexual contact.
<b>Connecticut</b> Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 53a-90a	Child Enticement - A person who uses an electronic device to knowingly persuade, induce, or entice a minor or another person believed to be a minor, to engage in prostitution or sexual conduct.
<b>Delaware</b> Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 1112C	Sexual Solicitation - A person, age 18 or older, who intentionally or knowingly solicits, commands, or otherwise attempts to cause any child to engage in sexual conduct or uses an electronic device to solicit, entice, or otherwise cause a child to engage in a prohibited sexual act.  Enticement for Purposes of Sexual Contact - A person, age 18 or older and at least 4 years older than the child, who knowingly engages in a course of conduct to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce that involves or results in the person gaining access to and time alone with that child, with the intent of building trust with that child, for the purpose of ultimately engaging in sexual contact. "Course of conduct" is defined as three or more separate incidents that a reasonable person would find inappropriate, in isolation or collectively, given the nature and circumstances of the relationship between the person and the child, including: showing, offering, or sending the child sexually explicit materials, including images, videos, audio recordings, or any other depiction of sexual activity; exposing the child to sexually explicit language or jokes; making comments to the child about that child's sexual or physical development;

<sup>3</sup> The specific conduct included in the terms "sexual conduct," "sexual act," "sexual activity," "crime," "criminal offense," or related terms used to describe a specific state statute is determined by the definitions adopted in each jurisdiction.

State	Criminal Offense and Statutory Description <sup>3</sup>
	bathing the child; walking in on the child who is changing clothes or using the toilet, or watching the child do either; asking the child to watch an adult change clothes or use the toilet; taking pictures of or video recording the child while the child is nude or wearing only underwear; wrestling the child in underwear or while nude; tickling the child; playing games with the child that involve touching genitalia; buying the child gifts that are not in celebration of a holiday or birthday; giving special privileges to the child, such as car rides to or from school or practices; or committing any sexual offense or any attempt or solicitation to commit a sexual offense against the child.
<b>Florida</b> Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.0135	Certain Use of Electronic Device Prohibited - A person who knowingly uses an electronic device to solicit, lure, entice, or attempt to solicit, lure, or entice a child or a person believed to be a child, to engage in sexual conduct, or to solicit, lure, entice, or attempt to solicit, lure, or entice a guardian to consent to the participation of a child in sexual conduct.  Traveling to Meet a Minor - A person, following the use of an electronic device to solicit, lure, or entice the child or their guardian, who travels any distance or attempts to travel, for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct with the child.
<b>Georgia</b> Ga. Code Ann. § 16-6-5	Enticing a Child for Indecent Purposes - A person who solicits, entices, or takes a child under age 16 to any place for the purpose of engaging in a prohibited sexual act.
<b>Hawaii</b> Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 707-756 through 757	Electronic Enticement of a Child - A person who knowingly or intentionally communicates with a minor or a person believed to be a minor with the intent to promote, facilitate, or engage in a prohibited sexual act, and intentionally or knowingly travels at the agreed time to the agreed place of meeting.
<b>Idaho</b> Idaho Code Ann. § 18-1509A	Electronic Enticement of a Child - A person who knowingly uses an electronic device to solicit, lure, persuade, or entice, through words or actions, a person under age 16 or a person believed to be under age 16 to engage in any prohibited sexual act.
<b>Illinois</b> 720 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/11-25	Grooming - A person 5 or more years older than a child, or while holding a position of trust, authority, or supervision in relation to the child, who knowingly: uses an electronic device or written communication to seduce, lure, or entice, or attempt to seduce, lure, or entice a child or a child's guardian, to engage in any unlawful sexual conduct; or, engages in a pattern of conduct that seduces, lures, entices, or attempts to seduce, lure, or entice a child to engage or participate in unlawful sexual conduct for the purpose of sexual gratification.
<b>Indiana</b> Ind. Code Ann. § 35-42-4-6	Child Solicitation - A person age 18 or older who knowingly or intentionally solicits a child under age 16, or another person believed to be under age 16, to engage in sexual conduct intended to satisfy sexual desires.
<b>Iowa</b> Iowa Code Ann. §§ 709.8A, 710.10	Grooming - A person who knowingly performs an act in person or by conduct through a third party, electronic device, or written communication to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, or attempt to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, a child or a person believed to be a child to engage in unlawful sexual conduct.  Enticing a Minor - A person, with intent to commit sexual abuse or exploitation, entices or attempts to entice a minor under age 16 or a person reasonably believed to be a minor under age 16. Enhanced penalties for a minor under age 13.
<b>Kansas</b> Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 21-5508, 21-5509	Indecent Solicitation of a Child - A person who entices, commands, persuades, or attempts to entice, command, or persuade a child under age 16 to submit to an unlawful sexual act or enter any secluded place with intent to commit an unlawful sexual act upon the child. Enhanced penalties for children age 13 and under.  Electronic Solicitation - A person who, using a telephone or electronic device, entices or solicits a person the offender believes to be a child to submit to an unlawful sexual act.
<b>Kentucky</b> Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 510.155	Electronic Solicitation of Minor - A person who knowingly uses electronic means to procure or promote use of a minor, or a peace officer believed to be a minor, to engage in illegal sexual activity.

