Soliciting / Luring

Online solicitation offenders, also known as "luring" or "traveler offenders", involves sexual interactions with a minor without physical contact.

Solicitation Laws

- Solicitation laws prohibit the use of electronic means to communicate with minors for the purpose of facilitating a sexual offense.
- Generally, adolescents who engage in solicitation with one another are treated differently. For instance, Wolak (2012) found that the majority of adolescents involved in sexting cases were not criminally charged. Conservative estimates of sexting amongst adolescents show a prevalence rate ranging from 1% to 4% (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell, 2010; Wolak et al., 2012)

Two Types of Soliciting Offenders:

- The "*Novus*" - a casual consumer who is enticed by the Internet (properties). Internet technologies may have created a new type of offender, in the15 form of fantasy-driven solicitation offenders (Seto and Hansen, 2011)
- The "*Predator*" – pre-existing pedaphilic/hebephilic using the Internet to extend his reach.

Legal Aspects of Solicitation

- A "*takeover investigation*" is when the police step in on an actual solicitation case.
- A third of solicitation offenders wondered if the minor they were interacting with was actually an undercover police officer. (Briggs et al., 2011)
- Solicitation in the U.S. has three unique elements:
  1. encouraging, bribing, requesting, or commanding a person
  2. to commit a substantive crime,
  3. with the intent that the person solicited actually commit the crime.

There is no overt step necessary for solicitation, one person can be a defendant, and it merges with the substantive crime. It is not necessary that the person actually commit the crime, nor is it necessary that the person solicited be willing or able to commit the crime (such as if the "solicitee" were an undercover police officer).

Online sexual solicitation of minors: How often and between whom does it occur?

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Abstract:

Objectives: This study examined how frequently online sexual solicitation of adolescents and children by adults occurs and what characteristics the perpetrators have using a novel methodological approach. Method: In an online survey, we investigated the frequency of online sexual solicitation exhibited by adult Internet users (N = 2,828), including a subgroup recruited on pedophilia-related websites. Perpetrators soliciting adolescents were compared to those soliciting children concerning solicitation outcomes (e.g., cybersex) and demography. Results: In total, 4.5 percent reported soliciting adolescents and 1.0 percent reported soliciting children. Most solicitors of adolescents and children were from pedophilia-related websites (49.1 and 79.2 percent). Solicitation frequently involved sexual outcomes (47.5 percent), which also followed nonsexual interaction. The minors' age did not affect the odds of sexual outcomes. A substantial proportion of perpetrators were female. Conclusions: This study offers unprecedented data on the number of adults soliciting minors. Although adolescents were more often target of solicitation, the risk of sexual outcomes was equally high in solicitation of children, suggesting younger children to be considered in prevention efforts as well. Nonsexual interactions resulting in sexual outcomes need to be more closely examined to inform appropriate prevention efforts. Moreover, awareness should be raised about females as perpetrators.