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IOWA

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 7 points.
- Convicted offenders of sex trafficking and CSEC are required to pay fees that are deposited into a special fund to support access to specialized services for survivors.
- Extended foster care services are available to youth under 23 years of age, providing an especially vulnerable group of young people access to services and care that may mitigate risk factors to harm, including exploitation.
- 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 21 states that fail to prohibit the criminalization of minors for prostitution offenses, thus allowing commercially sexually exploited minors to be held criminally accountable for their own victimization.

Issue			Grade	Score	Summary
	1. Criminal Provisions		B	$\frac{15}{17.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to buyer accountability under the trafficking law, buyer and trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, mistake of age defenses, business entity liability under the trafficking law, and financial penalties. Gap remains related to decoy defenses.
	2. Identification of and Response to Victims		F	$\frac{10}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to foreign national victims 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, juvenile court jurisdiction, and non-caregiver trafficking cases.
	3. Continuum of Care		F	$\frac{5.5}{15}$	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		F	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to restitution. Gaps remain related to civil orders of protection, crime victims' compensation, vacatur, civil remedies, and statutes of limitation.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response		C	$\frac{7.5}{10}$	Policy goals accomplished related to alternatives to live, in-court testimony, victim-witness supports, and privileged communications. Gap remains related to hearsay exceptions.
	6. Prevention and Training		F	$\frac{4}{15}$	Gaps remain in all areas, including training for child welfare, juvenile justice agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, and school personnel as well as prevention education in schools.
EXTRA CREDIT		Youth		1	Protection related to privileged communications is extended to sex trafficked youth.
		Child Labor Trafficking		4	Protections related to financial penalties, restitution, alternatives to live, in-court testimony, and privileged communications are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER II

F 53.5