State	Criminal Offense and Statutory Description <sup>3</sup>
<b>Louisiana</b> La. Stat. Ann. § 14:81	<p>Indecent Behavior with a Juvenile - A person who transmits or delivers any communication depicting lewd conduct to any person reasonably believed to be under age 17 and reasonably believed to be at least 2 years younger than the offender.</p> <p>Grooming - A person at least 4 years older than the child, who grooms a child under age 17. Completion or attempt to complete is not required. "Grooming" is defined as the pursuit of an intimate relationship with a child under age 17 by means of seduction, emotional manipulation, threats, promises, coercion, enticement, isolation, or extortion with the specific intent to commit a sex offense against the minor.</p>
<b>Maine</b> Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 17-A, § 259-A	<p>Solicitation of a Child - A person age 16 or older who with the intent to engage in a prohibited sexual act, knowingly solicits a child under age 14. Enhanced penalties for children under age 12.</p>
<b>Maryland</b> Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law § 3-324	<p>Sexual Solicitation of a Minor - A person who knowingly solicits a minor or consent from a minor's guardian to engage in unlawful sexual conduct.</p>
<b>Massachusetts</b> Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 265, § 26C	<p>Enticement of a Child - A person who entices a child under age 16, or a person believed to be under age 16, to enter, exit, or remain in any space with the intent to commit an unlawful sexual act.</p>
<b>Michigan</b> Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 750.145a	<p>Accosting, Enticing, or Soliciting a Child - A person who intentionally accosts, entices, solicits, or encourages a child believed to be under age 16 to engage in a sexual act.</p>
<b>Minnesota</b> Minn. Stat. Ann. § 609.352	<p>Solicitation of Child for Sexual Conduct - A person, age 18 or older, who intentionally solicits a child, or a person reasonably believed to be a child, to engage in sexual conduct.</p> <p>Electronic Solicitation of a Child - A person, age 18 or older, who uses an electronic device to solicit a child, or a person reasonably believed to be a child, to engage in sexual conduct, engage in communication relating to or describing sexual conduct, or distribute material related to sexual conduct.<sup>4</sup></p>
<b>Mississippi</b> Miss. Code Ann. § 97-5-33	<p>Depicting a Child Engaging in Sexual Conduct - A person who: solicits or knowingly permits a child to engage in simulated or actual sexual conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction; depicts or records a child engaging in simulated or actual sexual conduct; knowingly sends, receives, distributes, intends to distribute, possesses, or accesses any visual depiction of an actual child engaging in sexual conduct; or, entices, induces, solicits, or coerces a child to meet for the purpose of engaging in or creating a visual depiction of sexual conduct with the child.</p>
<b>Missouri<sup>5</sup></b> Mo. Ann. Stat. § 566.151	<p>Grooming or Enticement of a Child - A person at least 4 years older than the minor who knowingly, by any means or through any pattern of conduct, persuades, solicits, coaxes, entices, lures, or attempts to persuade, solicit, coax, entice, or lure a minor with the intent to prepare, condition, manipulate, or otherwise cause the minor to engage in sexual conduct.</p>
<b>Montana</b> Mont. Code Ann. §§ 45-5-625(1)(c), 45-5-629	<p>Sexual Abuse of Children - A person who, by any means of communication, knowingly persuades, entices, counsels, coerces, directs, or procures a child under age 16, or a child believed to be under age 16, to engage in actual or simulated sexual conduct or to view sexually explicit material to persuade or induce the child to participate in illegal sexual activity.</p> <p>Grooming a Child for a Sexual Offense - A person who purposely or knowingly engages in a pattern of grooming behavior, including in-person or electronic</p>

<sup>4</sup> Partially invalidated by *State v. Moser* (884 N.W.2d 890 (Minn. Ct. App. 2016)). Legislation proposed during ongoing Minnesota Second Regular Session of the Ninety-Fourth Legislative Session may impact Section 609.352.

