

Nevada's decision to legalize brothels in 1971 was quite the landmark legislation, the only state in America where prostitution is — by any means — “legal.”

However, the law can be misleading and, unless you did some research, you likely didn't know that Nevada tightly regulates its 20 licensed brothels confined to counties of fewer than 700,000.

Now, you're facing a misdemeanor solicitation charge, up to six months in jail, and a \$1,000 fine.

Before you begin panicking about what charges may land on your 'permanent record,' it's important to plan out your next steps carefully.

It's possible to beat these charges and minimize the fallout!

Whether you're a Nevada sex worker or customer, this checklist will be your how-to guide:

Stay out of trouble.

Even if you're completely innocent of these charges, your behavior will be under heavy scrutiny from now until your court date. While you have pending charges, do your best to stay out of legal trouble.

Read Nevada's solicitation law.

If you're facing solicitation charges, a peace officer likely charged you under [NRS 201.354](#). Reading the law can help you better understand your charges and how you can possibly beat or lessen them. By Nevada law, solicitation is any trade of money or goods for sexual favors, even if both parties consent.

Learn about the circumstances of your arrest.

Peace officers document detailed explanations of charges in their police reports. Request the report in writing to the department where charges were filed. Departments have five days to respond to your request and, if the investigation is no longer 'open,' they'll likely approve it.

Know the defenses.

While solicitation charges can be scary, some defenses can lead to lesser or even dropped charges. For example:

- ◇ Entrapment by a peace officer in a 'sting' operation; this can include an officer getting you forcibly intoxicated at a bar with drugs or alcohol to encourage you to act or threatening you (sometimes called duress)
- ◇ An honest mistake; maybe you didn't know the lingo in the sex work community and, without realizing it, agreed to trade sex for goods or money
- ◇ A lack of evidence; a peace officer may have seen you leaning into a car and having a conversation, assuming you were soliciting sex

- ◇ Age; if you were forced into prostitution as a minor, there's an age-related defense
- ◇ False charges; sometimes, things look like solicitation to peace officers, like meeting up in a hotel room to have sex, even though you didn't exchange money

Test for HIV exposure.

Nevada law (NRS 201.356) requires anyone charged with solicitation to submit to an HIV test approved by the State Board of Health. You must receive your test results within 30 days and, if convicted, you'll owe \$100 for the test.

Go to Court.

Within the next 45 days, you'll likely have a court hearing. If you don't show up to Court a warrant may be issued for your arrest. Do not ignore your Court dates. .

Hire a legal team.

If you want the best odds of beating these charges, hire a criminal defense team that can help you maneuver the next steps.

Fighting solicitation charges, whether you're the customer or the sex worker, can be challenging without a defense team guiding you through the legal proceedings.

At the Rosenblum Allen Law Firm, that's why we're here! We've successfully resolved hundreds of criminal matters including solicitation cases.

We'll take a look at your case, choose the best possible defense, and — if worst comes to worst — negotiate the best possible plea deal.

Give us a call at (702) 433-2889 or email us at staff@rosenblumlavlv.com with any questions.