

Greece

National Child Protection Legislation

National Legislation

- Age of Child – **below 18 years of age**

[Penal Code of Greece](#)

Art. 121 Definition

1. In this chapter, the term "minors" means those who, at the time of the act, are between the twelfth and eighteenth years of their full age.
2. Minors are subject to reformatory or therapeutic measures or to confinement in a special juvenile detention center in accordance with the provisions of the following articles.

- Age of Consent – **15 years of age**

[Penal Code of Greece](#)

Art. 339 Genital acts with or in front of Minors

1. Whoever performs a sexual act on a person younger than fifteen years of age or misleads him as a result of performing or undergoing such an act shall be punished, unless there is a case to be punished more severely under article 351A, as follows:
a) if the victim did not reach the age of twelve years, with imprisonment, b) if the victim has reached the age of twelve but not fourteen years, with imprisonment up to ten years and c) if the victim has reached the age of fourteen but not fifteen, with imprisonment of at least two years.
2. Sexual acts between minors under the age of fifteen are not punishable, unless the age difference between them is more than three years, in which case only reformatory or curative measures can be imposed.
3. Whoever compels or entices a minor, who has not reached the age of fifteen, to be present at a sexual act, among other things, without participating in it, shall be punished by imprisonment of at least two years and a fine if the minor is younger than fourteen years, and with imprisonment for up to three years or a fine if he has completed the fourteenth year of his age.

- Age of Marriage – **18 years** (children under the age of 18 can be married under religious law, with court approval, or with parental consent)

[Greek Civil Code](#)

Art. 1350 - Conditions for entering into marriage

1. For the conclusion of a marriage, the agreement of the future brides and grooms is required. The relevant declarations are made in person and without condition or deadline.
2. The bride and groom must be at least eighteen years of age. The court may, after hearing the future spouses and the persons exercising custody of the minor, allow

the marriage even before the completion of this age, if its performance is required by an important reason.

- **Age of Criminal Responsibility – 15 years**

[Penal Code of Greece](#)

Art. 126 Criminal treatment of minors

1. The criminal act committed by a minor of twelve to fifteen years of age is not imputable to him. The court can impose rehabilitative or therapeutic measures on the minor.
 2. Rehabilitative or therapeutic measures are also imposed on a minor who has committed a criminal act and has completed the fifteenth year of his age, unless it is deemed necessary to place them in a special youth detention center according to the next article.
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- **Extraterritoriality**

[Penal Code of Greece](#)

Art. 6 Crimes of nationals abroad

1. The Greek criminal laws also apply to an act classified by them as a felony or a misdemeanor and committed abroad by a citizen, if, with its specific characteristics, the act is punishable under the laws of the country in which it was committed or if it was committed in a stateless or unincorporated country.
2. Criminal prosecution is also brought against a foreigner, who was a Greek citizen at the time of the act. It is also exercised against the one who acquired Greek citizenship after the act was carried out.
3. In misdemeanors, even when they are prosecuted ex officio, the provisions of the previous paragraphs are applied only if there is a summons by the victim or a request from the Government of the country where the misdemeanor was committed.

Art. 7 Crimes of foreigners abroad

1. The Greek criminal laws are also applied against a foreigner for an act committed abroad and characterized by them as a felony or a misdemeanor, if this act is directed against a Greek citizen and is punishable, with its specific characteristics, according to the laws of the country where the act was performed or committed in an unincorporated territory. An unborn child who will acquire Greek citizenship upon birth is also considered a Greek citizen for the purposes of applying the preceding paragraph, as well as legal entities headquartered in Greece.
2. The provision of par. 3 of the previous article also applies here.

Art. 8 Crimes abroad that are always punishable under Greek laws

Greek criminal laws apply to nationals and foreigners, regardless of the laws of the place where they were committed, for the following acts committed abroad:

- a) high treason or treason against the country of the Greek state,

- b) crimes involving military service and the obligation to serve in Greece,
- c) criminal act committed as an employee of the Greek state, or an organ or organization of the European Union that has its seat in Greece,
- d) an act directed against or addressed to an employee of the Greek state or a Greek employee of an institution or organization of the European Union, during the exercise of their service or in relation to the exercise of their duties,
- e) perjury in a proceeding pending before the Greek authorities,
- f) terrorist acts,
- g) piracy,
- h) crimes related to currency,
- i) illegal drug trade,
- j) human trafficking,
- k) any other crime, for which special provisions or international conventions signed and ratified by the Greek state provide for the implementation of Greek criminal laws.

Art. 348D General layout

The provisions of articles 339, 342, 348, 348A, 348B, 348C, 349 and 351A are also applied to acts committed by a citizen abroad, regardless of whether they were punishable under the laws of the country where they were committed.