<sup>5</sup> Reflects changes passed by the Missouri 2026 Legislative Service adding specific references to grooming (Mo. Legis. Serv. H.B. 2273, 1946, 1814 & 2551 (2026)). The legislation established a statewide council tasked with issuing guidance to the public on identifying and recognizing actions constituting grooming or enticement of a minor, responding to potential instances of grooming, treatment and services for victims of grooming, and procedures and training for professionals investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of grooming or enticement.

State	Criminal Offense and Statutory Description <sup>3</sup>
	<p>communication, aimed at a child or the child's guardian with the intent to: manipulate the child into engaging in sexual conduct, actual or simulated; coerce or entice a child under 16 years of age to meet in person to engage in sexual conduct, actual or simulated; distribute or facilitate access to sexually explicit material; or exploit a position of authority to develop an intimate or secretive relationship with a minor.</p> <p>"Grooming" is defined as behavior that seeks to prepare, induce, or persuade a minor to engage in sexual activity or other forms of exploitation, even if no meeting or sexual act is completed. Grooming is the deliberate act of establishing an emotional connection with a minor through manipulation, trust building, or influence to facilitate future sexual abuse or exploitation. Grooming includes online or in-person activities, use of third parties, or indirect methods to facilitate the manipulation of a child.</p>
<p><b>Nebraska</b> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 28-320.02</p>	<p>Soliciting a Child by Electronic Communication - A person who knowingly solicits, coaxes, entices, or lures a child age 16 or under, or a peace officer believed to be age 16 or under, by means of electronic communication to engage in a sexual act.</p> <p>Criminal Child Enticement - A person who knowingly, by any means, solicits, coaxes, entices, lures, or attempts to solicit, coax, entice, or lure a child under the age of 14 to enter any vehicle or place to seclude a child from the child's guardian or the public.</p>
<p><b>Nevada</b> Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 201.560</p>	<p>Luring a Child - A person at least 5 years older than the child who knowingly contacts a child under age 16, or person believed to be under age 16, with intent to solicit, persuade, or lure the child to engage in sexual conduct.</p>
<p><b>New Hampshire</b> N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 649-B:4</p>	<p>Soliciting a Child by Electronic Communication - A person who knowingly uses an electronic device to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child, or a person believed to be a child, to engage in sexual conduct, indecent exposure, or child endangerment.</p>
<p><b>New Jersey</b> N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2C:13-6</p>	<p>Luring or Enticing a Minor - A person, using electronic or other means, who attempts to lure or entice a child, or a person reasonably believed to be a child, into a vehicle, to an isolated area, or to meet at any place with intent to commit a criminal offense against the child.</p>
<p><b>New Mexico</b> N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 30-9-1, 30-37-3.2</p>	<p>Enticing a Child - A person who entices, persuades, or attempts to entice or persuade a child under age 16 to enter any secluded place with intent to commit a crime.</p> <p>Soliciting a Child by Electronic Device - A person at least 4 years older than a child who knowingly and intentionally solicits a child under age 16 using an electronic device to engage in any sexual conduct.</p>
<p><b>New York</b> N.Y. Penal Law § 100.08</p>	<p>Criminal Solicitation - A person over age 18 who solicits, requests, commands, or otherwise causes or attempts to cause a person under age 16 to intentionally engage in sexual conduct.</p>
<p><b>North Carolina</b> N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 14-202.3</p>	<p>Solicitation of a Child by Electronic Device - A person at least 5 years older than the child, who uses an electronic device to knowingly entice, coerce, order, or command a child under age 16, a child believed to be under age 16, or a child's guardian to meet the child, with intent to engage in an unlawful sex act.</p>
<p><b>Ohio</b> Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2905.05, 2907.071</p>	<p>Criminal Child Enticement - A person who knowingly solicits, coaxes, entices, or lures a child under age 14 to accompany the person in any manner, if the person does not have permission from the child's guardian and is not a law enforcement officer, emergency medical services provider, or other authorized person.<sup>6</sup></p> <p>Grooming - A person who is age 18 or older who engages in a pattern of conduct with a minor causing a reasonable adult to believe the person is communicating with the minor for the purpose of enticing, coercing, or soliciting the minor to engage in sexual activity with the person or a third person, or preparing the minor to engage in criminal sexual activity. Enhanced penalty when the minor is under age 16 and 4 or more years younger than the person committing the grooming.</p>

<sup>6</sup> Ruled unconstitutional by *City of Parma v. Horky* (149 N.E.3d 1000 (Ohio App. 8 Dist., 2019)).

