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.

**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.

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