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PENNSYLVANIA

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 3.5 points.
- Currently ranked 19th in the nation.
- Leads the nation for laws related to victim-witness protections.
- Requires child welfare to provide access to services that are specialized to the unique needs of child sex trafficking victims.
- Provides access to specialized services for identified sex trafficked children and youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Allows child and youth victims of sex or labor trafficking to hold their exploiters accountable through civil processes.
- Provides child victims of both sex and labor trafficking with alternatives to live, in-court testimony to reduce re-traumatization of child victims.

SAFE HARBOR STATUS:

State law protects some, but not all minors, from being criminalized for prostitution offenses; minors who are not identified as child sex trafficking victims may still be subjected to arrest and prosecution for their own victimization.

Issue		Grade	Score	Summary
	1. Criminal Provisions	A	$\frac{16}{17.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to buyer accountability under the trafficking law, buyer and trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, decoy defenses, business entity liability under the trafficking law, and financial penalties. Gap remains related to mistake of age defenses.
	2. Identification of and Response to Victims	F	$\frac{8.5}{27.5}$	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	$\frac{8}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to services through child welfare and the juvenile justice system. Gaps remain related to community-based services, MDT responses, extended foster care services, and appropriations.
	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	C	$\frac{11}{15}$	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	A	$\frac{9.5}{10}$	Policy goals accomplished related to alternatives to live, in-court testimony, victim-witness supports, and privileged communications. Gap remains related to hearsay exceptions.
	6. Prevention and Training	F	$\frac{2}{15}$	Gaps remain in all areas, including training for child welfare, juvenile justice agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, and school personnel as well as prevention education in schools.
EXTRA CREDIT	 Youth		2	Protections related to civil remedies and privileged communications are extended to sex trafficked youth.
	 Child Labor Trafficking		5	Protections related to financial penalties, child abuse definitions, restitution, civil remedies, alternatives to live, in-court testimony, and privileged communications are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER II

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