

Craigslist to Take Down Erotic Section

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Lisa Madigan is among 40 attorneys general who have been pushing craigslist to regulate the ads in the erotic section. Studies show that on any given day, there are some 16,000 prostitutes working in the Chicago area. Many are exploited through Craigslist.

“The industry itself is extremely controlled by pimps, by traffickers, by panderers who profit from the sex trade. The vast majority involved in prostitution get recruited at very young ages often through deception, through force or exploitation,” said Samir Goswami of the Chicago Alliance against Sexual Exploitation.

Craigslist balked at changes for more than two years, but may have been pushed to act because of a lawsuit filed by Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart that was set for a hearing today.

The website has agreed to get rid of its "erotic" section, and screen ads in a new "adult" section to eliminate blatant posts for prostitution. The sheriff calls that a good first step and promises it is not the last.

“This wasn't something we had a vendetta against Craigslist, lets see lets go, no. They were the worst. But there are other sites out there and if it's clear what their acts and their attentions are, we will go after them with a fury as well,” said Dart.