



## CHAPTER 14

## ARTICLE 26 - OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC MORALITY AND DECENCY

## N.C.G.S. § 14-202.5.

# Ban online conduct by high-risk sex offenders that endangers children.

| SOURCE                                                                   | LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT    | RETRIEVED                    | SOURCE FINGERPRINT                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly | No amendment history on record | 21 September 2026, 04:10 UTC | 58994fc02c6bead3cb630ac4 - 12dbcf2add7104779973e650 - 541e41620415130c |

## § 14-202.5(a)

Offense. - It is unlawful for a high-risk sex offender to do any of the following online:

- (1) To communicate with a person that the offender believes is under 16 years of age.
- (2) To contact a person that the offender believes is under 16 years of age.
- (3) To pose falsely as a person under 16 years of age with the intent to commit an unlawful sex act with a person the offender believes is under 16 years of age.
- (4) To use a website to gather information about a person that the offender believes is under 16 years of age.
- (5) To use a commercial social networking website in violation of a policy, posted in a manner reasonably likely to come to the attention of users, prohibiting convicted sex offenders from using the site.

## § 14-202.5(b)

Definition of Commercial Social Networking Website. - For the purposes of this section, a "commercial social networking website" includes any website, application, portal, or other means of accessing the internet that meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) Is operated by a person who derives revenue from membership fees, advertising, or other sources related to the operation of the website.
- (2) Repealed by Session Laws 2019-245, s. 3(a), effective December 1, 2019, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.

- (3) Allows users to create personal Web pages or profiles that contain the user's name or nickname, photographs of the user, and other personal information.
- (4) Provides users or visitors a mechanism to communicate with others, such as a message board, chat room, or instant messenger.

**§ 14-202.5(c)**

Exclusions from Commercial Social Networking Website Definition. - A commercial social networking website does not include a website that meets either of the following requirements:

- (1) Repealed by Session Laws 2019-245, s. 3(a), effective December 1, 2019, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.
- (2) Has as its primary purpose the facilitation of commercial transactions, the dissemination of news, the discussion of political or social issues, or professional networking.
- (3) Is a website owned or operated by a local, State, or federal governmental entity.

**§ 14-202.5(c1)**

Definition of High-Risk Sex Offender. - For purposes of this section, the term "high-risk sex offender" means any person registered in accordance with Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes that meets any of the following requirements:

- (1) Was convicted of an aggravated offense, as that term is defined in G.S. 14-208.6, against a person under 18 years of age.
- (2) Is a recidivist, as that term is defined in G.S. 14-208.6, and one offense is against a person under 18 years of age.
- (3) Was convicted of an offense against a minor, as that term is defined in G.S. 14-208.6.
- (4) Was convicted of a sexually violent offense, as that term is defined in G.S. 14-208.6, against a person under 18 years of age.
- (5) Was found by a court to be a sexually violent predator, as that term is defined in G.S. 14-208.6, based on a conviction of a sexually violent offense committed against a minor.

**§ 14-202.5(d)**

Jurisdiction. - The offense is committed in the State for purposes of determining jurisdiction, if the transmission that constitutes the offense either originates in the State or is received in the State.

**§ 14-202.5(e)** Punishment. - A violation of this section is a Class H felony.

CLASS H FELONY

**§ 14-202.5(f)** Severability. - If any provision of this section or its application is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this section that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and, to this end, the provisions of this section are severable. (2008-218, s. 6; 2009-570, s. 4; 2019-245, s. 3(a); 2025-25, s. 29(3), (5).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II  
1 AUTHORITY

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

| REFERENCE     | APPEARS IN | OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION |
|---------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| G.S. 14-208.6 | (c1)(1)    | "as that term is defined in"       |

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-202.5 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-202.5(a) (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

## COLOPHON

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