

**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 22.5 points.
- Tied for third most improved in 2023 (raised score by 17 points this year alone).
- Currently ranked 18th in the nation.
- One of 10 states to raise their letter grade this year.
- Enacted Senate Bill 745, requiring that the county juvenile department screen youth in their care to deter-

mine whether the youth is a victim of sex trafficking; if the youth is identified as a victim of trafficking, the county must report to child welfare and ensure the youth has access to appropriate resources.

Provides child sex trafficking victims with an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization

## **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
000	1. Crim	1. Criminal Provisions		13 17.5	Policy goals accomplished related to buyer and trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, decoy defenses, and business entity liability under the trafficking law. Gaps remain related to buyer accountability under the trafficking law, mistake of age defenses, and financial penalties.
	2. Identification of and Response to Victims		F	13 27.5	Policy goals accomplished related to third party control, screening through the juvenile justice system, affirmative defenses for violent felonies, and child abuse definitions.  Gaps remain related to foreign national victims, screening through child welfare, non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, expanded non-criminalization, juvenile court jurisdiction, and non-caregiver trafficking cases.
(F)	3. Continuum of Care		F	<b>5.5</b> 15	Policy goal accomplished related to services through the juvenile justice system. Gaps remain related to community-based services, MDT responses, services through child welfare, extended foster care services, and appropriations.
<u> </u>	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors		В	1 <u>2.5</u>	Policy goals accomplished related to civil orders of protection, restitution, and civil remedies. Gaps remain related to crime victims' compensation, vacatur, and statutes of limitation.
5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response			D	<u>6</u>	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	7.5 15	Policy goals accomplished related to training for child welfare, juvenile justice agencies, and law enforcement. Gaps remain related training for prosecutors and school personnel as well as prevention education in schools.
EXTRA CREDIT	18+)	(18+) Youth		2	Protections related to affirmative defenses for violent felonies and civil remedies are extended to sex trafficked youth.
	CLT	CLT Child Labor Trafficking		3	Protections related to affirmative defenses for violent felonies, restitution, and civil remedies are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE



62.5