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CALIFORNIA

2023 Report Card

TIER I

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 6.5 points.
- Currently ranked 4th in the nation.
- Only state to achieve full credit for enacting juvenile court jurisdiction laws that provide developmentally appropriate safeguards.
- \$20,000,000 was appropriated in the Budget Act of 2023 to support the development and provision of specialized, community-based services for human trafficking survivors.
- State law provides child sex trafficking victim-witnesses with protections when participating in criminal justice processes, including access to a victim advocate and other support persons, as well as judicial discretion as to what interrogation methods are utilized in court proceedings to protect child victim-witnesses under 14 years of age.

SAFE HARBOR STATUS:

One of 30 states that statutorily prohibit the criminalization of minors for prostitution offenses.

Issue			Grade	Score	Summary
	1. Criminal Provisions		B	$\frac{14.5}{17.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to buyer and trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, mistake of age defenses, decoy defenses, and business entity liability under the trafficking law. Gaps remain related to buyer accountability under the trafficking law and financial penalties.
	2. Identification of and Response to Victims		F	$\frac{14.5}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to foreign national victims, juvenile court jurisdiction, and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain related to third party control, screening through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, expanded non-criminalization, and non-caregiver trafficking cases.
	3. Continuum of Care		D	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to appropriations. Gaps remain related to community-based services, MDT responses, services through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, and extended foster care services.
	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors		C	$\frac{11}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to restitution and civil remedies. Gaps remain related to civil orders of protection, crime victims' compensation, vacatur, and statutes of limitation.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response		C	$\frac{7}{10}$	Policy goals accomplished related to victim-witness supports and privileged communications. Gaps remain related to hearsay exceptions and alternatives to live, in-court testimony.
	6. Prevention and Training		B	$\frac{12.5}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to training for child welfare and juvenile justice agencies as well as prevention education in schools. Gaps remain related to training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and school personnel.
EXTRA CREDIT		Youth		3	Protections related to appropriations, civil remedies, and privileged communications are extended to sex trafficked youth.
		Child Labor Trafficking		4	Protections related to appropriations, restitution, civil remedies, and privileged communications are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER I

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