

Surge in Celebrity Sex Crime Convictions

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It once may have seemed that famous people were immune to being found guilty of sex crimes. It's true that not all celebrities accused of criminal sex offenses are convicted, but in recent years, public figures have received guilty verdicts with increasing frequency. For anyone, a celebrity or an average U.S. American, having an experienced Utah criminal defense lawyer is necessary to protect your rights and build the best possible defense for you, if you're accused of a sex crime in the state.

Some famous people convicted of sex crimes have received long prison sentences and large fines, and have become registered sex offenders. Typically, even when famous people accused of sex crimes are not convicted, their careers and reputations are destroyed. Here are just a few examples of the many cases, present, and past that mark the increasing rates of accusations of sex offenses by celebrities.

Today's Soaring Rates of Celebrity Sex Crimes Convictions

The advent of the Me Too age encouraged sex crime victims to come forward. Accusers have shared decades of information about previously unreported sex crimes by celebrities. Waves of new accusations have led to terminated employment, devastated families, staggering lawsuits, and criminal charges.

- Comedian and actor Bill Cosby was convicted by a jury in April 2018 of three counts of sexual assault. He was ultimately sentenced to 3 to 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. Though Cosby was accused of sexual assault by dozens of women, only one filed criminal charges.
- A couple of months later, in May 2018, Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was arrested in New York and charged with rape. In February 2020, Weinstein was convicted of two felonies, (out of the five he was charged with). He is currently serving a 23-year prison sentence. His earliest possible release date is late 2039.
- After 20 years with the Fox network, CEO Roger Ailes resigned in 2016 due to accusations of sexual harassment by 23 current and former Fox employees. In the spring of 2017, Ailes died in the midst of a Justice Department investigation and a second law enforcement agency investigation of possible financial crimes committed for purposes of concealing the sex crimes.
- Matt Lauer lost his anchor job of 20 years with the Today Show, and may yet be criminally charged due to accusations of rape by a coworker and other alleged sex crimes.
- Last year in 2020, even as the world was adapting to life during a global pandemic, economic crisis, and political upheaval, another public figure, actor Danny Masterson of “That ’70s Show,” was charged with raping three women between 2001 and 2003, according to the Los Angeles District Attorney. (The D.A. had declined to press charges against Masterson in two other cases, because of insufficient evidence.)

Bill O’Reilly, Kevin Spacey, R Kelly, Charlie Rose, Mark Halperin, Tavis Smiley, Mario Batali, Russell Simmons, Chuck Close, Jon Heely, have been recently accused of sex crimes against one or multiple victims. Some are being sued, or may yet be criminally charged, arrested, convicted, and sentenced. These are just a few of the growing number of celebrities charged with sex crimes over the past few years.

Some have already been formally charged and have not yet been to trial. Others have already made such enormous settlements in civil lawsuits and been ordered to pay such high fines imposed by the criminal courts that famous accused sex offenders coast-to-coast have collectively generated a veritable national celebrity sex crime economy.

Historically Lower Rates of Celebrity Convictions for Sex Crimes

Celebrity convictions for sex offenses is not actually a new phenomenon. Back in the pre-Me Too era, there was the occasional conviction of a public figure for sex offenses.

- For example, In 2012, Jerry Sandusky, Penn State’s famous former football coach, received a sentence of 30 to 60 years in prison for sex crimes against 10 boys. Sandusky was required to register as a sex offender if u he is ever released from the penitentiary.
- Marv Albert, age 79, for another example from yet a different decade, pleaded guilty of forcible sodomy and assault and battery charges in 1997. The sports commentator received a 12-month suspended sentence.

- Even farther back in time (1992), world champion boxer Mike Tyson was convicted of raping a woman and served 3 years of a 6-year sentence in prison, plus another four years on probation. Tyson was required to register as a sex offender in 2002, when he went to Tennessee for his Lennox Lewis fight.
- In much earlier decades (1977), it seemed an anomaly to learn that Roman Polanski, Hollywood Director, had pleaded guilty to having unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year old girl. In a plea bargain, 5 of the 6 charges against Polanski were dropped. He spent 42 days in jail. He fled to Europe in fear of more consequences, fought extradition for years, and never returned to the U.S.
- But, even in the previous century, society did convict and imprison famously accused sex offenders. Playwright Oscar Wilde was convicted in 1895 of sodomy and indecent acts, for which he spent two years in prison.



If You Have Been Accused of a Sex Crime

The shift from the historical trend of very infrequent celebrity convictions for sex crimes toward much more strongly encouraging victims to seek justice against famous perpetrators is a positive change. However, some accusations of sex crimes have been found to be false. If you have been falsely accused and may face criminal charges of a sex offense, contact the best sex crime defense lawyer in Salt Lake City who specializes in sex crimes defense.

To prevail, your case must be thoroughly prepared:

- *Witnesses who can provide an alibi for you or testify on your behalf must be contacted.*
- *A range of other documentary and physical evidence must be collected.*
- *You may be advised to take psychological tests.*
- *Writing down as many details as you can recall is essential.*

- *Various investigations may be necessary.*
- *A number of other criminal case preparations must be made.*
- *It's critical that you obey all laws and court rules.*

Work with the most experienced criminal law attorney available to you. A seasoned criminal defense attorney can guide you through the Utah criminal court process and ensure that all your rights are protected and that the best and most thorough case possible is built for your defense.

Why You Need a Sex Crime Defense Lawyer in Utah?

When faced with a record as a criminal sex offender and possible prison time, you need to have a well experienced criminal defense lawyer represent you. If you are faced with charges of one or more sex offenses:

- An experienced sex crimes defense attorney will examine the details of your case and determine if you have been wrongfully charged.
- Your attorney will listen carefully to all details, and then will review the strengths and weaknesses of your case with you, and evaluate your risk of conviction and consequences.
- Your lawyer will determine if there are reasons why the case should be dismissed without going to trial.
- If charges are not dismissed, your lawyer may negotiate a plea bargain with the prosecutor for you, or advise you if going forward to trial is more likely to be in your best interest.
- If an acceptable plea bargain cannot be agreed upon, your criminal defense attorney will prepare your case, present all the relevant evidence at trial, and work aggressively to prove your innocence.

Wasatch Defense Lawyers, Salt Lake City, UT

We are criminal defense attorneys in Salt Lake City, UT. We specialize in defense against charges of sex crimes. If you have been charged with a sex offense, you deserve the best possible defense that a team of top criminal defense lawyers can build for you.

We immediately work to get charges reduced or get the case dropped and to keep you out of jail and off the sex offender registry. We use an aggressive approach that produces favorable outcomes for our clients.

Call Wasatch Defense Lawyers, Salt Lake City UT at (801)980-9965 for a free, confidential case review. (We speak fluent Spanish and German.) Ask about payment arrangements and our military discounts.