

§ 2250. Failure to register

- (a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever—
 - (1) is required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act;
 - (2)(A) is a sex offender as defined for the purposes of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act by reason of a conviction under Federal law (including the Uniform Code of Military Justice), the law of the District of Columbia, Indian tribal law, or the law of any territory or possession of the United States; or
 - (B) travels in interstate or foreign commerce, or enters or leaves, or resides in, Indian country; and
 - (3) knowingly fails to register or update a registration as required by the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act;

shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

(b) INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REPORTING VIOLATIONS.—Whoever—

- (1) is required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.);¹
- (2) knowingly fails to provide information required by the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act relating to intended travel in foreign commerce; and
- (3) engages or attempts to engage in the intended travel in foreign commerce;

shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

(c) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—In a prosecution for a violation under subsection (a) or (b), it is an affirmative defense that—

- (1) uncontrollable circumstances prevented the individual from complying;
- (2) the individual did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances in reckless disregard of the requirement to comply; and
- (3) the individual complied as soon as such circumstances ceased to exist.

(d) CRIME OF VIOLENCE.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual described in subsection (a) or (b) who commits a crime of violence under Federal law (including the Uniform Code of Military Justice), the law of the District of Columbia, Indian tribal law, or the law of any territory or possession of the United States shall be imprisoned for not less than 5 years and not more than 30 years.
- (2) ADDITIONAL PUNISHMENT.—The punishment provided in paragraph (1) shall be in addition and consecutive to the punishment provided for the violation described in subsection (a) or (b).

(Added Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §141(a)(1), July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 602; amended Pub. L. 114–119, §6(b), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 23.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, referred to in subsecs. (a)(1), (2)(A), (3) and (b)(1), (2), is title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, which was classified principally to subchapter I (§16901

¹ See References in Text note below.

et seq.) of chapter 151 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification as chapter 209 (§20901 et seq.) of Title 34, Crime Control and Law Enforcement. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of Title 34 and Tables.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice, referred to in subsecs. (a)(2)(A) and (d)(1), is classified generally to chapter 47 (§801 et seq.) of Title 10, Armed Forces.

AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsecs. (b) to (d), Pub. L. 114–119 added subsec. (b), redesignated former subsecs. (b) and (c) as (c) and (d), respectively, and in subsecs. (c) and (d), substituted “subsection (a) or (b)” for “subsection (a)” wherever appearing.

CHAPTER 110—SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND OTHER ABUSE OF CHILDREN

- Sec. 2251. Sexual exploitation of children.
- 2251A. Selling or buying of children.
- 2252. Certain activities relating to material involving the sexual exploitation of minors.
- 2252A. Certain activities relating to material constituting or containing child pornography.
- 2252B. Misleading domain names on the Internet.
- 2252C. Misleading words or digital images on the Internet.
- 2253. Criminal forfeiture.
- 2254. Civil forfeiture.
- 2255. Civil remedy for personal injuries.
- 2256. Definitions for chapter.
- 2257. Record keeping requirements.
- 2257A. Recordkeeping requirements for simulated sexual conduct.¹
- 2258. Failure to report child abuse.
- 2258A. Reporting requirements of providers.
- 2258B. Limited liability for providers or domain name registrars.
- 2258C. Use to combat child pornography of technical elements relating to reports made to the CyberTipline.
- 2258D. Limited liability for NCMEC.
- 2258E. Definitions.
- 2259. Mandatory restitution.
- 2259A. Assessments in child pornography cases²
- 2259B. Child pornography victims reserve²
- 2260. Production of sexually explicit depictions of a minor for importation into the United States.
- 2260A. Increased penalties for registered sex offenders.¹

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115–395, §7, Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5294, substituted “Reporting requirements of providers” for “Reporting requirements of electronic communication service providers and remote computing service providers” in item 2258A, “Limited liability for providers or domain name registrars” for “Limited liability for electronic communication service providers and remote computing service providers” in item 2258B, “Use to combat child pornography of technical elements relating to reports made to the CyberTipline” for “Use to combat child pornography of technical elements relating to images reported to the CyberTipline” in item 2258C, and “Limited liability for NCMEC” for “Limited liability for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children” in item 2258D.

Pub. L. 115–299, §5(d), Dec. 7, 2018, 132 Stat. 4388, added items 2259A and 2259B.

