

# Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in Utah

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[W wasatchdefenselawyers.com/practice/sexual-exploitation-of-a-minor-in-utah](https://www.wasatchdefenselawyers.com/practice/sexual-exploitation-of-a-minor-in-utah)

Craig R. Chlarton

July 26, 2022



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## Sexual Exploitation of a Minor Defense Lawyers in Salt Lake City, Utah

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### Sexual Exploitation of a Minor Defense You Can Trust in Salt Lake City, Utah

If you have been accused of sexual exploitation of a minor in Utah, you are facing one of the most serious criminal charges under state law. [Wasatch Defense Lawyers](#) is a top-rated defense firm based in Salt Lake City, representing clients across Salt Lake County and throughout Utah.

With more than 650 trials handled and more 5-star reviews than any other Utah defense firm, our attorneys are recognized leaders in criminal defense. We know what's at stake: your freedom, your reputation, and your future.

#### Trust Badges / Associations:

- ✓ Utah State Bar Certified
- ✓ National Trial Lawyers Top 100
- ✓ AVVO 10.0 Rating
- ✓ Super Lawyers Recognition
- ✓ Available 24/7

**Call for Help Now. Protect your rights. Call Wasatch Defense Lawyers today for a confidential consultation.**

[Get a Free Consultation](#)

## What Our Clients Say

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Paul and Lane at Wasatch Defense Lawyers are an exceptional team! Experienced. Knowledgeable. Helpful. And most importantly, effective. How effective? Case dismissed effective. Best possible outcome for our family member. Highly recommended.



Sterling Jackson

2 months ago

They worked with me till the end. Had some hiccups with the idaho lawyer but the stuck with me and found a new one to help finish up my case. Everything went just like they said it would and they were with me to the end. They were helpful with any and all questions I had through out my ordeal. I can't thank them enough. Its nice to have others who are willing to work hard for you. Thanks for everything your team did for me. If you need help this is the place to go!



Lee Knappenberger

2 months ago

Reed was a clear communicator, helpful, and when a mistake was made fixed the error. He understood the situation immediately and knew how to help. It was great working with him. Highly recommend.



Big Bad

6 days ago

Our lawyer, Reed, was amazing. He communicated well and helped us along this journey. Highly recommend.



Liz Nix

6 days ago

I was very grateful for the straight forward information we received. Lane was patient and kind, Darrell was blunt and direct. I LIKED THAT in this situation. I needed information/ education about what could happen, possible worst case scenarios, the law as it applied to us.



Michelle Dennis

8 days ago

These guys are awesome they helped me fast with my situation these guys are the best



Mal Jones

9 days ago

Very good at what they do and most importantly knowledgeable at every single thing that comes up. Very thankful and glad we were able to find them. Lane is very attentive and there to help answer all questions. More than please with their service. Would recommend to anyone.



Patricia Gomez

14 days ago

I went in for a free consult and couldn't have been happier with the outcome. Very knowledgeable and honest, they really took the time to listen to my concerns and gave great advice. I will most definitely be using Wasatch Defense Layers.



Krystalyn Robinson

15 days ago

Amazing experience. Extremely helpful.



Evan Robinson

15 days ago

I appreciate all the support we had working with Layne. He is a very kind man. That helped us in our time of need. I would recommend them to family and friends. The team is very knowledgeable. With a wide umbrella of care and compassion. Thank you for everything.



Shelly Myrick

20 days ago

The Wasatch Defense Lawyers team has been amazing, especially Lane, paralegal; he has kept us in the loop on everything happening with the charges and the court. Anytime I text or call, he responds quickly and professionally. Wasatch Defense Lawyers are keeping our son—who was in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people—out of prison, and setting him up so he can move forward in life and put this chapter behind him. 🙏



Kim Hartman

20 days ago

I was impressed with the fact that they started on the case before we even hired them. Scott was very informative and gave us his cellphone number so we could call him anytime we needed and he always answered the phone. I was impressed in his compassion considering the situation. He was always very kind and nonjudgmental. He always had compliments about how he was doing. He worked hard for results.



Natalie Najera

21 days ago

Wasatch Defense Attorneys have been great. They have been helping my son with his case and are very professional and kind attorneys. Lane has been quite awesome and helpful. I recommend this firm to anyone and everyone.



April Stagg

22 days ago

Had some amazing help from these guys.



Douglas Gillespie

22 days ago

Super responsive and helpful at any hour. Very knowledgeable.



