

(S.D.)-Prosecutors Laud Appeals Ruling On Sex Trafficking

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SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - A recent appeals court decision clears the way for prosecutors to seek lengthy prison terms for people who try to pay for sex with minors.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision reinstates the commercial sex trafficking convictions of two men whose convictions were thrown out by trial judges in South Dakota.

Those judges ruled that commercial sex trafficking laws are meant to punish the sellers of sex, not the buyers. The 8th Circuit disagreed.

South Dakota U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says it's a significant decision because prosecutors can now target not only the supply side of the sex trade but also the demand side.