

Part VI- “Even One is Too Many” Cops and Minors

Nationwide, States Attorneys General are demanding that online classified website like backpage.com and others shut down their adult services ads- supposedly to protect underage persons from being sexually trafficked. According to the August 31, 2011 letter sent to backpage.com from these states attorneys general, *“More than 50 cases of trafficking or attempted trafficking of minors on Backpage.com have been filed in 22 states in the past three years.”* Further, the letter notes, "These are only the stories that made it into the news; many more instances likely exist..." to which we say, *the same is true of the number of cases of cops and other law enforcement agents who have sexually exploited children. A child is not likely to want to report their sexual exploitation at the hands of a trusted member of law enforcement to... another member of law enforcement...*

Unfortunately for underage persons who are victims of sexual abuse at the hands of an adult, the majority of abusers do not find their victims through these classified ads. The abusers are often persons in positions of authority, such as cops, judges, district attorneys, and even FBI agents. Clergy, teachers, boy scout leaders and others are also among those whom a child trusts and looks up to for protection but find in them an abuser. According to the government's own statistics, 90% of underage persons who are sexually abused are victims of someone they know, and 68% of these underage sexual abuse cases are at the hands of a family member. (See the US Department of Justice Report : Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics)

Sexual abuse of teenage girls by police officers is so prevalent that there is a research report by that name which can be found here:

POLICE SEXUAL ABUSE OF TEENAGE GIRLS

And the prevalence of rape in juvenile facilities is also high, as indicated by this report from the US Department of Justice (published January 2010):

Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2008-09