▪ **Dual Criminality**

[Penal Code of Greece](#)

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- e) perjury in a proceeding pending before the Greek authorities,
- f) terrorist acts,
- g) piracy,
- h) crimes related to currency,
- i) illegal drug trade,
- j) human trafficking,
- k) any other crime, for which special provisions or international conventions signed and ratified by the Greek state provide for the implementation of Greek criminal laws.

Double criminality is required for the exercise of active personality and passive personality jurisdiction under [Articles 6 and 7 of the Penal Code of Greece](#) but is not

required for universal jurisdiction under [Article 8 of the Penal Code of Greece](#). This means that the offense must be prohibited both in the perpetrator's country of origin and in the country where the offence was committed. This could hinder the prosecution of child sexual exploitation cases.

Greece has ratified bilateral conventions on extradition and judicial assistance and the European Convention on Extradition of the Council of Europe, as well as the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Penal Matters of the Council of Europe. Greece also implemented the European Arrest Warrant in its law 3251/2004.

In regards to extradition, [Article 437 of Greek Code of Penal Procedure](#) maintains the double criminality principle if there is no bilateral agreement or convention in place. However, it is worth noting that [Article 438 of the Greek Code of Penal Procedure](#) states that extradition is prohibited if the person for which extradition is requested was Greek when the act was committed.

An important exception to the dual criminality principle is provided in EU Member States in Law 3251/2004. This refers to the execution of the European Arrest Warrant, which is allowed, without verification of dual criminality, for a catalog of 32 offenses (Article 10) - including sexual exploitation of children - if they are punishable in the issuing Member State by a custodial sentence or a detention order for a maximum period of at least three years.

- **Mandatory reporting requirements**

[Penal Code of Greece](#)

Art. 37 Obligation to notify

1. Investigating officials are under obligation to notify the competent public prosecutor without delay of any information that they have received in any way on a punishable act that is prosecuted ex officio.
2. All other civil servants, as well as those to whom the exercise of a public service has been assigned temporarily, are under the same obligation for the punishable acts of paragraph 1, if they have been informed thereof in the exercise of their duties.
3. The notification must be made in writing and must contain all existing elements referring to the punishable act, the offenders, and the evidence.

- **Obligations of Educational Institutions**

[Parliament Law 3500/2006 on Combating Domestic Violence](#)

Art. 23 Obligations of teachers

1. A primary or secondary school teacher who, during the performance of his/her educational work, is in any way informed or ascertains that a crime of domestic violence has been committed against a pupil, shall inform, without delay, the head of the school unit.

2. The head of the school unit must immediately notify the competent public prosecutor, in accordance with the provisions of Article 1(37) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, or the nearest police authority.
3. The same obligation applies to teachers and principals of private schools, as well as those in charge of all kinds of Preschool Education Units.
4. During the pre-trial and trial proceedings, the head teacher of the school unit who reported the offence to the above competent authorities, and the teacher who was informed or ascertained of it, shall be heard as witnesses only if the information is not proved by any other means of proof.

[Law 4589/2019](#)

Art. 33 Gender Equality Committee

1. By decision of the Senate, an unpaid Gender Equality Committee (E.I.F.) is established and established in each HEI as an advisory body to the Senate and the Administrations of the Faculties and Departments to promote equality at all levels of operation and in all processes of academic life.
2. The E.I.F. shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a. provide mediation services in cases of complaints of discrimination or harassing behaviour;
 - b. provide assistance to victims of discrimination when they report discrimination. The Rules of Procedure of the HEI regulate in particular the issues of support for victims of discrimination by the Committee.

▪ **Prohibition to hold certain positions**

[Penal Code of Greece](#)

Art. 61 Forfeiture in the event of a sentence to imprisonment

1. When the offender is sentenced to imprisonment, with the exception of the cases specifically provided for by law, deprivation of civil rights for one to five years is also imposed if:
 - a. the sentence imposed is at least one year and
 - b. the act that has been carried out shows, from the causes, the type, the manner of its execution and all other circumstances, a moral perversion of the character of the perpetrator.

Art. 63 Result of deprivation

2. The deprivation of civil rights has the consequence that the convicted person:
 - a. permanently loses his elected public, municipal, or community offices, the public, municipal or community positions he held, any rank in the army, the status of lawyer, as well as honorary positions and decorations
 - b. cannot obtain the above, either permanently, in the case of par. 1 of article 59, or during the time specified by the law or the decision, in the case of par. 2 of article 59 and in the cases of articles 60, 61 and 62
 - c. cannot, in distinction from the previous number
 - i. vote and be elected in political, municipal or community elections

- ii. be a member of sworn courts and be appointed as an expert by any public authority.

Art. 67 Prohibition of practicing a profession

If the culprit committed a felony or a misdemeanor with a serious violation of the duties of his profession, for the exercise of which a special permission of the authority is required, and if he has been sentenced to imprisonment for at least three months, the court may also declare incapacity to practice of his profession for a period of one to five years. This inability entails the final revocation of the license that had been given.