Jenica Wilcox

24 days ago

At the very beginning, I had no hope or nowhere to go, or any idea what to do with the situation I got in but I got in touch with Wasatch Defense. They connected me with Beau and Jenny and thanks to them I get to live my life after going through 4 years of hardship and uncertainty lane and Beau and Jenny fought tooth and nail for me and gave me another chance at life. For that, I am forever grateful to them and would recommend them a million times over.



Isaiah Smith

28 days ago

These guys have been such a help throughout this long and scary process. The entire team has been super informative and supportive throughout this case my family has been dealing with. Lane especially has been nothing but reassuring and quick to answer any questions or concerns I have. I am beyond relieved that we went with Wasatch Defense!



Larz

28 days ago

Great defense lawyer. Reed was very professional and helped my family through a difficult time. I highly recommend him.



Nabila Shafi

28 days ago

Lane Clark and his team are world class. They take care of their clients and truly care about them as people. They understand their client's situation and most importantly they

understand the laws and decision makers involved throughout the entire process. I highly recommend him and their firm.



Bradley Thatcher

29 days ago

If you're looking for lawyers who don't just show up but show out, this is the team. They've had my back every step of the way sharp, relentless, and seriously kick ass at what they do. Special shoutout to Lane: absolute rockstar. Lane goes above and beyond, explains things in a way that actually makes sense, and fights like hell for the best outcome. You can tell they truly care, not just about the case but about you as a person. Professional, powerful, and downright awesome these are the lawyers you want in your corner.



Shannon Rakes

29 days ago

Did a great job handling the case. Got great relief for our family. Was fantastic at explaining everything in detail. definitely recommend.



Erica Taylor

a month ago

They were very personable and professional.



Loraine Larsen

a month ago

I was charged on a Sunday and called Wastatch defense on Monday at lunch. They were able to get me a consultation right away. I felt so relieved after talking with them. They knew what to do and took care of everything from the moment I signed. Call with confidence that you will be well taken care of through the whole process.



douglas larsen

a month ago

Communication was exceptional, they did anything and everything to reassure us things were going to be okay. Lane is exceptional wherever he his he will get back to you in a timely manner.



Diann Castaneda

a month ago

Franklin Katschke is an incredible attorney. I know he works very hard and does an amazing job for his clients. He's sharp and gets the job done. You cannot go wrong with Franklin as your attorney.



Clay Randle

a month ago

Great service we are super happy with them they've help me and my family a lot we definitely recommend their services.



Gerram5.7 R

a month ago

My son was falsely accused by a student at school and the issue was reported to DCFS. My defense attorney team and attorney Paul Johnson did a wonderful job and got everything dismissed quickly.



Tiffany

a month ago

It is early in the case with a long road ahead, but up to this point we have been treated with understanding, kindness and compassion. Reed and Lane have been immediately responsive when contacted. I believe their team is competent and motivated to advocate through a difficult situation, and are highly invested in reaching the best possible outcomes. Thank you!



Ginger

a month ago

So, initially I didn't have the best experience with a specific attorney, after I had left a negative review, Lane personally reached out to me to offer to rectify the situation. I was blow away with how kind and professional he was, and his offer that if I ever needed help again, I could use him personally. Sometimes things happen, and maybe my experience was just a fluke, but I am truly surprised how quick Lane was to want to make things right. Because of that alone, I would absolutely recommend Wasatch Defense Attorneys. Not all businesses care about their clients and their customer service, and I can tell he really wants people to have had a good experience with his organization. Thank you, Lane!



Lauren W.

a month ago

Wasatch Defense Lawyers were creative and resourceful in their defense of my son. Thank you for a job well done!



Charlotte Stewart

a month ago

We really enjoyed our experience with this team! It was a pleasure to work with Mark and Lane. They provided clear guidance, support and always answered any questions we would have at any time during the process! Very helpful and informative. We also appreciated the care and empathy they showed for us just as people during a difficult time. They are great and I would highly recommend!



Anna Vongse

a month ago

The team that helped absolve my case talked clearly with me and I have only positive feelings with everyone involved with Wasatch Defense. Thank you.



Damon Rushton

a month ago

I live in New Jersey but used to live in Utah. This firm was patient and handled my problems swiftly and professionally. I would recommend to anyone especially if you're out of state and need help in Utah. they get the job done 🙌



Roger Maiure

a month ago

When I found myself stranded at the doorstep of an unfamiliar legal system, I reached out for help. Scott and the team at Wasatch Defense Attorneys responded with remarkable speed, meeting with me the same day to listen, strategize, and provide clear guidance. Even after resolving my case, their continued support has been a tremendous comfort during such uncertain times. Wasatch Defense Attorneys are swift, effective, and, most importantly, always have your back.



