

[National Laws](#)

Legislation of Interpol member states on sexual offences against children

Finland - Finlande - Finlandia

Helsinki

The information on this page is up to date as of spring 2006

I. Ages for legal purposes

Age of simple majority

The legal age of majority is eighteen (18) years.

Age of consent for sexual activity

The legal age of consent for sexual activity is sixteen (16) years.

Age of consent for marriage

The legal age of consent for marriage is eighteen (18) years.

II. Rape

Chapter 20 of the Finnish Penal Code

Section 1 - Rape

A person who coerces another into sexual intercourse by the use or threat of violence shall be sentenced for rape to imprisonment for at least one year and at most six years.

A person shall also be sentenced for rape if he/she takes advantage of the incapacity of another to defend himself/herself and has sexual intercourse with him/her, after rendering him/her unconscious or causing him/her to be in such a state of incapacity owing to fear or another similar reason.

An attempt is punishable.

Section 2- Aggravated rape

If, in the rape,

- (1) grievous bodily injury, serious illness or a state of mortal danger is inflicted on another;
- (2) the offence is committed by several people; or especially hard mental or physical suffering is caused;
- (3) the offence is committed in a particularly brutal, cruel or humiliating manner; or
- (4) a firearm, edged weapon or other lethal instrument is used or a threat of other serious violence is made,

and the rape is aggravated also when assessed as a whole, the offender shall be sentenced for aggravated rape to imprisonment for at least two years and at most ten years.

An attempt is punishable.

Section 3 - Coercion into sexual intercourse

If the rape, in view of the slightness of the violence or threat and the other particulars of the offence, is deemed to have been committed under mitigating circumstances when assessed as a whole, the offender shall be sentenced for coercion into sexual intercourse to imprisonment for at most three years.

A person who coerces another into sexual intercourse by a threat other than that referred to in section 1(1) shall also be sentenced for coercion into sexual intercourse.

An attempt is punishable.

Section 4 - Coercion into a sexual act

(1) A person who by violence or threat coerces another into a sexual act other than that referred to in section 1 or into submission to such an act, thus essentially violating his/her right of sexual self-determination, shall be sentenced for coercion into a sexual act to a fine or to imprisonment for at most three years.

(2) An attempt is punishable.

III. Other forms of child sex abuse

Section 5 - Sexual abuse

(1) A person who abuses his/her position and entices one of the following into sexual intercourse, into another sexual act essentially violating his/her right of sexual self-determination, or into submission to such an act,

a) a person younger than eighteen years of age, who in a school or other institution is subject to the authority or supervision of the offender or in another comparable manner subordinate to the offender;

b) a person younger than eighteen years of age, whose capacity of independent sexual self-determination, owing to his/her immaturity or the age difference of the persons involved, is essentially inferior to that of the offender, where the offender

blatantly takes advantage of the immaturity,
c) a patient in a hospital or other institution, whose capacity to defend himself/herself is essentially impaired owing to illness, handicap or other infirmity; or
d) a person who is especially dependent on the offender, where the offender blatantly takes advantage of the dependence,

shall be sentenced for sexual abuse to a fine or to imprisonment for at most four years

(2) A person shall also be sentenced for sexual abuse if he/she takes advantage of the incapacity of another to defend himself/herself or to make or express a decision, owing to unconsciousness, illness, handicap or other helplessness, and has sexual intercourse with him/her, or gets him/her to perform a sexual act essentially violating his/her right of sexual self-determination or to submit to such an act.

(3) An attempt is punishable.

Section 6 - Sexual abuse of a child

A person who

(1) has sexual intercourse with a child younger than sixteen years of age,
(2) by touching or otherwise performs a sexual act to a child younger than sixteen years of age, said act being conducive to impairing his/her development,
(3) or gets him/her to perform an act referred to in subparagraph (2),
shall be sentenced for sexual abuse of a child to imprisonment for at most four years.

However, an act referred to in paragraph (1) shall not be deemed sexual abuse of a child if there is no great difference in the ages or the mental and physical maturity of the persons involved.

A person shall also be sentenced for sexual abuse of a child if he/she commits an act referred to in paragraph (1) with a person over sixteen but younger than eighteen years of age, if the offender is the parent of the child or, if living in the same household with the child, the offender is in a position comparable to that of a parent. An attempt is punishable.

Section 7 - Aggravated sexual abuse of a child

If, in the sexual abuse of a child,

1. the victim is a child whose age or stage of development are such that the offence is conducive to causing special injury to him/her;
2. the offence is committed in an especially humiliating manner; or
3. the offence is conducive to causing special injury to the child owing to the special trust he/she has put in the offender or the special dependence of the child on the offender,
4. and the offence is aggravated also when assessed as a whole, the offender shall be sentenced for aggravated sexual abuse of a child to imprisonment for at least one year and at most ten years.
An attempt is punishable.

Chapter 17 of Finnish penal code

Section 22 - Incest

A person who has sexual intercourse with his/her child or other descendant, his/her parent or other ascendant, or his/her sibling, shall be sentenced for incest to a fine or to imprisonment for at most two years.

A person who has had sexual intercourse with his/her parent or other ascendant while under 18 years of age and a person who has been coerced or unlawfully enticed into the sexual intercourse shall not be punished for incest.

IV. Child prostitution

Chapter 20 of Finnish penalty code

Section 8 - Buying sexual services from a young person

A person who, by promising or giving remuneration, gets a person younger than eighteen years of age to have sexual intercourse or to perform another sexual act shall be sentenced for buying sexual services from a young person to a fine or to imprisonment for at most one year (2004).

An attempt is punishable

V. Child pornography

The following information under section V. and VI. is not up to date. Interpol will update this information as soon as a translated version of the new legislation is being provided.

Article 17 of the Finnish penal code

Section 18 - Dissemination of depictions of obscenity

A person who offers for sale or for rent, distributes, or to that end manufactures or imports, pictures or visual recordings depicting children, violence or bestiality in an obscene way, shall be sentenced for distribution of depictions of obscenity to a fine or to imprisonment for at most two years.

The provisions in section 17(2) apply also to the pictures and visual recordings referred to in this section.

Section 19 - Possession of obscene pictures of children

A person, who unlawfully has in his/her possession a photograph, video tape, film or other visual recording, realistically depicting a child having sexual intercourse or in a comparable sexual act, or depicting a child in another obviously obscene way, shall be sentenced for possession of obscene pictures of children to a fine or to imprisonment for at most six months.

Section 20 - Unlawful marketing of obscene material

A person who, for gain, markets an obscene picture, visual recording or object which is conducive to causing public offence, by

1. giving it to a person under 15 years of age;
2. putting it on public display;
3. delivering it unsolicited to another; or
4. openly offering it for sale or promoting it by advertisement, brochure or poster or by other means causing public offence,

shall be sentenced for unlawful marketing of obscene material to a fine or to imprisonment for at most six months.

A sentence for unlawful marketing of obscene material shall also be passed on person who, in the manner referred to in paragraph (1)(4), offers for sale or promotes an obscene text or sound recording which is conducive to causing public offence.

VI. Internet

Finland does not have a special legislation concerning crimes against children using the Internet