- **Employment Law**

[Greek Civil Code; Presidential Decree 456/1984](#)

Art. 672 Termination for good reason

Each of the parties has the right in any case to terminate at any time a contract for an important reason, without meeting a deadline. This right cannot be excluded by agreement.

[Labor Provisions under Law 4611/2019](#)

Art. 48 Valid grounds for dismissal

The termination of the employment relationship is considered valid only if it is due to a valid reason, within the meaning of article 24 of the Revised European Social Charter, ratified by article one of Law 4359/2016 (A' 5), has been made in writing, the compensation due has been paid and the employment of the dismissed person has been recorded in the payrolls kept for EFKA (former IKA) or the dismissed person has been insured. In the event of a dispute, the burden of invoking and proving that the conditions for a valid termination have been met shall lie with the employer.

[General Employment Law](#)

Art. 3 Principle of equal treatment - Prohibition of discrimination

Harassment, sexual harassment, as well as any less favorable treatment resulting from toleration or rejection of such behavior, constitute discrimination based on sex and are prohibited.

- **Private Fostering**

Legislative language specifically permitting private fostering was not found. The law clearly states that kinship foster care is preferred.

[LAW 4538/2018 Measures to promote the Institutions of Foster Care and Adoption and other provisions](#)

Art. 8 Foster parents' prerequisites

1. Eligible to become foster parents, according to the legal provisions, are families consisting of spouses or registered partners, with or without children, or single persons, unmarried or divorced, or widowed, with or without children, who may be **related by blood to any degree** to the minor child (kinship foster care). Among several suitable prospective foster parents, the selection is always based on the

best interests of the minor, in the light of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Law 2101/1992 (A' 192). **Kinship foster care should be preferred.**

▪ **Criminal Law – Defamation**

[Penal Code of Greece](#)

Art. 361 Insult

1. Whosoever, except in cases of defamation (Articles 362 and 363), insults the honor of another with reason or by deed or in any other manner shall be punished with imprisonment for up to six months and/or a fine. If the act is done in public in any way or through the Internet, the punishment shall be imprisonment for up to one year and/or a fine.
2. The provision of paragraph 4 of article 308 has in this case application.

Art. 362 Defamation

Whoever defames another by claiming an act that may damage his or her honor or reputation shall be punished with imprisonment for up to two years and/or a fine. If this allegation is made publicly or through the press, the punishment shall be imprisonment for at least three months and/or a fine. If the act was made in public, the penalty shall be imprisonment for up to three years and/or a fine.

Art. 363 Libel

If in the case of the preceding article, it is proven that the information in question is false, and the person responsible for disseminating it knowingly spread falsehoods, they may face a minimum prison sentence of three months, in addition to a fine. If this false information is distributed publicly, whether through any means or via the internet, the penalty increases to a minimum of six months in prison and a fine.

[Greek Civil Code](#)

Art. 57 Right to Personal Reputation

Anyone who is unlawfully offended in their personal reputation has the right to demand the removal of the offense and that it not be repeated in the future. If the offense pertains to the personal reputation of a deceased person, this right belongs to the spouse, descendants, ascendants, siblings, and heirs by will. The claim for compensation according to the provisions for wrongful acts is not excluded.

Art. 920 Defamatory publications

Whoever, knowingly or through culpable ignorance, supports or spreads false news that exposes
endangers the faith, profession or future of another, has the obligation to compensate him.

Sexual Offenses Against Children

[Penal Code of Greece](#)

Art. 312 Physical harm to weak people

1. Anyone who causes physical injury or harm to the health to a minor or to a person who cannot defend himself, provided that these individuals are under the care or protection of the perpetrator according to the law, a court decision, or an actual situation, cohabits with the perpetrator, or has an employment or service relationship with them, shall be punished as follows: a) for the act of article 308 par. 1 subsection a), with a minimum imprisonment of at least one year, b) for the act of article 309, with a minimum imprisonment of at least two years, c) for the act of article 310 par. 1 sec. a), with a minimum imprisonment of at least three years and if he sought to cause grievous bodily harm, with imprisonment and d) for the act of article 311, with imprisonment.
2. The same penalties are imposed when the act is committed against a spouse during marriage or against a partner during cohabitation. The performance of the act at the expense of a pregnant woman constitutes an aggravating circumstance.
3. The commission of the acts of the previous paragraphs in the presence of a minor is equated with causing bodily harm to a minor in accordance with paragraph 1 item a.
4. Causing bodily harm under paragraph 1, subparagraph c, is equated with the deliberate infliction of severe physical pain or physical exhaustion hazardous to health, or mental pain capable of causing serious mental harm, especially through prolonged isolation of the persons referred to in the first paragraph.

