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COLORADO

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 8.5 points.
- Currently ranked 7th in the nation.
- One of 10 states to raise their letter grade this year.
- One of 6 states that provides for an alternative, specialized child welfare investigation into non-familial cases of child sex trafficking.
- While not trafficking specific, House Bill 23-1249 devel-

- oped a mechanism for connecting children and families, including those impacted by child sex trafficking, to a collaborative and integrated multi-agency service response.
- Extended foster care services are available to youth under 23 years of age, providing an inherently vulnerable group of young people access to services and care that may mitigate risk factors to harm, including exploitation.

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.

Issue		Grade	Score	Summary
	1. Criminal Provisions	A	$\frac{16}{17.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to buyer and trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, mistake of age defenses, decoy defenses, business entity liability under the trafficking law, and financial penalties. Gap remains related to buyer accountability under the trafficking law.
	2. Identification of and Response to Victims	D	$\frac{17}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to third party control, screening through child welfare, child abuse definitions, and non-caregiver trafficking cases. Gaps remain related to foreign national victims, screening through the juvenile justice system, non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, expanded non-criminalization, and juvenile court jurisdiction.
	3. Continuum of Care	F	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to extended foster care services. Gaps remain related to community-based services, MDT responses, services through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, and appropriations.
	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	C	$\frac{11}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to civil orders of protection, restitution, civil remedies, and statutes of limitation. Gaps remain related to crime victims' compensation and vacatur.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	B	$\frac{8.5}{10}$	Policy goal accomplished related to hearsay exceptions. Gaps remain related to alternatives to live, in-court testimony, victim-witness supports, and privileged communications.
	6. Prevention and Training	D	$\frac{9}{15}$	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	 Youth		1	Protection related to civil remedies is extended to sex trafficked youth.
	 Child Labor Trafficking		4	Protections related to financial penalties, child abuse definitions, restitution, and civil remedies are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER I

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