

47 U.S. Code § 230 - Protection for private blocking and screening of offensive material

(c)Protection for “Good Samaritan” blocking and screening of offensive material

(1)Treatment of publisher or speaker

No provider or user of an [interactive computer service](#) shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another [information content provider](#).

(2)Civil liabilityNo provider or user of an [interactive computer service](#) shall be held liable on account of—

(A)any action voluntarily taken in good faith to restrict access to or availability of material that the provider or user considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable, whether or not such material is constitutionally protected; or

(B)any action taken to enable or make available to [information content providers](#) or others the technical means to restrict access to material described in paragraph (1).^[1]

(d)Obligations of interactive computer service

A provider of [interactive computer service](#) shall, at the time of entering an agreement with a customer for the provision of [interactive computer service](#) and in a manner deemed appropriate by the provider, notify such customer that parental control protections (such as computer hardware, software, or filtering services) are commercially available that may assist the customer in limiting access to material that is harmful to minors. Such notice shall identify, or provide the customer with access to information identifying, current providers of such protections.

(e)Effect on other laws

(1)No effect on criminal law

Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair the enforcement of section 223 or 231 of this title, chapter 71 (relating to obscenity) or 110 (relating to sexual exploitation of children) of title 18, or any other Federal criminal statute.

(2)No effect on intellectual property law

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or expand any law pertaining to intellectual property.

(3)State law

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any State from enforcing any State law that is consistent with this section. No cause of action may be brought and no liability may be imposed under any State or local law that is inconsistent with this section.

(4)No effect on communications privacy law

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the application of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 or any of the amendments made by such Act, or any similar State law.

(5)No effect on sex trafficking lawNothing in this section (other than subsection (c)(2)(A)) shall be construed to impair or limit—

(A)any claim in a civil action brought under section 1595 of title 18, if the conduct underlying the claim constitutes a violation of section 1591 of that title;

(B)any charge in a criminal prosecution brought under State law if the conduct underlying the charge would constitute a violation of section 1591 of title 18; or

(C)any charge in a criminal prosecution brought under State law if the conduct underlying the charge would constitute a violation of section 2421A of title 18, and promotion or facilitation of prostitution is illegal in the jurisdiction where the defendant's promotion or facilitation of prostitution was targeted.

(f)DefinitionsAs used in this section:

(1)Internet

The term “[Internet](#)” means the international computer network of both Federal and non-Federal interoperable packet switched data networks.

(2)Interactive computer service

The term “[interactive computer service](#)” means any [information service](#), system, or [access software provider](#) that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the [Internet](#) and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.

(3)Information content provider

The term “[information content provider](#)” means any [person](#) or entity that is responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of information provided through the [Internet](#) or any other [interactive computer service](#).

(4)Access software provider The term “[access software provider](#)” means a provider of software (including client or server software), or enabling tools that do any one or more of the following:

(A)filter, screen, allow, or disallow content;

(B)pick, choose, analyze, or digest content; or

(C)transmit, receive, display, forward, cache, search, subset, organize, reorganize, or translate content.