Art. 323A Human trafficking

1. Whoever, by the use of force, threat of force or other coercive means or by imposing or abusing power, recruits, abducts, transports, illegally detains, fosters, delivers or receives another with the purpose of exploiting him, shall be punished by imprisonment for up to ten years and fine.
2. The same penalty applies to the culprit if, in order to achieve the same purpose, he carries out the acts of the previous paragraph by extracting the consent of another by using deceptive means or by seducing him by taking advantage of the vulnerable position in which he is in.
3. The act of the previous paragraphs is punishable by imprisonment and a fine when:
 - a) committed professionally,
 - b) committed by an employee who, in the exercise of his service or benefiting from his capacity, commits or participates in any way in the act,
 - c) it is connected to the victim's illegal entry, stay or exit from the country or
 - d) resulted in the victim's serious physical harm. Imprisonment of at least ten years is imposed if the act resulted in death.
4. The acts described in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be punished with the penalties of the previous paragraph when directed against a minor, even when committed without the use of the means mentioned in those paragraphs. The same penalties shall apply to anyone who, using the means of paragraphs 1 and 2, recruits a minor for the purpose of using them in armed operations.

5. The concept of "exploitation" in the previous paragraphs includes the derivation of an illegal economic benefit from:
 - a) subjecting them to slavery or practices similar to slavery,
 - b) subjecting them to indentured servitude,
 - c) labor or begging of the victim (labour exploitation),
 - d) the commission of criminal acts by them,
 - e) the removal of cells, tissues or organs from their body,
 - f) the commission of genital acts, real or simulated, or the provision of work or services whose sole purpose is sexual stimulation (sexual exploitation) or
 - g) forcing them into marriage.
6. Anyone who knowingly, without using the means of paragraphs 1 and 2, employs a person who is a victim of trafficking, accepts the services of this person, has sexual intercourse with him, or receives the proceeds from its exploitation, shall be punished with imprisonment for at least three years and a fine.
7. Whoever, without using the means of paragraphs 1 and 2, forces minors into begging, with the aim of exploiting their income, shall be punished with imprisonment and a fine.
8. Anyone who reports punishable acts committed against them by perpetrators of the acts in the previous paragraphs may, with the approval of the Court of Appeals prosecutor, temporarily abstain from prosecution for offenses under the law on foreigners and for offenses related to their participation in criminal activities, provided that such participation was a direct consequence of being victims of the offenses in the previous paragraphs until an irrevocable decision is issued regarding the reported acts. If the report is found to be credible, the abstention from prosecution becomes final.

Art. 324 Kidnapping of minors

1. Whoever removes a minor from his parents, guardians or anyone entitled to take care of his person, or whoever supports the voluntary escape of the minor from the authority of the above persons, shall be punished by imprisonment. If the minor suffered a serious risk of life or serious damage to his health due to the deprivation of custody, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of at least one year.
2. If the minor has not reached the age of fourteen, imprisonment for up to ten years is imposed, unless the act was committed by an adult, in which case the previous paragraph applies. In any case, if the culprit committed the act for profit or with the purpose of treating the minor in immoral activities or to achieve a change in the minor's family status, imprisonment of up to ten years is imposed.
3. If the perpetrator of the acts of the previous paragraphs had the intention of collecting a ransom or forcing another to act or omit, a penalty such as imprisonment is imposed. In the event that the perpetrator, by his will and before any of his conditions or claims have been fulfilled, released and returned the minor healthy and safe, imprisonment is imposed.

Art. 333 Threatening

1. Whoever causes terror or anxiety to another by threatening him with violence or other illegal act or omission, shall be punished by imprisonment for up to one year or a fine. The same penalty applies to anyone who, without the threat of violence or another illegal act, causes fear or anxiety to another through persistent pursuit or surveillance, particularly

through continuous contact using telecommunication or electronic means, or through repeated visits to their family, social, or workplace environment, despite the express objection of the other person.

2. Imprisonment of up to three years or a fine shall be imposed if the act is committed at the expense of a minor or a person who cannot defend himself, as long as these persons are under the custody or protection of the offender based on law, court decision or actual status, cohabit with him or have an employment or service relationship with him. The same penalty is imposed when the act is committed against a spouse during marriage or against a partner during cohabitation.
3. For the criminal prosecution of the act of paragraph 1, a summons is required.

Art. 336 Rape

1. Anyone who uses physical violence or threat of serious and of immediate danger to life or physical integrity forces another to engage in a business or tolerate a sexual act is punishable by imprisonment.
2. Sexual acts include sexual intercourse and acts of equal seriousness.
3. If the sexual act was committed by two or more perpetrators acting jointly, imprisonment of at least ten years is imposed.
4. If any of the acts described in the preceding paragraphs resulted in the death of the victim, the perpetrators shall be sentenced to life imprisonment or imprisonment for at least ten years.
5. Whoever, except in the case of paragraph 1, attempts a sexual act without the consent of the victim, shall be punished by imprisonment for up to ten years.

