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RHODE ISLAND

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 5 points.
- Criminal laws address all perpetrators and correctly define child sex trafficking to include any commercially sexually exploited child.
- Trafficking victims may seek ex parte civil orders of protection against their exploiters.
- Allows child and youth victims of sex or labor trafficking to hold their exploiters accountable through civil processes.
- Mandates child sexual exploitation prevention education for students in grades K-8.

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	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	$\frac{9.5}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to third party control, foreign national victims, and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain related to screening through child welfare and 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	C	$\frac{11}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to civil orders of protection and civil remedies. Gaps remain related to crime victims' compensation, vacatur, restitution, and statutes of limitation.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	F	$\frac{5}{10}$	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	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to prevention education in schools. Gaps remain related to training for child welfare, juvenile justice agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, and school personnel.
EXTRA CREDIT	 Youth		1	Protection related to civil remedies is extended to sex trafficked youth.
	 Child Labor Trafficking		1	Protection related to civil remedies is extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER II

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