

Article 27.

Prostitution.

§ 14-203. Definition of terms.

The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1) Advance prostitution. – The term includes all of the following:
 - a. Soliciting for a prostitute by performing any of the following acts when acting as other than a prostitute or a patron of a prostitute:
 1. Soliciting another for the purpose of prostitution.
 2. Arranging or offering to arrange a meeting of persons for the purpose of prostitution.
 3. Directing another to a place knowing the direction is for the purpose of prostitution.
 4. Using the Internet, including any social media Web site, to solicit another for the purpose of prostitution.
 - b. Keeping a place of prostitution by controlling or exercising control over the use of any place that could offer seclusion or shelter for the practice of prostitution and performing any of the following acts when acting as other than a prostitute or a patron of a prostitute:
 1. Knowingly granting or permitting the use of the place for the purpose of prostitution.
 2. Granting or permitting the use of the place under circumstances from which the person should reasonably know that the place is used or is to be used for purposes of prostitution.
 3. Permitting the continued use of the place after becoming aware of facts or circumstances from which the person should know that the place is being used for the purpose of prostitution.
- (2) Minor. – Any person who is less than 18 years of age.
- (3) Profit from prostitution. – When acting as other than a prostitute, to receive anything of value for personally rendered prostitution services or to receive anything of value from a prostitute, if the thing received is not for lawful consideration and the person knows it was earned in whole or in part from the practice of prostitution.
- (4) Prostitute. – A person who engages in prostitution.
- (5) Prostitution. – The performance of, offer of, or agreement to perform vaginal intercourse, any sexual act as defined in G.S. 14-27.20, or any sexual contact as defined in G.S. 14-27.20, for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification for any money or other consideration. (1919, c. 215, s. 2; C.S., s. 4357; 2013-368, s. 5; 2015-181, s. 17.)

§ 14-204. Prostitution.

- (a) Offense. – Any person who willfully engages in prostitution is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- (b) First Offender; Conditional Discharge. –
 - (1) Whenever any person who has not previously been convicted of or placed on probation for a violation of this section pleads guilty to or is found guilty of a violation of this section, the court, without entering a judgment and with the

consent of such person, shall place the person on probation pursuant to this subsection.

- (2) When a person is placed on probation, the court shall enter an order specifying a period of probation of 12 months and shall defer further proceedings in the case until the conclusion of the period of probation or until the filing of a petition alleging violation of a term or condition of probation.
- (3) The conditions of probation shall be that the person (i) not violate any criminal statute of any jurisdiction, (ii) refrain from possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon, (iii) submit to periodic drug testing at a time and in a manner as ordered by the court, but no less than three times during the period of the probation, with the cost of the testing to be paid by the probationer, (iv) obtain a vocational assessment administered by a program approved by the court, and (v) attend no fewer than 10 counseling sessions administered by a program approved by the court.
- (4) The court may, in addition to other conditions, require that the person do any of the following:
 - a. Make a report to and appear in person before or participate with the court or such courts, person, or social service agency as directed by the court in the order of probation.
 - b. Pay a fine and costs.
 - c. Attend or reside in a facility established for the instruction or residence of defendants on probation.
 - d. Support the person's dependents.
 - e. Refrain from having in the person's body the presence of any illicit drug prohibited by the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act, unless prescribed by a physician, and submit samples of the person's blood or urine or both for tests to determine the presence of any illicit drug.
- (5) Upon violation of a term or condition of probation, the court may enter a judgment on its original finding of guilt and proceed as otherwise provided.
- (6) Upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions of probation, the court shall discharge the person and dismiss the proceedings against the person. Upon the discharge of the person and dismissal of the proceedings against the person under this subsection, the person is eligible to apply for expunction of records pursuant to G.S. 15A-145.6.
- (7) Discharge and dismissal under this subsection shall not be deemed a conviction for purposes of structured sentencing or for purposes of disqualifications or disabilities imposed by law upon conviction of a crime.
- (8) There may be only one discharge and dismissal under this section.

