

F

MARYLAND

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 20.5 points.
- Tied for 8th most improved in 2023 (raised score by 11.5 points this year alone).
- One of the leading states in enacting laws that support a continuum of care for child survivors.
- Enacted Senate Bill 148, providing crucial funding stability for victim service providers by requiring the Maryland legislature to supplement Federal VOCA funds to ensure an annual appropriation of at least \$60 million.

SAFE HARBOR STATUS:

Following several years of advocacy, House Bill 297/Senate Bill 292 passed, preventing the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for prostitution and providing immunity from prosecution for a wide range of status and misdemeanor offenses.

Issue		Grade	Score	Summary
	1. Criminal Provisions	C	$\frac{12.5}{17.5}$	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	$\frac{14}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to screening through child welfare and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain related to third party control, foreign national victims, screening through the juvenile justice system, non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, expanded non-criminalization, juvenile court jurisdiction, and non-caregiver trafficking cases.
	3. Continuum of Care	B	$\frac{12}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to community-based services, services through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, and appropriations. Gaps remain related to MDT responses and extended foster care services.
	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	F	$\frac{8}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to civil remedies and statutes of limitation. Gaps remain related to civil orders of protection, crime victims' compensation, vacatur, and restitution.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	F	$\frac{5}{10}$	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	$\frac{2.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to training for law enforcement. Gaps remain related to training for child welfare juvenile justice agencies, prosecutors, and school personnel as well as prevention education in schools.
EXTRA CREDIT	 Youth		2	Protections related to community-based services and appropriations are extended to sex trafficked youth.
	 Child Labor Trafficking		0	N/A

OVERALL GRADE
TIER II

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