State	Criminal Offense and Statutory Description <sup>3</sup>
<b>Oklahoma</b> Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 21, § 1123	Lewd or Indecent Proposals to a Child - A person who knowingly and intentionally, to a child under age 16 or a person reasonably believed to be a child under age 16: makes any lewd or indecent proposal to have unlawful sexual relations; looks upon, touches, or otherwise feels the body or private parts of the child in a lewd, lascivious, or indecent manner; or asks, invites, entices, or persuades to go alone to a secluded place with the unlawful and willful attempt to commit a crime.
<b>Oregon</b> Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 167.057	Luring a Minor - A person who, for purposes of inducing a minor or purported minor to engage in sexual conduct, furnishes a visual representation, explicit verbal description, or narrative account of sexual conduct, or engages in sexual conduct in the presence of a minor.
<b>Pennsylvania</b> 18 Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. Ann. §§ 6301, 6318	Corruption of a Minor - A person who corrupts the morals of a minor, or who aids, abets, entices, or encourages a minor to commit a sexual offense.  Unlawful Contact with a Minor - A person who is intentionally in contact with a minor or person believed to be a minor for the purpose of engaging in a sexual offense or the corruption of a minor involving sexual contact.
<b>Rhode Island</b> R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. §§ 11-26-1.5, 11-37-8.8	Enticement of a Child - A person who, with the intent to engage in sexual conduct, attempts to persuade or persuades a child under age 16 to leave home or school, or enter a vehicle, building, or secluded area without lawful permission.  Indecent Solicitation of a Child - A person who knowingly solicits a child or a person believed to be a child for the purpose of engaging in illegal sexual acts.
<b>South Carolina</b> S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-342	Criminal Solicitation of a Minor - A person who knowingly contacts, communicates with, or attempts to contact or communicate with a minor or a person reasonably believed to be a minor, for the purpose or intent of persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing the minor to engage or participate in sexual activity, or to perform a sexual activity in the minor's presence.
<b>South Dakota</b> S.D. Codified Laws § 22-24A-5	Solicitation of a Minor - A person age 18 or older who solicits or uses an electronic device, publication, or print in any manner to aid in the solicitation of a minor, or a person reasonably believed to be a minor, to engage in a prohibited sexual act.
<b>Tennessee</b> Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-528	Solicitation of a Minor - A person age 18 or older who, by means of direct or indirect oral, written, or electronic communication, intentionally commands, persuades, invites, or attempts to induce a person known to be a minor or a law enforcement officer posing as a minor, to engage in criminal sexual conduct.
<b>Texas</b> Tex. Penal Code Ann. §§ 15.031, 33.021	Criminal Solicitation of a Minor - A person who requests, commands, or attempts to induce a minor to engage in conduct that would constitute a criminal offense, including continuous sexual abuse, indecency with a child, sexual assault, sexual performance by a child, or possession or promotion of child pornography.  Online Solicitation of a Minor - A person age 17 or older who uses an electronic device to intentionally communicate with a child under age 17, or a person believed to be a child under age 17, in a sexually explicit manner, to distribute sexually explicit material, or to knowingly solicit the child to meet with intent to engage in sexual contact. A defense to prosecution exists when the person is 3 or less years older than the minor and the minor provided consent.
<b>Utah</b> Utah Code Ann. § 76-5-417	Enticing a Minor to Engage in Sexual Activity - A person who uses an electronic device to solicit, seduce, lure, entice, or attempt to solicit, seduce, lure, or entice a minor or another person believed to be a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity, or a person who develops a relationship of trust with a minor, or the minor's parent or guardian, with the intent to solicit, seduce, lure, entice, or attempt to solicit, seduce, lure, or entice a minor or another person believed to be a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity.
<b>Vermont</b> Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 13, § 2828	Luring a Child - A person who knowingly solicits, lures, manipulates, entices, or attempts to solicit, lure, manipulate, or entice a child under age 16, or a child believed to be under age 16, to engage in a sexual act or lewd and lascivious conduct.