Parliament Law 3500/2006

Art. 8 Rape and abuse in lewdness

1. The para. 1 of Article 336 of the Criminal Code is replaced by the following:
 - a. Whoever by physical force or by threat of great and imminent danger coerces another into intercourse or other lewd act or to tolerate it shall be punished with imprisonment.

Art. 337 Offense of sexual dignity

1. Anyone who, through gestures of a sexual nature, statements related to sexual acts, sexual acts performed in the presence of another person, or by displaying their genital organs, offends another person's honor in a reckless manner, shall be punished with imprisonment for up to one year or a fine. A summons is required for criminal prosecution.
2. The act of the previous paragraph is punishable by imprisonment of up to two years or a fine if the victim is under the age of twelve.
3. An adult, who through the internet or other media or IT technologies, makes contact with a person who has not reached the age of fifteen and with gestures or suggestions, insults the honor of the minor in the field of sexual life, shall be punished by imprisonment of at least two years. If a meeting followed, the adult is punished with imprisonment of at least three years.
4. Anyone who makes gestures of a sexual nature or makes proposals to perform sexual acts on a person dependent on him for work or taking advantage of a person's need to

work, shall be punished by imprisonment for up to three years or a fine. A summons is required for criminal prosecution.

Art. 339 Genital acts with or in front of minors

1. Whoever performs a sexual act on a person younger than fifteen years of age or misleads him as a result of performing or undergoing such an act shall be punished, unless there is a case to be punished more severely under article 351A, as follows: a) if the victim did not reach the age of twelve years, with imprisonment, b) if the victim has reached the age of twelve but not fourteen years, with imprisonment up to ten years and c) if the victim has reached the age of fourteen but not fifteen, with imprisonment of at least two years.
2. Sexual acts between minors under the age of fifteen are not punishable, unless the age difference between them is more than three years, in which case only reformative or curative measures can be imposed.
3. Whoever compels or entices a minor, who has not reached the age of fifteen, to be present at a sexual act, among other things, without participating in it, shall be punished by imprisonment of at least two years and a fine if the minor is younger than fourteen years, and with imprisonment for up to three years or a fine if he has completed the fourteenth year of his age.

[Parliament Law 3500/2006](#)

Art. 24

Article 342 of the Criminal Code (abuse of minors in lewdness) is replaced by the following:

1. An adult who commits lewd acts with a minor entrusted to him or her to supervise or guard him, even temporarily, shall be punished as follows:
 - a. if the injured party has not reached the age of fourteen years, with imprisonment of at least ten years;
 - b. if the injured party has reached fourteen years, but not eighteen years, with imprisonment.
2. The commission of the conduct referred to in the first paragraph shall constitute an aggravating circumstance:
 - a. by a household;
 - b. by a person living with the minor or maintaining friendly relations with his or her relatives;
 - c. by a teacher, educator, trainer or other person giving lessons to the minor;
 - d. by a person receiving the services of the minor;
 - e. by a clergyman with whom the minor maintains a spiritual relationship;
 - f. by a psychologist, doctor, nurse or specialist providing services to the minor.
3. An adult who, by gestures, suggestions or by narrating, depicting or presenting acts concerning sexual life, insults the shame of a minor entrusted to him or her to supervise or guard him, even temporarily, is punishable by imprisonment for not less than six months and, if the act is habitually committed, by imprisonment for at least two years. Paragraph 2 shall apply mutatis mutandis in such cases.
4. An adult who, through the Internet or any other means of communication, comes into contact with a person under the age of sixteen years and by suggestions, or by narrating, depicting or presenting acts concerning sexual life offends his or her shame, shall be

punished with imprisonment for not less than one year and, if the act is habitually committed, with imprisonment for at least three years.

5. The limitation period for the acts referred to in the preceding paragraphs shall be suspended until the minor reaches the age of majority.

Art. 343 Abuse in a sexual act

The following are punished with imprisonment of at least two years and a fine:

- a) anyone who forces another to engage in or tolerate a sexual act, by abusing a relationship of work dependence of any nature,
- b) anyone who forces another to engage in or tolerate a sexual act by taking advantage of their immediate need to work,
- c) those appointed or in any case working in prisons or other detention facilities, in police services, in schools, educational institutions, hospitals, clinics or any kind of therapeutic establishments or in other institutions intended to treat persons in need of assistance if, by abusing their position, they force a person admitted to these institutions to commit sexual acts.

Art. 348 Facilitation of offenses involving minors

1. Anyone who, as a profession or for profit, attempts to facilitate, even covertly, the engagement in sexual acts with a minor by publishing advertisements, images, phone numbers, or by transmitting electronic messages or by any other means shall be punished with imprisonment of at least three years and a fine.
2. Whoever organizes, finances, directs, supervises, advertises or mediates in any way or means in carrying out trips with the purpose of the participants performing sexual acts against a minor, shall be punished by imprisonment for up to ten years. Anyone who, with the above purpose, participates in trips referred to in the previous paragraph is punished by imprisonment of at least one year, regardless of his responsibility for the commission of other criminal acts.

