

286.3 makes it illegal for a person to recruit you to become a sex worker, or to house you, give you a place to work, hide you, or control or influence your movements so that someone can buy sexual services from you. This is especially so if you are under 18.

286.4 makes it illegal to advertise sexual services unless it is for your own work.

286.5 grants sex workers immunity from receiving money or goods when it is for their own work or if they advertise their own sexual services.

These examples here may not cover all the situations that expose you or people in your life to arrest and prosecution. They're meant to be examples.

If you have questions about your specific situation, you should ask a lawyer.



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Sex Work Laws

Protection of
Communities &
Exploited Persons Act
(PCEPA)



The Criminal Code has 5 offences that relate to sex work:

286.1 makes it illegal to buy sex or communicate for the purpose of buying sex, especially from someone under 18.

It is not illegal to sell sexual services.



286.2 makes it illegal for people to receive money or material goods for sex work if they know it comes from sex work. This section could include people you live with, or adults you are regularly associated with, unless:

- You are in a legitimate living arrangement with them (they are your roommate and there is not exploitation in your relationship)
- You have a legal or moral obligation to support them (they are a child in your care, or they are your sibling or parent who relies on you for your care)
- If you are paying for something that is for sale to the general public (buying things from a store or restaurant, paying for a taxi or Uber)
- Or if it involves a private sale, the amount you give them is reasonable, and they have not encouraged or given advice to you about offering sexual services



None of these apply to a person who:

- threatens you or holds power over you
- gives you drugs or alcohol
- recruits or houses you
- offers you a place where someone can buy sexual services from you
- receives money from your sex work as a business enterprise

It does not matter what your relationship with that person is. Those actions are illegal if they are done so that someone can buy sexual services from you.