

**18 USC 2252C: Misleading words or digital images on the Internet**

Text contains those laws in effect on July 19, 2020

**From Title 18-CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

PART I-CRIMES

CHAPTER 110-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND OTHER ABUSE OF CHILDREN

**Jump To:**

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**§2252C. Misleading words or digital images on the Internet**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**-Whoever knowingly embeds words or digital images into the source code of a website with the intent to deceive a person into viewing material constituting obscenity shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for not more than 10 years.

(b) **MINORS.**-Whoever knowingly embeds words or digital images into the source code of a website with the intent to deceive a minor into viewing material harmful to minors on the Internet shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for not more than 20 years.

(c) **CONSTRUCTION.**-For the purposes of this section, a word or digital image that clearly indicates the sexual content of the site, such as "sex" or "**porn**", is not misleading.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**-As used in this section-

(1) the terms "material that is harmful to minors" and "sex" have the meaning given such terms in section 2252B; and

(2) the term "source code" means the combination of text and other characters comprising the content, both viewable and nonviewable, of a web page, including any website publishing language, programming language, protocol or functional content, as well as any successor languages or protocols.

(Added Pub. L. 109-248, [title VII, §703\(a\)](#), July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 648 .)