

F

VERMONT

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 1 point.
- Identifies all commercially sexually exploited children as victims of child sex trafficking without requiring third party control.
- Provides both child and youth survivors of sex trafficking an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.
- Extended foster care services are available to youth up to 22 years of age.
- Allows child and youth victims of sex or labor trafficking to hold their exploiters accountable through civil processes.

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	F	$\frac{6}{17.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to decoy defenses and business entity liability under the trafficking law. Gaps remain related to buyer accountability under the trafficking law, buyer and trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, mistake of age defenses, and financial penalties.
	2. Identification of and Response to Victims	F	$\frac{14.5}{27.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to third party control, affirmative defenses for violent felonies, and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain related to 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	$\frac{3.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to extended foster care services. Gaps remain related to community-based services, MDT responses, services through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, and appropriations.
	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	F	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	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	$\frac{3}{10}$	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	$\frac{0}{15}$	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 affirmative defenses for violent felonies and civil remedies are extended to sex trafficked youth.
	 Child Labor Trafficking		1	Protection related to civil remedies is extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER III

F 38.5