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ARKANSAS

2023 Report Card

TIER II

GRADES ARE BASED SOLELY ON AN ANALYSIS OF STATE STATUTES. While we recognize the critical importance of non-legislative responses to propel progress, grading on statutory law provides a clear mechanism for evaluating policy goals across all states while ensuring that survivor-centered reforms are an enduring part of states' responses.

STATE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Between 2021-2023, raised score by 14 points.
- Tenth most improved in 2023 (raised score by 9.5 points this year alone).
- Currently ranked 24th in the nation.
- One of only 9 states to achieve full credit for its criminal provisions.
- Enacted House Bill 1502, creating a new CSEC law that criminalizes sexual solicitation of a minor.
- Enacted Senate Bill 294, mandating prevention education in schools.

SAFE HARBOR STATUS:

State law protects some, but not all minors, from being criminalized for prostitution offenses; minors who are not identified as child sex trafficking victims may still be subjected to arrest and prosecution for their own victimization. One of only 4 states to expand this protection to adult victims of sex trafficking.

Issue			Grade	Score	Summary
	1. Criminal Provisions		A	$\frac{17.5}{17.5}$	Policy goals accomplished in all areas, including buyer accountability under the trafficking law, buyer and trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, mistake of age defenses, decoy defenses, business entity liability under the trafficking law, and financial penalties.
	2. Identification of and Response to Victims		F	$\frac{11}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to third party control and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain related to foreign national victims, screening through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, expanded non-criminalization, juvenile court jurisdiction, and non-caregiver trafficking cases.
	3. Continuum of Care		F	$\frac{5}{15}$	Gaps remain in all areas, including community-based services, MDT responses, services through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, extended foster care services, and appropriations.
	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors		F	$\frac{7.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to civil remedies. Gaps remain related to civil orders of protection, crime victims' compensation, vacatur, restitution, and statutes of limitation.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response		D	$\frac{6}{10}$	Gaps remain in all areas, including hearsay exceptions, alternatives to live, in-court testimony, victim-witness supports, and privileged communications.
	6. Prevention and Training		F	$\frac{8}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to training for school personnel and prevention education in schools. Gaps remain related to training for child welfare, juvenile justice agencies, law enforcement, and prosecutors.
EXTRA CREDIT	18+	Youth		1	Protection related to civil remedies is extended to sex trafficked youth.
	CLT	Child Labor Trafficking		2	Protections related to child abuse definitions and civil remedies are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER II

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