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NORTH CAROLINA

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 11.5 points.
- Currently ranked 16th in the nation (tie).
- One of 10 states to raise their letter grade this year.
- Enacted Senate Bill 626, amending the child sex trafficking law to make it expressly applicable to buyers of sex with children and creating human trafficking-specific exceptions to eligibility factors for crime victim

compensation, which makes this compensation more accessible to trafficking survivors.

- Enacted House Bill 2, extending deadlines for distributing and spending previously appropriated funds to support the coordination and provision of specialized, community-based services for child and youth survivors of sex trafficking.

SAFE HARBOR STATUS:

One of 30 states that statutorily prohibit the criminalization of minors for prostitution; however, minors may still be subject to punitive custody.

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, decoy defenses, and business entity liability under the trafficking law. Gap remains related to financial penalties.
	2. Identification of and Response to Victims	F	$\frac{13.5}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to third party control, foreign national victims, and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain related to screening through child welfare and 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	F	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to appropriations. Gaps remain related to community-based services, MDT responses, services through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, and extended foster care services.
	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	D	$\frac{10}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to restitution and civil remedies. Gaps remain related to civil orders of protection, crime victims' compensation, vacatur, and statutes of limitation.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	D	$\frac{6}{10}$	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	$\frac{8}{15}$	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		2	Protections related to appropriations and civil remedies are extended to sex trafficked youth.
	 Child Labor Trafficking		4	Protections related to child abuse definitions, appropriations, restitution, and civil remedies are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER II

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