2008—Pub. L. 110–401, title V, §501(b)(3), Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4251, added items 2258A to 2258E.

¹ So in original. Does not conform to section catchline.

² So in original. Probably should be followed by a period.

2006—Pub. L. 109-248, title V, §503(b), title VII, §§702(b), 703(b), July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 629, 648, 649, added items 2252C, 2257A, and 2260A.

2003—Pub. L. 108-21, title V, §521(b), Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 686, added item 2252B.

1996—Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, §601(i)(2), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3501, redesignated item 2258, relating to production of sexually explicit depictions of a minor, as 2260.

Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(a) [title I, §121(3(b))], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009, 3009-26, 3009-30, added item 2252A.

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, title IV, §40113(b)(2), title XVI, §160001(b)(1), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 1910, 2037, added items 2258, relating to production of sexually explicit depictions of a minor, and 2259.

1990—Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §226(g)(2), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4808, inserted “AND OTHER ABUSE” after “EXPLOITATION” in chapter heading and added item 2258.

1988—Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §§7512(c), 7513(b), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4487, 4488, added items 2251A and 2257.

1986—Pub. L. 99-500, §101(b), [title VII, §703(b)], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-39, 1783-75, and Pub. L. 99-591, §101(b) [title VII, §703(b)], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-39, 3341-75, added item 2255 and redesignated former item 2255 as 2256.

1984—Pub. L. 98-292, §7, May 21, 1984, 98 Stat. 206, added items 2253 and 2254 and redesignated former item 2253 as 2255.

§ 2251. Sexual exploitation of children

(a) Any person who employs, uses, persuades, induces, entices, or coerces any minor to engage in, or who has a minor assist any other person to engage in, or who transports any minor in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with the intent that such minor engage in, any sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct or for the purpose of transmitting a live visual depiction of such conduct, shall be punished as provided under subsection (e), if such person knows or has reason to know that such visual depiction will be transported or transmitted using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce or mailed, if that visual depiction was produced or transmitted using materials that have been mailed, shipped, or transported in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, or if such visual depiction has actually been transported or transmitted using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce or mailed.

(b) Any parent, legal guardian, or person having custody or control of a minor who knowingly permits such minor to engage in, or to assist any other person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct or for the purpose of transmitting a live visual depiction of such conduct shall be punished as provided under subsection (e) of this section, if such parent, legal guardian, or person knows or has reason to know that such visual depiction will be transported or transmitted using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce or mailed, if that visual depiction was produced or transmitted using materials that have been

mailed, shipped, or transported in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, or if such visual depiction has actually been transported or transmitted using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce or mailed.

(c)(1) Any person who, in a circumstance described in paragraph (2), employs, uses, persuades, induces, entices, or coerces any minor to engage in, or who has a minor assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct outside of the United States, its territories or possessions, for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct, shall be punished as provided under subsection (e).

(2) The circumstance referred to in paragraph (1) is that—

(A) the person intends such visual depiction to be transported to the United States, its territories or possessions, by any means, including by using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or mail; or

(B) the person transports such visual depiction to the United States, its territories or possessions, by any means, including by using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or mail.

(d)(1) Any person who, in a circumstance described in paragraph (2), knowingly makes, prints, or publishes, or causes to be made, printed, or published, any notice or advertisement seeking or offering—

(A) to receive, exchange, buy, produce, display, distribute, or reproduce, any visual depiction, if the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct and such visual depiction is of such conduct; or

(B) participation in any act of sexually explicit conduct by or with any minor for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct;

shall be punished as provided under subsection (e).

(2) The circumstance referred to in paragraph (1) is that—

(A) such person knows or has reason to know that such notice or advertisement will be transported using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means including by computer or mailed; or

(B) such notice or advertisement is transported using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means including by computer or mailed.

(e) Any individual who violates, or attempts or conspires to violate, this section shall be fined under this title and imprisoned not less than 15 years nor more than 30 years, but if such person has one prior conviction under this chapter, section 1591, chapter 71, chapter 109A, or chapter 117, or under section 920 of title 10 (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or under the laws of any State relating to aggravated sexual abuse, sexual abuse, abusive sexual contact involving a minor or ward, or sex trafficking of children, or the production, posses-