Art. 348A Child pornography

1. Whoever knowingly produces, distributes, publishes, displays, imports into or exports from the Territory, transfers, offers, sells or otherwise disposes, purchases, procures, acquires or possesses child pornography material or disseminates or transmits information relating to the performance of the above acts is punishable by imprisonment of at least one year and a fine.
2. Anyone who intentionally produces, offers, sells or in any way disposes, distributes, transmits, buys, procures or possesses child pornography material or disseminates information regarding the commission of the above acts, through information systems, shall be punished with imprisonment of at least two years and a fine.
3. Child pornography material, in the sense of the previous paragraphs, is the representation of real or virtual depiction or recording on an electronic or other material form of the genitals or the body in general of the minor, in a way that obviously causes sexual stimulation, as well as of the actual or simulated sexual act performed by or with a minor.
4. The acts of paragraphs 1 and 2 are punished with imprisonment for up to ten years and a fine:

- a. if performed professionally,
 - b. if the production of child pornography material is linked to exploiting the needs, mental or intellectual disability, or physical dysfunction due to an organic disease of the minor or through the use or threat of violence against the minor, or by using a minor who has not yet reached the age of fifteen, or if the production of child pornography material exposes the life of the minor to serious danger
 - c. if the perpetrator of the production of the child pornography material is a person to whom a minor has been entrusted to supervise or guard him, even temporarily.
5. If the production of the child pornography material is linked to the use of a minor who has not completed his twelfth year of age, a minimum of ten years' imprisonment and a monetary penalty shall be imposed. The same penalty is imposed if the act of cases b and c of the previous paragraph resulted in serious bodily harm to the victim, and if it resulted in death, life or temporary imprisonment of at least ten years and a monetary penalty is imposed.
6. Anyone who knowingly gains access to child pornography material through information systems shall be punished by imprisonment for up to three years or a fine.

Art. 348B Attracting children for sexual reasons

Anyone who intentionally, through information systems, suggests to a minor who has not reached the age of fifteen, to meet him or a third party, with the aim of committing against the minor the offenses of articles 339 par. 1 and 2 or 348A, when the proposal this is followed by further acts leading to such a meeting, is punishable by imprisonment of at least two years and a fine.

Art. 348C Pornographic performances of minors

1. Whoever exorcsises or seduces a minor in order to participate in pornographic performances or organizes them, shall be punished as follows:
 - a) if the sufferer has not reached the age of twelve, with imprisonment,
 - b) if the sufferer has reached the age of twelve but not fourteen years, with imprisonment of up to ten years,
 - c) if the sufferer has reached the age of fourteen, with imprisonment of at least two years. Anyone who knowingly, having paid a relevant fee, watches a pornographic performance in which minors participate is liable to imprisonment for at least two years in cases a) and b) of the previous paragraph and in case c) to imprisonment of at least one year.
2. If the acts of the previous paragraph were carried out with the use of violence or threats, in order for a minor to participate in pornographic performances or for the purpose of seeking financial benefit from them, the following shall be imposed:
 - a) in case a) of the previous paragraph, imprisonment of at least ten years,
 - b) in case b) imprisonment,
 - c) in case c) imprisonment up to ten years.
3. A pornographic performance, in the sense of the previous paragraphs, is an organized direct exhibition, intended for viewing or hearing assistance, including using information and communication technology:
 - a) of a minor who engages in a real or simulated act of sexual nature or

- b) the genitals or the body in general of the minor in a way that obviously causes genital stimulation.

Art. 349 Pimping

1. Whoever, in order to serve the debauchery of others, promotes or drives a minor into prostitution or supports or coerces or facilitates or participates in the prostitution of minors, shall be punished by imprisonment for up to ten years and a fine.
2. The culprit is punished with imprisonment and a fine if the crime was committed:
 - a) against a person under the age of fifteen,
 - b) by fraudulent means,
 - c) by a blood relative or by a step parent, spouse, guardian or by another to whom the minor has been entrusted for upbringing, teaching, supervision or custody, even if temporary,
 - d) by an employee who, in the exercise of his service or benefiting from his capacity, commits or participates in any way in the act,
 - e) by using electronic means of communication,
 - f) by offering or promising to pay money or any other consideration.

Art. 351A Sexual intercourse with a minor for a fee

1. Sexual intercourse with a minor performed by an adult for payment or other material consideration, or sexual intercourse between minors caused by an adult in the same way and performed in front of that or another adult shall be punished:
 - a) if the victim has not reached the age of twelve, with imprisonment of at least ten years and a fine,
 - b) if the victim turned twelve, but not fourteen, with imprisonment and a fine and
 - c) if the victim turned fourteen, by imprisonment at least three years and a fine.
2. If the act of the first paragraph resulted in the death of the victim, life imprisonment or temporary imprisonment of at least ten years and a fine shall be imposed.

