

# Criminal Statutes of Limitations District of Columbia

*Last Updated: April 2023*

## Incest

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-1901.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(U). |

## Sexual abuse, first degree

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3002.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(G). |

## Sexual abuse, second degree

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3003.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(H). |

## Sexual abuse, third degree

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3004.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(I). |

## Sexual abuse, fourth degree

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time                                                                                 |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3005.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(J). |

## Misdemeanor sexual abuse

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within three years after commission of the offense.                                         |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3006.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(5). |

## Child sexual abuse, first degree

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3008.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(K). |

## Child sexual abuse, second degree

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3009.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(L). |

## Sexual abuse of a minor, first degree

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                   |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3009.01.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(M). |

## Sexual abuse of a minor, second degree

| Question                                           | Answer                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time. |

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|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Statutory citation(s): | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3009.02.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(N). |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## **Misdemeanor sexual abuse of a child or minor**

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within three years after commission of the offense.                                            |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3010.01.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(5). |

## **Sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, or prisoner, first degree**

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3013.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(Q). |

## **Sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, or prisoner, second degree**

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3014.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(R). |

## **Sexual abuse of a patient or client, first degree**

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3015.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(S). |

## **Sexual abuse of a patient or client, second degree**

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3016.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(T). |

## **Abducting or enticing a child from the home for purposes of prostitution**

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within 10 years after commission of the offense.<br>2. This time does not begin to run until victim reaches age 21. |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-2704.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(3)(K) and (d)(2)(G).        |

## **Pandering, or inducing, or compelling individual to engage in prostitution**

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within 10 years after commission of the offense.<br>2. This time does not begin to run until victim reaches age 21. |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-2705.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(3)(L) and (d)(2)(H).        |

## **Compelling an individual to live a life of prostitution against their will**

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within 10 years after commission of the offense.<br>2. If the victim was a minor at the time of the offense, this time does not begin to run until victim reaches age 21. |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-2706.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(3)(M) and (d)(2)(I).                                                              |

## **Enticing a child for the purpose of committing felony sexual abuse**

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within 10 years after commission of the offense.<br>2. This time does not begin to run until victim reaches age 21. |

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| Statutory citation(s): | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3010.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(3)(C) and (d)(2)(C). |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **Sexual abuse of a secondary education student, first degree**

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|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                         |
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                   |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3009.03.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(O). |

### **Sexual abuse of a secondary education student, second degree**

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|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                         |
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution may be commenced at any time.                                                                                   |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3009.04.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(1)(P). |

### **Causing spouse or domestic partner to live in prostitution**

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|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within 10 years after commission of the offense.                                               |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-2708.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(3)(N). |

## Arranging for sexual contact with a real or fictitious child

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within six years after commission of the offense.                                              |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3010.02.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(4). |

## Trafficking in labor or commercial sex acts

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within 10 years after commission of the offense.<br>2. If the victim was a minor at the time of the offense, this time does not begin to run until the victim reaches age 21. |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-1833.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(3)(J) and (d)(2)(J).                                                                  |

## Sex trafficking of children

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within 10 years after commission of the offense.<br>2. If the victim was a minor at the time of the offense, this time does not begin to run until the victim reaches age 21. |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-1834.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code § 23-113(a)(3)(J) and (d)(2)(J).                                                                  |



## Using a minor in a sexual performance or promoting sexual performance by a minor

| Question                                           | Answer                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is the statute of limitations for this crime? | 1. Prosecution must commence within 10 years after commission of the offense.<br>2. This time does not begin to run until the victim reaches age 21. |
| Statutory citation(s):                             | 1. Citation for the crime: D.C. Code § 22-3102.<br>2. Citation for the statute of limitations: D.C. Code §§ 23-113(a)(3)(H), (d)(2)(D).              |

## Are there any exceptions to the statute of limitations laws?

| Question   | Answer                                                                                              |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exceptions | • D.C. Code § 23-113(f): No statute of limitations shall extend to any person fleeing from justice. |

## Anything else I should know?

| Question                     | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| Anything else I should know? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• D.C. Code § 23-113(b): An offense is committed either when every element occurs, or, if a legislative purpose to prohibit a continuing course of conduct plainly appears, at the time when the course of conduct, or the defendant's complicity therein, is terminated. Time starts to run the day after the offense is committed or completed.</li><li>• D.C. Code § 23-113(d)(5): The period of limitation shall not begin to run for forced labor, trafficking in labor or commercial sex, sex trafficking of children, and benefitting financially from human trafficking until the victim is no longer subject to the means used to obtain or maintain his or her labor or services or commercial sex acts.</li><li>• D.C. Code § 23-113(2). If a timely complaint, indictment, or information is dismissed for any error, defect,</li></ul> |

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|  | insufficiency, or irregularity, a new prosecution may be commenced within three months after the dismissal becomes final even though the period of limitation has expired at the time of the dismissal or will expire within three months thereafter. |
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