State	Criminal Offense and Statutory Description <sup>3</sup>
<b>Virginia</b> <sup>7</sup> Va. Code Ann. § 18.2-374.4	Display of Obscene Materials to a Child - A person age 18 or older who displays any obscene item or material, including child pornography or grooming materials, to a child under age 13 with lascivious intent to entice, solicit, or encourage the child to engage in sexual contact or conduct.
<b>Washington</b> Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A.40.090	Luring - A person, not previously known by the victim with intent to commit a crime or harm the health, safety, or welfare of a minor or person with a disability, who orders, lures, or attempts to lure the minor or person with a disability into a secluded area, without a guardian's consent.
<b>West Virginia</b> W. Va. Code Ann. §§ 61-3C-14b, 61-8-32	Solicitation of a Minor by Electronic Device - A person age 18 or older who knowingly uses a computer to solicit, entice, seduce, lure, or attempt to solicit, seduce, or lure a minor, known or believed to be at least 4 years younger than the person, to engage in an illegal sexual act.  Solicitation of a Minor - A person age 18 or older who, by means not involving an electronic device, knowingly solicits, entices, seduces, lures, or attempts to solicit, seduce, or lure a minor, known or believed to be at least 4 years younger than the person, to engage in an illegal sexual act.
<b>Wisconsin</b> Wis. Stat. Ann. § 948.07	Child Enticement - A person who causes or attempts to cause a child to go into a secluded area, with the intention of having sexual contact, engaging in sexual conduct, or exposing the person's genitals, pubic area, or intimate parts to the child.
<b>Wyoming</b> Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 6-2-321	Grooming - A person, age 18 or older and at least 4 years older than the minor, who purposely or knowingly engages in a pattern of grooming aimed at the minor with intent to: manipulate the minor into engaging in sexual conduct; coerce or entice the minor to meet in person to engage in sexual conduct; distribute or facilitate access to sexually explicit material; or exploit a position of authority to develop an intimate or secret relationship with a minor. "Grooming" is defined as behavior, including sending an electronic communication, that seeks to prepare, induce, or persuade a minor to engage in sexual conduct or exploitation, even if no meeting or sexual conduct is completed. Grooming includes deliberate acts that establish an emotional connection with a minor through manipulation, trust building, or influence to facilitate acts of sexual conduct, sexual abuse, or exploitation; and online or in-person activities, the use of third parties, or indirect methods to facilitate the manipulation of a minor.

### CHILD SEX DOLLS

A child sex doll is an anatomically correct, childlike doll with one or more penetrable apertures commercially manufactured for an adult.<sup>8</sup> A sex robot shares many of the same characteristics as a sex doll, but robots also are equipped with the ability to move or talk, or with artificial intelligence components. Primarily constructed and shipped from east Asian countries, child sex doll and robot production is a major industry with increased growth annually. The utility of child sex dolls is widely debated with critics citing the serious consequences of child sexual abuse and objectification, while proponents argue the dolls are a safe outlet that may reduce the number of child sexual abuse victims.

Australia, Denmark, and Germany have explicitly criminalized the possession, import, and export of child sex dolls. Laws in the United Kingdom, Norway, and Canada have expanded or interpreted existing child protection and obscenity laws to prohibit the importation, distribution, and sale of child sex dolls. While data is limited, studies indicate child sex doll users are predominantly white, heterosexual, middle-aged, single, employed, and generally affluent men.<sup>9</sup>

### Federal Law

Federal law does not regulate the use of child sex dolls despite numerous proposals to prohibit importation, manufacturing, and use. Most recently, the CREEPER 2.0 Act was introduced to prohibit the

<sup>7</sup> Reflects changes passed by the 2026 General Assembly of Virginia, expanding the conduct included in the offense (2026 Virginia Laws Ch. 348 (S.B. 778)).

<sup>8</sup> *Child Sex Doll and Sex Robot Research: Taking a Child Rights Perspective*, Child Abuse & Neglect.

<sup>9</sup> *Child-like Sex Dolls: Legal, Empirical, and Ethical Perspectives*, Institute of Forensic Psychiatry and Sex Research Sexual Medicine Journal.

possession, importation, and transportation of child sex dolls.<sup>10</sup> The proposed maximum penalty under the Act for knowingly violating child sex doll restrictions is a 5-year term of imprisonment for a first offense and 10-year term of imprisonment for any subsequent violation.