Art. 352A Psychiatric examination and treatment of the perpetrator and the victim of crimes against sexual freedom and economic exploitation of sexual life

1. When the victim is a minor, the suspect or accused of crimes against sexual freedom and crimes of financial exploitation of sexual life shall undergo a diagnostic examination of his psycho-sexual condition. This examination is ordered only if the defendant concerned consents during the pre-trial by the competent prosecutor or, if a regular interrogation is conducted, by the competent investigator and during the main proceedings of the court.
2. If someone is convicted of a crime referred to in the previous paragraph, the court, subject to the condition of paragraph 1, may also order the monitoring of a program of psychosexual treatment, which is carried out during the serving of the sentence or independently of it. The prosecuted or defendants also participate in these programs, if they consent, without their participation affecting the right of defense and the presumption of innocence.
3. The minor victim of the acts of paragraph 1 is also submitted to a special examination of his mental and physical condition, in order to determine whether he needs treatment. The treatment of the minor victim is ordered during the pre-trial stage by the competent

prosecutor or, if a regular interrogation is conducted, by the competent investigator and during the main proceedings by the court.

4. If deemed necessary for the protection of the minor victim, the prosecutor, the investigator or the court orders the removal of the culprit from the victim's environment or the removal of the victim and his temporary stay in a protected environment, as well as the prohibition of communication between perpetrator and victim.

Art. 352B Protection of the private life of the minor victim

Whoever, from the reporting of an act falling under the crimes against sexual freedom and financial exploitation of sexual life to the issuance of an irrevocable decision, makes public in any way incidents that could lead to the disclosure of the identity of the minor victim, shall be punished by imprisonment for up to two years.

Art. 353 Offense of sexual decency

1. Anyone who knowingly brutally offends the sexual decency of another with an act of a sexual nature performed in front of him shall be punished by a fine or community service. If the act of the previous paragraph is committed in front of a person younger than fifteen years old, it is punishable by imprisonment for up to three years or a fine.
2. For the criminal prosecution of the act of the previous paragraph, a summons is required.

Art. 360 Neglect of supervision of a minor

1. Whoever, while having an obligation to supervise a minor younger than fifteen years of age, fails to interfere with their commission of a criminal act, is punished by imprisonment for up to one year, unless there is another provision for a more severe penalty.
2. If the person responsible for the omission is a person who has the custody of the minor, and in particular a parent or someone under whose responsible custody the minor has been placed in accordance with articles 122 and 123, imprisonment of up to two years or a fine shall be imposed.

Art. 360A Offenses Related to the Adoption of a Minor

1. Anyone who adopts a minor with the intention of employing them in activities hazardous to their health and actually employs them in such activities, shall be punished, provided that no other punishable offense is applicable that carries a heavier penalty, with imprisonment of at least one year and a fine.
2. Those who give their child up for adoption and those who mediate in the adoption process, gaining an unfair benefit for themselves or another, shall be punished with imprisonment and a fine.
3. Anyone who engages in the punishable acts described in the preceding paragraphs as a profession shall be punished with imprisonment of up to ten years and a fine.

[Parliament Law 3500/2006](#)

Art. 6 Domestic bodily harm

1. A member of the family who causes another member of the family bodily injury or damage to his health, within the meaning of subparagraph (a) of para. 1 of Article 308 of the Penal

Code, or by continuous conduct causes slight injury or damage to his health, within the meaning of subsection (b) of the above provision, shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than one year.

2. If the conduct referred to in the first paragraph is likely to cause the victim danger to life or serious bodily harm, imprisonment of at least two years shall be imposed. If serious physical or mental illness of the victim ensues, imprisonment of up to ten years is imposed. If the offender sought or knew and accepted the result of his act, he is punished with imprisonment.
3. If the act referred to in the first paragraph was committed against a pregnant woman or against a family member who, for whatever reason, is unable to resist, it shall be punishable by imprisonment of at least two years and, if the act was committed in front of a minor family member, it shall be punishable by imprisonment of at least one year.
4. If the act referred to in the first paragraph constitutes a deliberate infliction of severe physical pain or physical exhaustion, dangerous to health, or mental pain likely to result in serious mental harm, in particular by prolonged isolation of the victim, imprisonment shall be imposed. If the victim is a minor, imprisonment of at least ten years is imposed.
5. The provisions of the preceding paragraphs shall apply mutatis mutandis where the offender works for a social care institution and whose act is directed against a person receiving the services of that institution.

Greece has also ratified the [Lanzarote Convention](#), a European treaty that criminalises different forms of child sexual abuse. States that ratify the Convention agree to criminalise sexual activity with children below the legal age of consent, regardless of the context in which such behaviour occurs. Additionally, the Convention requires the criminalization of child prostitution and the production of child sexual abuse materials. It outlines various steps aimed at preventing the exploitation and abuse of children, such as educating and training children, monitoring offenders, and providing screening and training for individuals employed or volunteering to work with minors.

