

THE TRUTH ABOUT FOSTA-SESTA



Passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and signed into law in April 2018, the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA-SESTA) is a **federal** law to combat sex trafficking online.

FOSTA-SESTA targets companies that run websites or online platforms that **knowingly** facilitate sex trafficking or the promotion of prostitution of another person (pimping under federal law). Both sex trafficking and pimping are crimes, but a federal legal loophole prevented prosecution of these crimes when they happened online.

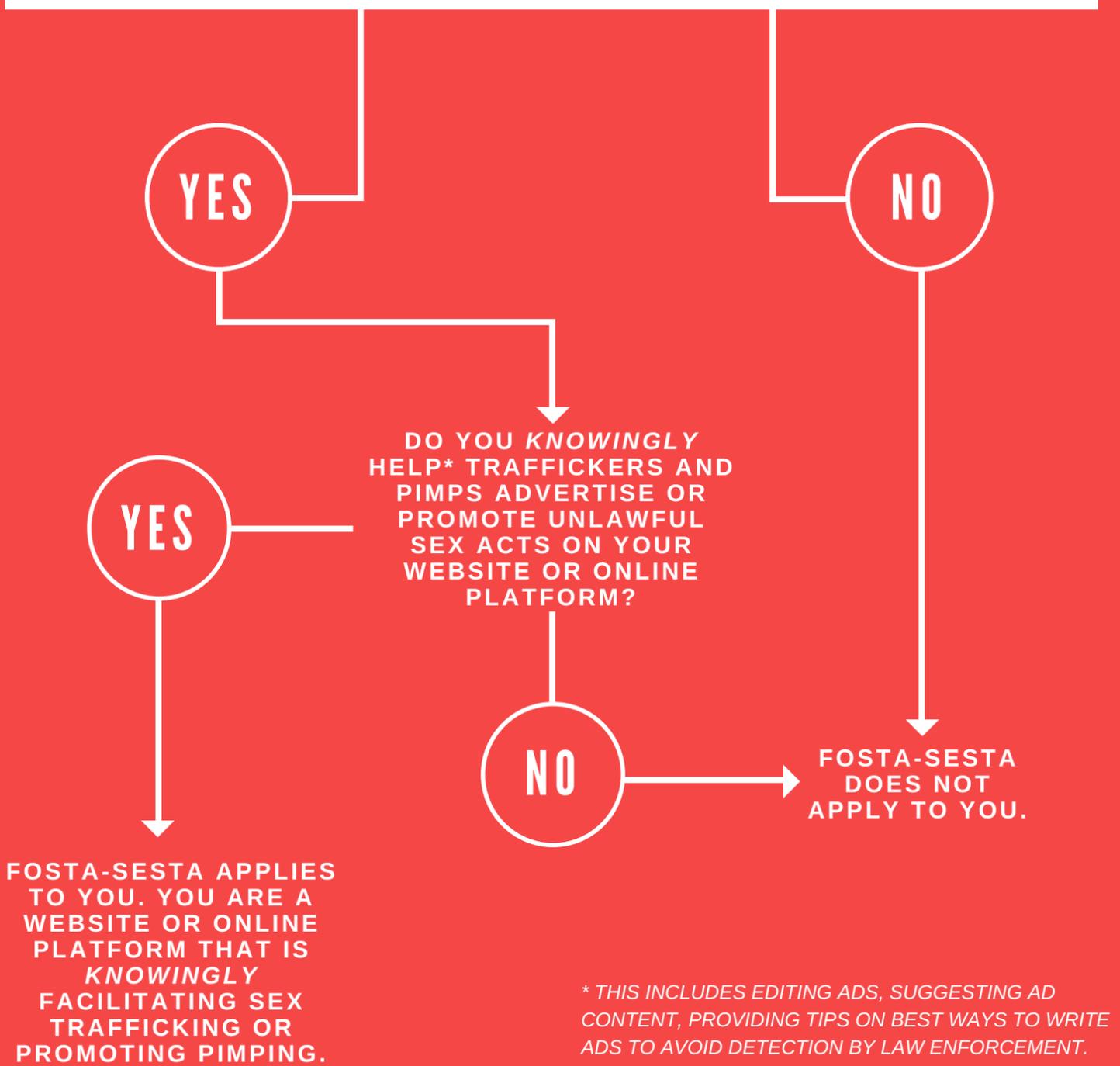


FOSTA-SESTA allows federal and state governments to enforce anti-trafficking laws when websites or online platforms **knowingly** facilitate sex trafficking and promote pimping online. Victims now have the ability to sue entities that helped advertise and sell them online. States can also file a civil action to enforce the law.

Since its passage, there seems to be a lot of confusion about what the law says and does. Here's an easy way to know if FOSTA-SESTA applies to you.



ARE YOU A WEBSITE OR ONLINE PLATFORM?



FOSTA-SESTA does NOT target individuals who solicit prostitution. People who independently solicit prostitution on their websites or on online platforms are governed by state and local laws and regulations, not FOSTA-SESTA, a federal law.



FOSTA-SESTA's scope only applies to the crimes of sex trafficking and promotion of pimping online. Discussing the sex trade, including exchanging information about health and safety concerns, on forums and websites is not under this law's purview.

References:

Public Law No: 115-164 (04/11/2018) Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 via Congress.gov