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# NEW JERSEY

## 2023 Report Card

TIER III

**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 6 points.
- Allows child and youth victims of sex or labor trafficking to seek accountability for their offenders through civil processes.
- Law enforcement are required to receive training on responding to human trafficking, including responses specific to the needs of trafficking victims.
- 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.

### 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                                   | 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     | $\frac{4.5}{27.5}$ | Policy goal accomplished related to child abuse definitions. Gaps remain related to third party control, foreign national victims, 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     | $\frac{4}{15}$     | 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           | F     | $\frac{7.5}{15}$   | 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 | F     | $\frac{5.5}{10}$   | 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                               | F     | $\frac{3.5}{15}$   | 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 | 18+ Youth                                                |       | 2                  | Protections related to civil remedies and privileged communications are extended to sex trafficked youth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|              | CLT Child Labor Trafficking                              |       | 3                  | Protections related to financial penalties, civil remedies, and privileged communications are extended to child labor trafficking victims.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**OVERALL GRADE**  
TIER III

**F 46**