

[-] maxwelthill 1 point 13 years ago

Out of curiosity do you or anyone know which other American states - apart from New Hampshire as stated by the author - still entertain these laws that allow 13 year old to marry, etc.?

permalink embed save parent give award

[-] unitmike 11 points 13 years ago

This site has the verified age of consent for every country in the world, and a breakdown by each U.S. state. It also has supporting documentation for many places, and some commentary on what has and has not been upheld/enforced.

permalink embed save parent give award

[-] unitmike 13 points 13 years ago

Update: Based on that chart, it seems that the lowest in the U.S. is 14, in Iowa, Missouri, and South Carolina. However, in Iowa, this only applies if the age difference is at most 5 years; otherwise the age of consent is 16. In Missouri, this only applies if the older party's age is at most 21, after which the age of consent changes to 17. In South Carolina, there is ambiguous legislation in place changing the age of consent to 16.

In many states (including Iowa), the age of consent is as low as 12 if the parties involved are married (which I assume can only be done with parents' consent).

Also, it seems that in many states, there is a history of the laws being enforced quite differently depending on the gender of the younger party, such that an older male is treated much more harshly than an older female.

Moreover, heterosexual, male homosexual, and female homosexual relationships are all treated quite differently in the legislation, with the second of those being completely illegal in many cases. (However, it seems that those laws are useless, since the supreme court has historically refused to uphold them.)

In New Hampshire in particular, the author's comments were a bit misleading. It seems that although the age of consent for "sexual contact" is 13 years, the age of consent for "sexual penetration" is 16 years.

edit: added info

permalink embed save parent give award

[-] maxwelthill 0 points 13 years ago

Great, thanks unitmike.

A quick browse for the U.S shows that for Ohio and New Hampshire, the age of consent is 13 years, whereas for Iowa and West Virginia it may be as low as 12 years. I may be wrong in my interpretation of the different conditions.

permalink embed save parent give award

SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER PARAGRAPHS 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, and 17