(c) Immunity From Prosecution for Minors. – Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if it is determined, after a reasonable detention for investigative purposes, that a person suspected of or charged with a violation of this section is a minor, that person shall be immune from prosecution under this section and instead shall be taken into temporary protective custody as an undisciplined juvenile pursuant to Article 19 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes. Pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 7B-301, a law enforcement officer who takes a minor into custody under this section shall immediately report an allegation of a violation of G.S. 14-43.11 and G.S. 14-43.13 to the director of the department of social services in the county where the minor resides or is found,

as appropriate, which shall commence an initial investigation into child abuse or child neglect within 24 hours pursuant to G.S. 7B-301 and G.S. 7B-302. (1919, c. 215, s. 1; C.S., s. 4358; 2013-368, s. 5.)

§ 14-204.1: Repealed by Session Laws 2013-368, s. 4, effective October 1, 2013, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.

§ 14-205: Repealed by Session Laws 2013-368, s. 4, effective October 1, 2013, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.

§ 14-205.1. Solicitation of prostitution.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person who solicits another for the purpose of prostitution is guilty of a Class I felony for a first offense and a Class H felony for a second or subsequent offense. This subsection shall not apply to the person engaging in prostitution, as defined in G.S. 14-203(5). Any person 18 years of age or older who willfully solicits a minor for the purpose of prostitution is guilty of a Class G felony. Any person who willfully solicits a person who has a severe or profound mental disability for the purpose of prostitution is guilty of a Class E felony. Punishment under this section may include participation in a program devised for the education and prevention of sexual exploitation (i.e. "John School"), where available. A person who violates this subsection is not eligible for a disposition of prayer for judgment continued under any circumstances.

(b) Immunity From Prosecution for Minors. – Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if it is determined, after a reasonable detention for investigative purposes, that a person suspected of or charged with a violation of this section is a minor who is soliciting as a prostitute, that person shall be immune from prosecution under this section and instead shall be taken into temporary protective custody as an undisciplined juvenile pursuant to Article 19 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes. Pursuant to G.S. 7B-301, a law enforcement officer who takes a minor into custody under this section shall immediately report an allegation of a violation of G.S. 14-43.11 and G.S. 14-43.13 to the director of the department of social services in the county where the minor resides or is found, as appropriate, which shall commence an initial investigation into child abuse or child neglect within 24 hours pursuant to G.S. 7B-301 and G.S. 7B-302. (2013-368, s. 5; 2015-183, s. 1; 2018-47, s. 4(e); 2024-26, s. 4(a).)

§ 14-205.2. Patronizing a prostitute.

(a) Any person who willfully performs any of the following acts with a person not his or her spouse commits the offense of patronizing a prostitute:

- (1) Engages in vaginal intercourse, any sexual act as defined in G.S. 14-27.20, or any sexual contact as defined in G.S. 14-27.20, for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification with a prostitute.
- (2) Enters or remains in a place of prostitution with intent to engage in vaginal intercourse, any sexual act as defined in G.S. 14-27.20, or any sexual contact as defined in G.S. 14-27.20, for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, a first violation of this section is a Class A1 misdemeanor. Unless a higher penalty applies, a second or subsequent violation of this section is a Class G felony.

(c) A violation of this section is a Class F felony if the defendant is 18 years of age or older and the prostitute is a minor.

(d) A violation of this section is a Class D felony if the prostitute has a severe or profound mental disability. (2013-368, s. 5; 2015-181, s. 18; 2018-47, s. 4(f).)

§ 14-205.3. Promoting prostitution.

(a) Any person who willfully performs any of the following acts commits promoting prostitution:

- (1) Advances prostitution as defined in G.S. 14-203.
- (2) Profits from prostitution by doing any of the following:
 - a. Compelling a person to become a prostitute.
 - b. Receiving a portion of the earnings from a prostitute for arranging or offering to arrange a situation in which the person may practice prostitution.
 - c. Any means other than those described in sub-subdivisions a. and b. of this subdivision, including from a person who patronizes a prostitute. This sub-subdivision does not apply to a person engaged in prostitution who is a minor. A person cannot be convicted of promoting prostitution under this sub-subdivision if the practice of prostitution underlying the offense consists exclusively of the accused's own acts of prostitution under G.S. 14-204.