### State Law

North Dakota state law does not address or regulate child sex dolls. The following table summarizes state legislative action related to child sex dolls:

State	Definition	Summary of Criminalized Conduct
<b>Arizona</b> Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 13-1429 (2023)	"An anatomically correct doll, mannequin, or robot that both has the features of or features that resemble those of an infant or a child who is under twelve years of age and is intended to be used for sexual stimulation or gratification."	Intentionally or knowingly possess; or knowingly manufacture, distribute, sell, transfer, offer to sell, advertise, provide, ship, or transport into this state, with intent to sell, a child sex doll.
<b>Arkansas</b> Ark. Code. Ann. § 5-27-308 (2025)	"An anatomically correct or anatomically precise doll, mannequin, or robot that may consist of an entire body, or may consist of only a pelvis or any other body part, with features of, or with features that resemble, those of a minor intended for use in sexual acts."	Knowingly possess, distribute, manufacture, or transport into the state a child sex doll.
<b>Florida</b> Fla. Stat. Ann. § 847.011 (2019)	Not defined.	Knowingly sell, lend, give away, distribute, transmit, show, or transmute; offer to sell, lend, give away, distribute, transmit, show, or transmute; possess or control with intent to sell, lend, give away, distribute, transmit, show, or transmute; or advertise a childlike sex doll.
<b>Hawaii</b> Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 712-1216.5 (2021)	"A doll, mannequin, or robot that is intended for sexual stimulation, gratification, or perversion and that has the features of, or features that resemble those of, a person below the age of puberty."	Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly import, sell, offer to sell, distribute, or possess a child sex doll.
<b>Kentucky</b> Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 531.365-368 (2024)	Not defined.	Knowingly possess, traffic, or transport a child sex doll.
<b>Louisiana</b> La. Stat. Ann. § 14:81.6 (2024)	"An anatomically correct doll, mannequin, or robot that, has the features of or features that resemble those of an infant or child under eighteen years of age, and is intended to be used for sexual stimulation or gratification."	Intentionally or knowingly possess; knowingly manufacture, distribute, sell, transfer, advertise, provide, ship, or possess with intent to distribute, sell, ship, or transfer; or knowingly transport into the state with intent to distribute, sell, or transfer a child sex doll.
<b>South Dakota</b> S.D. Codified Laws §§ 22-24A-1.1-2 (2021)	"Any obscene anatomical doll, obscene anatomical mannequin, or obscene anatomical robot that is intentionally designed to resemble a prepubescent child and either to entice sexual excitement or to engage in prohibited sexual acts."	Create or knowingly distribute, sell, display for sale, disseminate, or cause the creation of a childlike sex doll.
<b>Tennessee</b> Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-910 (2019)	"An anatomically correct doll, mannequin, or robot that is intended for sexual stimulation or gratification and that has the features of, or has features that resemble those of, a minor."	Knowingly possess, sell, distribute, or transport, into or within the state, with intent to sell or distribute a childlike sex doll.
<b>Texas</b> Tex. Penal Code Ann. § 43.231 (2025)	"An obscene, anatomically correct doll, mannequin, or robot that has the features of a child and that is intended to be used for sexual stimulation or gratification."	Knowingly promote, possess with intent to promote, or possess a childlike sex doll.

<sup>10</sup> Curbing Realistic Exploitative Electronic Pedophilic Robots (CREEPER) Act 2.0, H.R. 1186 119<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2025).

State	Definition	Summary of Criminalized Conduct
<p><b>Utah</b> Utah Code Ann. § 76-5c-209 (previously § 76-10-1236) (2023)</p>	<p>"A doll, mannequin, or robot: that is anatomically correct, with the features of, or with features that resemble those of, a minor; and that is intended for use in sexual acts."</p>	<p>Knowingly or intentionally possess a child sex doll.</p>
<p><b>Wisconsin</b> Wis. Stat. Ann. § 944.19 (2024)</p>	<p>"An anatomically correct doll, mannequin, or robot, with features that are intended to resemble a minor that is intended for use in sex acts, for sexual gratification, or for the purpose of manipulating children into participating in sex acts, instructing children how to participate in sexual acts, or normalizing sexual behavior with children."</p>	<p>Intentionally possess, sell, transfer possession of, advertise, display, or manufacture a child sex doll; or intentionally sell, transfer, advertise, display, or offer to sell instructions on how to create a child sex doll.</p>