FOSTA-SESTA targets companies that run websites or online platforms that *knowingly* facilitate sex trafficking or the promotion of prostitution of another person (pimping under federal law). Both sex trafficking and pimping are crimes, but a federal legal loophole prevented prosecution of these crimes when they happened online.

FOSTA-SESTA allows federal and state governments to enforce anti-trafficking laws when websites or online platforms *knowingly* facilitate sex trafficking and promote pimping online. Victims now have the ability to sue entities that helped advertise and sell them online. States can also file a civil action to enforce the law.

Since its passage, there seems to be a lot of confusion about what the law says and does. Here’s an easy way to know if FOSTA-SESTA applies to you.

**ARE YOU A WEBSITE OR ONLINE PLATFORM?**

- **YES**
  - **DO YOU KNOWINGLY HELP TRAFFICKERS AND PIMPS ADVERTISE OR PROMOTE UNLAWFUL SEX ACTS ON YOUR WEBSITE OR ONLINE PLATFORM?**
  - If **YES**, FOSTA-SESTA does NOT APPLY TO YOU. YOU ARE A WEBSITE OR ONLINE PLATFORM THAT IS KNOWINGLY FACILITATING SEX TRAFFICKING OR PROMOTING PIMPING.
  - If **NO**, FOSTA-SESTA APPLIES TO YOU.

- **NO**
  - **FOSTA-SESTA DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU.**

*THIS INCLUDES EDITING ADS, SUGGESTING AD CONTENT, PROVIDING TIPS ON BEST WAYS TO WRITE ADS TO AVOID DETECTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT.*

**FOSTA-SESTA does NOT target individuals who solicit prostitution.** People who independently solicit prostitution on their websites or on online platforms are governed by state and local laws and regulations, not FOSTA-SESTA, a federal law.

**FOSTA-SESTA’s scope only applies to the crimes of sex trafficking and promotion of pimping online.** Discussing the sex trade, including exchanging information about health and safety concerns, on forums and websites is not under this law’s purview.

References:
Public Law No: 115-164 (04/11/2018) Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 via Congress.gov