RobRoy Thompson

a month ago

Wasatch Defense Lawyers were right there when my son needed them. Lane made sure my son was protected from the start. We were treated fair and Darrell was straightforward and to the point which got the job done. Thank you Wasatch Defense Lawyers



angie mortensen lopez

a month ago

Wasatch Defense attorney I spoke with and had a consultation with was extremely personable, helpful, caring, concerned and considerate towards the case I brought fourth to them! Absolutely would recommend hiring them to fight for you!



mandi Moon

a month ago

Paul and the rest of the team at Wasatch defense are the best in the state for a reason.



Brian Swaner

a month ago

We really recommend Wasatch Defense Lawyers. Darrell, Layne, Amy and Victoria (Apologies if we forgot to mention anyone else) Great staff, they were very honest with us.

Very trustworthy and very supportive! Definitely will reach out and work with them again. We really appreciate all the help and support. Thank you all!



Jenny L.

a month ago

Wasatch defense was professional, knowledgeable, and great to work with. Lane was very personable and helped ease our concerns.



josh schultz

a month ago

Tyler Ayres is a dedicated and knowledgeable defense attorney who has been invaluable in my case. He provided clear guidance, strong representation, and is always responsive to my questions. I highly recommend Tyler and Wasatch Defense Lawyers to anyone needing a reliable defense lawyer.



Chris Fraide

a month ago

Very detailed and sensitive to issue.



Jennifer Stanger

2 months ago

The team did an excellent job more me. Explained everything in detail as we went through the process



Candace Baird

2 months ago

I really enjoyed my experience with this team! Their attention to detail and ability to stay calm under pressure truly set them apart. I always felt heard and supported throughout the process. Thanks to their expertise, we achieved a favorable outcome. I recommend Paul Johnson he made my experience top notch:)



maddie smith

2 months ago

I loved the service I got, Paul Johnson really knows what he's doing to keep me out of trouble! Highly recommend, these guys are so great they make me feel like family!



Mikaela Johnson

2 months ago

As a first timer utilizing a lawyer and going through the court system I was nervous to say the least. I had 0 idea on what to do, who to call and how to go about it. I called a few offices and all seemed to be very straight with 0 care and wanted to charge me an hourly rate. I ended up coming across Wasatch Defense Lawyer. From the get go they were very knowledgeable, patient, and answered all my questions. They walked me step by step on what the process would look like. Price point, WDL are more than fair in my opinion. It was a flat rate ( at-least for my situation ) and came out to about half of what the other lawyers wanted to charge me. Team, Victoria their paralegal was the first person I worked with. She was kind, understanding and very professional. She understood my frustration and was empathetic. My lawyer David, great man! He is very knowledgeable when it comes to his work. He's means business. He got the resolution I needed. Overall as a first timer going through the court system I'd highly recommend utilizing Wasatch Defense Lawyers. They are there when you need them and will be by your side the entire way. Victoria & David, Thank you for making this process so seamless and having my back when I needed it the most. You guys are the best!



Josh

2 months ago

Very helpful people with tons of expertise. I highly recommend them to anyone. If you want the best, go with them.



Preston Callahan

2 months ago

Unreal service everyone there is nice and takes their time with you. Helped me from beginning to end and walked me through the process. Even though it was a nervous and

scary process they held my hand step by step and even followed up with me.



OneStop Property Management

2 months ago

Paul and Lane at Wasatch Defense Lawyers are an exceptional team! Experienced. Knowledgeable. Helpful. And most importantly, effective. How effective? Case dismissed effective. Best possible outcome for our family member. Highly recommended.



Sterling Jackson

2 months ago

They worked with me till the end. Had some hiccups with the idaho lawyer but they stuck with me and found a new one to help finish up my case. Everything went just like they said it would and they were with me to the end. They were helpful with any and all questions I had through out my ordeal. I can't thank them enough. Its nice to have others who are willing to work hard for you. Thanks for everything your team did for me. If you need help this is the place to go!



Lee Knappenberger

2 months ago

Reed was a clear communicator, helpful, and when a mistake was made fixed the error. He understood the situation immediately and knew how to help. It was great working with him. Highly recommend.



Big Bad

6 days ago

Our lawyer, Reed, was amazing. He communicated well and helped us along this journey. Highly recommend.



