

Governor Signs Child Abuse, Exploitation Bill

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – The Department of Public Safety now has more reach in the fight against child abuse and exploitation in Alaska. Yesterday, Governor Sean Parnell signed legislation he introduced as a part of his Choose Respect and Safe Homes initiatives. The legislation updates and strengthens existing laws and creates harsher penalties for those who choose to target children. It also recognizes new and emerging technology used by stalkers so law enforcement can hold them accountable.

This legislation, in conjunction to funding in Governor Parnell’s budget for two new positions in the Cybercrime Unit, will truly improve enforcement efforts.

“We are all aware of Alaska’s staggering child abuse and exploitation rates,” Governor Parnell said. “It is our obligation and responsibility to put the safety of our children first. I appreciate the unanimous support from the Legislature that will help us fight against those who harm children.”

“With Governor Parnell’s support, we can better serve the people of Alaska,” said Commissioner Joe Masters. “This is a positive step forward in our fight to break the cycle of abuse in Alaska.”

House Bill 127 also:

- Raises the penalties for online enticement of a minor for repeat offenders from a class B felony to a class A felony;
- Creates a new crime of sending explicit images of a minor;
- Clarifies that a person who commits the crime of online enticement of a minor or sending an explicit image of a minor can be prosecuted in Alaska if the victim is located in Alaska, regardless of the offender’s location;
- Updates stalking statutes to include the use of global positioning systems (GPS) or installation of a device to observe, record, or photograph events occurring within the victim’s office, home, or automobile; and
- Prohibits a peace officer from engaging in sexual acts with a person in the officer’s custody or apparent custody, or in the custody of a law enforcement agency.



[Building on his priority to keep Alaska’s children safe, Governor Sean Parnell today signed legislation that increases the penalties for child abuse and child exploitation. The legislation also updates statutes related to stalking so the laws recognize new and emerging technology used by stalkers. House Bill 127 was introduced by Governor Parnell as part of his Choose Respect and Safe Homes, Strong Families initiatives.](#)