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TIER II

SOUTH CAROLINA

2021 Report Card on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking

Issue	Grade	Score	Highlights
 1. Criminal Provisions	B	15 17.5	Policy goals accomplished in areas 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	15.5 27.5	Policy goals accomplished in areas related to foreign national victims, non-criminalization for sex trafficking offenses, affirmative defenses for violent felonies, child abuse definitions, and non-familial trafficking cases. Gaps remain in areas related to third party control, screening through child welfare and the juvenile justice system, non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, expanded non-criminalization, and juvenile court jurisdiction.
 3. Continuum of Care	F	6 15	Policy goals accomplished in areas related to services through a non-punitive system and MDT responses. Gaps remain in areas related to services through the juvenile justice system, extended foster care services, and appropriations.
 4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	D	9 15	Policy goals accomplished in areas related to restitution and civil remedies. Gaps remain in areas related to civil orders of protection, crime victims' compensation, vacatur, and statutes of limitation.
 5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	F	4 10	Gaps remain in all areas, including hearsay exceptions, alternatives to live, in-court testimony, victim supports, and privileged communications.
 6. Prevention and Training	F	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 affirmative defenses for violent felonies and civil remedies are extended to sex trafficked youth.
	 Child Labor Trafficking	5	Protections related to affirmative defenses for violent felonies, child abuse definitions, services through a non-punitive system, restitution, and civil remedies are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER II

F 58.5

LEARN MORE

TOOLKIT: To see how South Carolina compares, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org/toolkit.

ISSUE BRIEFS: To better understand a policy goal, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org/issue-briefs.

SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC RESOURCES

To better understand South Carolina's grade, access an in-depth analysis of its laws under the advanced legislative framework and review its historical progress by visiting reportcards.sharedhope.org/southcarolina.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For legislators and partner non-profits that assist elected officials in creating legislation, request a consultation with our Policy Team online at sharedhope.org/legislative-technical-assistance. We will set up a meeting to discuss your legislative goals and create a customized goal for ongoing technical assistance, bill drafting services, and legislative support.