Liz Nix

6 days ago

## Why Ignoring These Charges Costs More Than You Think

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Sexual exploitation of a minor charges do not fade away with time. Prosecutors pursue these cases aggressively, and the penalties can include:

1. Years in prison
2. Fines up to \$10,000
3. Lifetime placement on Utah's [Sex Offender Registry](#).

Beyond the courtroom, a conviction affects jobs, housing, education, and even personal relationships. Ignoring the problem only exacerbates it. Acting fast with the right defense team is the only way to protect your life and future.

## How We Defend Against Sexual Exploitation Charges

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### Certified Defense Attorneys

We are familiar with Utah Criminal Code § 76-5b-201 in detail. Our attorneys find weaknesses in the state's case and fight to have charges dismissed or reduced.

### Personalized Legal Strategy

Every client's situation is unique. We develop a defense strategy tailored to your specific case, whether that involves challenging evidence, negotiating reductions, or preparing for trial.

### Aggressive Courtroom Representation

With over 650 trials under our belt, we are prepared to defend you in front of a jury if necessary.

### Confidential & Compassionate Support

These charges carry stigma. We handle your case discreetly, professionally, and without judgment.

## What Is Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in Utah

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Under the Utah Sexual Exploitation Act, sexual exploitation of a minor includes:

1. Knowingly possessing child pornography
2. Intentionally viewing or distributing unlawful images
3. Producing or helping create child pornography
4. Allowing your child to be involved in unlawful materials

**Proof of Identity:** Utah law does not require proof of a specific child's identity for prosecutors to move forward.

For additional details, see the [Utah Criminal Justice Process](#).

## Possible Defenses to Sexual Exploitation Charges

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Our team explores every legal angle to fight for your freedom. Affirmative defenses can include:

1. Showing that no minor was actually involved in the materials
2. Demonstrating lack of intent or solicitation
3. Proving the defendant was less than two years older than the minor depicted
4. Showing the materials do not qualify under Utah's sexual offense statutes
5. Evidence obtained through [unlawful search or seizure](#)

## Penalties for Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in Utah

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Even a first-time offense is charged as a **second-degree felony** in Utah. According to Utah Courts and the Utah Sentencing Commission, consequences can include:

1. Up to 15 years in prison
2. Fines up to \$10,000
3. Lifetime registration on the Utah Sex Offender & Kidnap Offender Registry

For context, similar sex crime cases, such as the [manufacturing of child pornography](#), can result in even harsher penalties.

## Who Is Exempt from Charges?

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Utah law makes exceptions for certain professionals who may handle unlawful materials as part of their work, including:

1. Law enforcement
2. Attorneys
3. Court officials and jurors
4. DHS workers
5. Those handling evidence for reporting, preservation, or policy implementation

Learn more about handling sensitive material in [DNA testing for sex crimes](#).

## Why Choose Wasatch Defense Lawyers?

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### Trusted Across Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, and Utah

1. 650+ trials defended
2. Utah State Bar Certified
3. Top 100 National Trial Lawyers
4. AVVO 10.0 Rating
5. Super Lawyers Recognition
6. More 5-star reviews than any other Utah defense firm

See more about our [winning strategy](#).

## Our Core Sex Crimes Defense Services

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1. [Sexual Exploitation of a Minor Defense](#)
2. [Third Degree Sexual Exploitation Defense](#)
3. [Child Pornography Possession Defense](#)
4. [Internet Sex Crimes Defense](#)
5. [Sex Offender Registry Removal](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Is sexual exploitation of a minor a felony in Utah?

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Yes. Under Utah Code § 76-5b-201, sexual exploitation of a minor is always treated as a felony offense. Most cases are charged as a second-degree felony, which means a conviction can result in 1 to 15 years in prison and up to \$10,000 in fines. In addition, anyone convicted will typically be required to register on Utah's Sex Offender Registry for life.

### What are possible defenses?

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### Will I have to register as a sex offender?

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### What should I do after being charged?

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### What happens if I'm under investigation but not yet charged?

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### What is sexual assault in the 2nd degree?

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**Can charges be reduced or dismissed?**

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## **Our Service Area**

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### **Wasatch Defense Lawyers**

299 South Main Street

#1317

Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

### **Proudly defending clients across:**

- Salt Lake City
- West Valley
- Provo
- Ogden
- South Jordan
- Sandy
- Layton
- All of Salt Lake, Utah, and Weber Counties

## **Ready to Defend Your Future?**

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Ready to Get Reliable Defense for Sexual Exploitation of a Minor Charges? Proudly serving Salt Lake City and surrounding Utah communities. Call now for a confidential consultation with Wasatch Defense Lawyers.