(b) Any person who willfully performs any of the following acts commits the offense of promoting prostitution of a minor or person who has a mental disability:

- (1) Advances prostitution as defined in G.S. 14-203, where a minor or person who has a severe or profound mental disability engaged in prostitution, or any person engaged in prostitution in the place of prostitution is a minor or has a severe or profound mental disability at the time of the offense.
- (2) Profits from prostitution by any means where the prostitute is a minor or has a severe or profound mental disability at the time of the offense.
- (3) Confines a minor or a person who has a severe or profound mental disability against the person's will by the infliction or threat of imminent infliction of great bodily harm, permanent disability, or disfigurement or by administering to the minor or person who has a severe or profound mental disability, without the person's consent or by threat or deception and for other than medical purposes, any alcoholic intoxicant or a drug as defined in Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes (North Carolina Controlled Substances Act) and does any of the following:
 - a. Compels the minor or person who has a severe or profound mental disability to engage in prostitution.
 - b. Arranges a situation in which the minor or person who has a severe or profound mental disability may practice prostitution.
 - c. Profits from prostitution by the minor or person who has a severe or profound mental disability.

For purposes of this subsection, administering drugs or an alcoholic intoxicant to a minor or a person who has a severe or profound mental disability, as described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, shall be deemed to be without consent if the administering is done without the consent

of the parents or legal guardian or if the administering is performed or permitted by the parents or legal guardian for other than medical purposes. Mistake of age is not a defense to a prosecution under this subsection.

(c) Unless a higher penalty applies, a violation of subsection (a) of this section is a Class F felony. A violation of subsection (a) of this section by a person with a prior conviction for a violation of this section or a violation of G.S. 14-204 (prostitution), G.S. 14-204.1 (solicitation of prostitution), or G.S. 14-204.2 (patronizing a prostitute) is a Class E felony.

(d) Unless a higher penalty applies, a violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (b) of this section is a Class D felony. A violation of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section is a Class C felony. Any violation of subsection (b) of this section by a person with a prior conviction for a violation of this section or a violation of G.S. 14-204 (prostitution), G.S. 14-204.1 (solicitation of prostitution), G.S. 14-204.2 (patronizing a prostitute) is a Class C felony. (2013-368, s. 5; 2018-47, s. 4(g).)

§ 14-205.4. Certain probation conditions.

(a) The court may order any convicted defendant to be examined for sexually transmitted infections. If a person convicted of a crime under this Article receives a sentence which includes probation and that person is infected with a sexually transmitted infection, the period of probation may commence only upon such terms and conditions as shall ensure medical treatment and prevent the spread of the infection.

(b) No female convicted under this Article shall be placed on probation in the care or charge of any person except a female probation officer. (2013-368, s. 5.)

§ 14-206. Reputation and prior conviction admissible as evidence.

In the trial of any person charged with a violation of any of the provisions of this Article, testimony of a prior conviction, or testimony concerning the reputation of any place, structure, or building, and of the person or persons who reside in or frequent the same, and of the defendant, shall be admissible in evidence in support of the charge. (1919, c. 215, s. 3; C.S., s. 4360.)

§ 14-207: Repealed by Session Laws 2013-368, s. 4, effective October 1, 2013, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.

§ 14-208: Repealed by Session Laws 2013-368, s. 4, effective October 1, 2013, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.

§ 14-208.1. Promoting travel for unlawful sexual conduct.

(a) Definition. – For purposes of this section, the term "travel services" means transportation by air, sea, or ground; hotel or other lodging accommodations; package tours, or the provision of vouchers or coupons to be redeemed for future travel; or accommodations for a fee, commission, or other valuable consideration.

(b) Offense. – A person commits the offense of promoting travel for unlawful sexual conduct if the person sells or offers to sell travel services that the person knows to include travel for the purpose of committing any of the following offenses in this State or for the purpose of engaging in conduct that would constitute any one of the following offenses if occurring within this State:

- (1) An offense under Article 7B of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes.
- (2) Any of the following offenses involving the sexual exploitation of a minor:

- a. G.S. 14-190.16.
- b. G.S. 14-190.17.
- c. G.S. 14-190.17A.
- (3) Any of the following offenses involving indecent liberties with a minor:
 - a. G.S. 14-202.1.
 - b. G.S. 14-202.4.
- (4) Any of the following prostitution offenses:
 - a. G.S. 14-204.
 - b. G.S. 14-205.1.
 - c. G.S. 14-205.2.
 - d. G.S. 14-205.3.
- (c) Punishment. – A violation of this section is a Class G felony. (2019-158, s. 2(a).)

§ 14-208.2. Reserved for future codification purposes.

§ 14-208.3. Reserved for future codification purposes.

§ 14-208.4. Reserved for future codification purposes.