

D

TIER II

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

2023 Report Card

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 9.5 points.
- Currently ranked 16th in the nation (tie).
- Commercially sexually exploited children can be identified as child sex trafficking victims regardless of whether they have or identify a trafficker.
- Child welfare and juvenile justice agencies are required to assess system-involved children and youth to determine experiences of trafficking victimization.

SAFE HARBOR STATUS:

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

Issue			Grade	Score	Summary
	1. Criminal Provisions		C	$\frac{13.5}{17.5}$	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	$\frac{15.5}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to third party control, screening through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain related to foreign national victims, expanded non-criminalization, juvenile court jurisdiction, and non-caregiver trafficking cases.
	3. Continuum of Care		F	$\frac{4}{15}$	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		C	$\frac{11}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to civil orders of protection and civil remedies. Gaps remain related to crime victims' compensation, vacatur, restitution, and statutes of limitation.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response		F	$\frac{3.5}{10}$	Policy goal accomplished related to privileged communications. Gaps remain related to hearsay exceptions, alternatives to live, in-court testimony, and victim-witness supports.
	6. Prevention and Training		D	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to training for child welfare and juvenile justice agencies. Gaps remain related to training for law enforcement and school personnel as well as prevention education in schools. Exempt from policy goal related to training for prosecutors.
EXTRA CREDIT		Youth		3	Protections related to screening through the juvenile justice system, civil remedies, and privileged communications are extended to sex trafficked youth.
		Child Labor Trafficking		3	Protections related to civil orders of protection, civil remedies, and privileged communications are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER II

D 63