If you want to jump in with an email to people on this - especially those who are reacting now and without even a little research, these are the pitfalls I can see:

## What is your situation

**Your site is managed by a webmaster:**

They may not be aware of the implications of Fosta; at the least you need to know where your site is hosted and how your domain name has been registered and privacy-protected.

Insert your website URL here to get basic hosting info: <https://www.bitcatcha.com/>

This may not be the full story as the host name and IP address may not correspond which can indicate that the host is using equipment of a third party to offer the service. So your host corporation may be outside the USA, but the storage and processing servers could still be within the USA. Finding out requires more technical searching.

**Your site is hosted by a US corp'n on a US server:**

Your host may apply existing broad terms to ban escort sites as they are seen as a risk under Fosta; they may introduce new specific terms without notice or compensation.

**Your site is hosted on a foreign server which is managed by a US corp'n:**

It doesn't matter that your site is on a foreign server. Your US hosting company controls that server and is subject to US law, so may apply the same provisions as if your site is in the USA. The recently passed legislation known as the Cloud Act, which was appended to budget legislation, requires US corporations to reveal information they can access even if that information is held on servers outside the USA.

**Your site is managed on a foreign server owned by a foreign corp'n:**

This may not help if your hosting company has interests in the USA (such as a server structure in the USA besides their foreign ones); this makes your host liable to pressure to apply US laws to you.

**Your site is managed on a foreign server owned by a foreign corp'n with no US connections:**

You need to check whether your site is in breach of the laws of the country of your hosting company. For example, one host in Iceland - a country noted for it’s strong privacy regulations - has stated “

Also see if any cloud computing setup is used:

**Your site uses Cloud Computing or VPS technology to speed response times:**

This may not be evident. Many of these services are US owned and their terms allow for the checking of content passing through their service. Cloudflare who speed up 6 million websites just banned switter.at without notice and with no recourse. This is only the second banning in their history - the first being the white supremacist site ‘The Daily Stormer’.

##

## Biggest hosts

These are the big hosting companies as identified by PC World.

**Hostgator**

“Yes, we allow adult sites. They must be legal in the United States of America and the state of Texas.”

**Dreamhost**

“As long as the content is legal within the United States of America, you can host adult content. DreamHost does not restrict the content of sites hosted unless that content is illegal within the United States of America.”

**LiquidWeb**

“Any action that is otherwise illegal or solicits conduct that is illegal under laws applicable to you or to Liquid Web.”

**Godaddy**

“You will not use this Site or the Services in a manner (as determined by GoDaddy in its sole and absolute discretion) that:

Is illegal, or promotes or encourages illegal activity;

Promotes, encourages or engages in child pornography or the exploitation of children;”

**Siteground**

“You agree that you will not use SiteGround services to host any website, other content, links or advertisements of websites that:

are with adult content, pornographic, obscene, unlawfully harassing, or connected with child abuse or sex-related merchandising;”

**TMDHosting (with servers outside the USA)**

“All services provided by The Company may be used for lawful purposes only. All laws of the State of Florida, the State of Illinois, the State of Delaware, and the United States of America apply. TMDHosting reserves the right to cooperate with legal authorities and/or injured third parties in the investigation of any suspected crime or civil wrongdoing.”

**InMotion (**FAQs)

“We do not allow adult content. This is described as pornographic material. We do allow certain types of artistic material. Please contact support if you have further questions.”

**1&1**

“You agree and warrant that Your Data shall not violate any Laws concerning obscenity and shall not contain or link to any pornography..., or other content deemed objectionable by 1&1, in its sole discretion.”

From email to banned customer: "Although the hosting of adult content is not illegal per se, it is 1&1's decision not to host these services. Please remove the requested file content."

**Bluehost** (FAQs)

“Bluehost does not allow the following:

Escort services - Even if your intent is to just have escorts for social occasions. (Dating services are allowed as long as they are kept clean.)”

**A2Hosting** (FAQs)

“Do you allow adult sites, warez sites, or sites containing illegal material?

We do not allow adult sites, warez sites, or illegal material of any kind on our servers.”

**Cloudflare** (speed optimization service used by many sites - sometimes hidden)

“Cloudflare reserves the right to investigate you, your business, and/or your owners, officers, directors, managers, and other principals, your sites, and the materials comprising the sites at any time. These investigations will be conducted solely for Cloudflare’s benefit, and not for your benefit or that of any third party. If the investigation reveals any information, act, or omission, which in Cloudflare’s sole opinion, constitutes a violation of any local, state, federal, or foreign law or regulation, this Agreement, or is otherwise deemed harm the Service, Cloudflare may immediately shut down your access to the Service.”

**Domains By Proxy** (the privacy service of Godaddy to mask domain ownership)

“Cancel the privacy service (which means that Your information will be available in the "Whois" directory) and/or reveal Your name and personal information that You provided to DBP:

A. When required by law, in the good faith belief that such action is necessary in order to conform to the edicts of the law or in the interest of public safety;

B. To comply with legal process served upon DBP or in response to a reasonable threat of litigation against DBP (as determined by DBP in its sole and absolute discretion);”

**Wix**

“The nature of the content you choose to upload to your site is under your responsibility. Like any other website in the world, a website created through Wix is subject to international law.”

This however is the section in their Wix ShoutOut bulk email product:

“...agree that you will not: Send, offer or sell any of the following content, products and/or services:

Pornography or illicitly pornographic sexual products, content and/or services, including but not limited to child pornography, adult magazines, video and software or escort services;”

**Squarespace**

“7.2. Don’t do anything that otherwise violates the law, including without limitation all local laws regarding online conduct and acceptable content.”

Remember that the loss of a Wix or Squarespace site means you lose the entire design as migrating a site to another host is strictly forbidden.

**Wordpress**.com (hosting service)

“However, there are limitations to the mature content permitted on our service. Please don’t:

Post links, text, or images promoting or advertising escort or erotic services;”

## Domains

When you register your domain name, you are required to give admin and tech contact information including name and address. There don’t appear to be any checks on the authenticity of this information but if inaccuracies are identified, you would probably instantly lose the domain name.

If you want to see how you are currently registered, check here:

<https://whois.icann.org/en>

There are privacy masking services offered but they may not be as secure as you might think.

For example, the privacy service of GoDaddy who claim to mask 9 million domain details has these terms:

“Cancel the privacy service (which means that Your information will be available in the "Whois" directory) and/or reveal Your name and personal information that You provided to DBP:

A. When required by law, in the good faith belief that such action is necessary in order to conform to the edicts of the law or in the interest of public safety;

B. To comply with legal process served upon DBP or in response to a reasonable threat of litigation against DBP (as determined by DBP in its sole and absolute discretion);”

They have in the past released information without notice to the domain owner and without much in the way of legal demand:

<https://torrentfreak.com/domains-proxy-hands-personal-details-pirate-site-owner-140307/>

The type of name extension you’ve registered also has an influence on visibility as most of the ‘normal’ extensions such as .com, .net, .org, are administered in the USA and subject to US law. Most of the ‘vanity’ extensions such as .style fall into the same category. Country-based extensions are usually administered by the country specified. In this case you would be subject to that country’s privacy laws. In this context, the very new EU privacy regulations might apply but are intended to protect EU citizens and residents only.

Additionally, the entire past history of your domain name - which might in a moment of carelessness have revealed critical private information - can be purchased through online services like:

