

D



MISSISSIPPI

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 .5 points.
- Currently ranked 10th in the nation (tie).
- \$2,500,000 was appropriated from state funds to support the provision of specialized, community-based services to survivors of sex and labor trafficking.
- One of only 8 states to require a specialized multi-disciplinary response to cases of child sex trafficking.
- Requires child welfare and law enforcement to receive training on identification and responses to child sex trafficking.

SAFE HARBOR STATUS:

One of 30 states that statutorily prohibit the criminalization of minors for prostitution; extends the Safe Harbor provisions to provide immunity for child sex trafficking victims accused of promoting prostitution or engaging in sex trafficking conduct as a result of 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	F	$\frac{14}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to third party control, non-criminalization for prostitution and sex trafficking offenses, and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain related to foreign national victims, screening through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, expanded non-criminalization, juvenile court jurisdiction, and non-caregiver trafficking cases.
	3. Continuum of Care	D	$\frac{9}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to MDT responses and appropriations. Gaps remain related to community-based services, services through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, and extended foster care services.
	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	F	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to civil remedies. Gaps remain related to civil orders of protection, crime victims' compensation, vacatur, restitution, and statutes of limitation.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	B	$\frac{8}{10}$	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	F	$\frac{5}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to training for child welfare and law enforcement. Gaps remain related to training for juvenile justice agencies, prosecutors, and school personnel as well as prevention education in schools.
EXTRA CREDIT	 Youth		3	Protections related to appropriations, civil remedies, and privileged communications are extended to sex trafficked youth.
	 Child Labor Trafficking		5	Protections related to financial penalties, child abuse definitions, MDT responses, appropriations, civil remedies, and privileged communications are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER I

D 68.5