[Greek Civil Code](#)

Art. 1350 Conditions for entering into marriage

In order to enter into marriage, the agreement of the bride and groom is required. The relevant declarations are made in person and without condition or deadline.

The bride and groom must be at least eighteen years of age. The court may, after hearing the future spouses and the persons exercising custody of the minor, allow the marriage even before the completion of this age, if its performance is required by an important reason.

Art. 1372 Null and void marriage

A marriage is null and void if it was contracted in violation of articles 1350 to 1352, 1354, 1356, 1357 and 1360. The marriage is not invalid as long as the declaration of article 1367 has been made to the mayor or president of the community or their legal deputy, even if the other terms of execution have been omitted.

A marriage that took place without observing at all one of the formulas provided for in article 1367 is non-existent.

Art. 1378 Who may file for annulment

The action for the annulment of the marriage may be brought:

1. in the cases of articles 1350 to 1352, 1354, 1356, 1357 and 1360 by the spouses and by anyone with a legal interest, as well as by the public prosecutor ex officio;
2. in the cases of articles 1374 and 1375 only by the spouse who was deceived or threatened, but not by his/her heirs.

Art. 1510 Parental care

1. Care for a child under age is a duty and a right of the parents (parental care) and is exercised jointly. Parental care includes care of the child's person, the management of the child's property, and the representation of the child in any matter, legal transaction, or Court action relating to his/her person or to his/her property.
2. In a case where parental care ceases by reason of death, declaration of absence, or forfeiture of one parent, parental care shall belong exclusively to the other parent.
3. If one of the parents is unable to exercise parental responsibility for factual reasons or because he lacks or has a limited legal capacity, parental care shall be exercised by the other parent alone. However, care of the person of the child shall also be exercised by a parent who is under age.

Art. 1511 Exercise - assignment of parental care in the best interest of the child

1. Every decision of the parents regarding the exercise of parental responsibility must aim at the best interests of the child.
2. The decision of the court, when deciding on by the assignment of parental care or by the way it is exercised, must be in the best interests of the child, which is primarily served by the substantial participation of both parents in his upbringing and care, as well as in preventing the breakdown of his relations with each of them. The court's decision must take into account in particular the ability and intention of each parent to respect the rights of the other, the behavior of each parent during the previous period and his compliance with court decisions, prosecutorial orders, and with previous agreements he had made with the other parent concerning the child.
3. The court's decision must also respect equality between parents and not discriminate on the grounds of, in particular, gender, sexual orientation, race, language, religion, political or any other beliefs, nationality, national or social origin, or property.
4. Depending on the maturity of the child, his opinion must be sought and taken into account, before any decision regarding parental care and his interests, as long as the child's opinion is judged by the court not to be the product of guidance or submission.

[Greece's Constitution](#)

Art. 4

1. All Greeks are equal before the law.
2. Greek men and women have equal rights and equal obligations.
3. All persons possessing the qualifications for citizenship as specified by law are Greek citizens. Withdrawal of Greek citizenship shall be permitted only in case of voluntary acquisition of another citizenship or of undertaking service contrary to national interests

in a foreign country, under the conditions and procedures more specifically provided by law.

4. Only Greek citizens shall be eligible for public service, except as otherwise provided by special laws.
5. Greek citizens contribute without distinction to public charges in proportion to their means.
6. Every Greek capable of bearing arms is obliged to contribute to the defence of the Fatherland as provided by law.
7. Titles of nobility or distinction are neither conferred upon nor recognized in Greek citizens.

- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

No legislation for FGM was found.

- **Child/Early/Forced Marriage**

Greek Civil Code

Art. 1350 - Conditions for entering into marriage

For the conclusion of a marriage, the agreement of the future brides and grooms is required. The relevant declarations are made in person and without condition or deadline.

The bride and groom must be at least eighteen years of age. The court may, after hearing the future spouses and the persons exercising custody of the minor, allow the marriage even before the completion of this age, if its performance is required by an important reason.

Greek law operates under a dual judicial system whereby Shariah law is recognized and the Islamic 'Mufti', who largely reside in the region of western Thrace, have jurisdiction among Muslim Greek citizens on family issues including marriage. Under Sharia Law, a person can get married once they have reached puberty and for girls, puberty is established by the first menstrual cycle, however, when this cannot be proven, the default age is 15 years. Although under Sharia Law, the minimum possible marital age is 9 years for women and 12 years for men, provided that there is parental consent.¹

¹ Iker Tsavousoglou, *The Legal Treatment of Muslim Minority Women under the Rule of Islamic Law in Greek Thrace*, OSLO LAW REVIEW 2(3), 241-262, 2017, at <https://doi.org/10.5617/oslaw2769> (last visited Sep. 21, 2023) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).