# 2021 Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking

## NATIONAL STATE LAW SURVEY

### JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTION

**POLICY GOAL 2.9**  
Juvenile court jurisdiction aligns with international human rights standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Does state law establish a minimum age of 13 or older for entry into the juvenile court system?</th>
<th>Does state law extend juvenile court jurisdiction to all minors under 18 years of age?</th>
<th>Does state law prohibit automatic transfers or direct files?</th>
<th>Does state law prohibit discretionary transfers?</th>
<th>Does state law require the court to consider past trauma or past victimization when making transfer determinations?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>No (age 12 for most offenses; none for certain serious offenses)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>No (None)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>No (age 16)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2 Notably, however, Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 8-327(D) (Transfer hearing) does require the court to consider the child’s emotional condition.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>No (age 12)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>Yes (age 17 for standard delinquency matters; age 21 for youth designated as extended jurisdiction juveniles)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>No (age 11)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>3</sup> However, La. Child Code art. 862(A) (Transfer hearing; required findings) requires the court to consider whether “the child’s behavior might be related to physical or mental problems.”

<sup>4</sup> However, Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-151(5) (Jurisdiction) requires courts to consider “the child’s home situation, emotional condition and life-style . . . .”

<sup>5</sup> However, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 211.071(6)(1)-(10) (Certification of juvenile for trial as adult – Procedure – Mandatory hearing, certain offenses; Misrepresentation of age, effect) requires the court to consider the child’s environmental situation and emotional condition.
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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes; however, minors 14+ years of age charged with certain felony offenses may be charged as “youthful offenders” and subject to either adult or juvenile sanctions</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>No (age 7)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>No (age 8)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 However, N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2A:4A-26.1(3)(a)–(k) (Filing motion seeking waiver of jurisdiction; hearing) requires prosecutors to consider any “mental health concerns . . . or emotional instability of the juvenile . . . “ when seeking a waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction.
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>No (age 16)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes (age 18)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>No (age 10)</td>
<td>No (age 16)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>No (none)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>1 state establishes a minimum age of 13 or older for entry into the juvenile court system.</td>
<td>47 states &amp; DC extend juvenile court jurisdiction to all minors under 18 years of age.</td>
<td>3 states prohibit automatic transfers or direct files.</td>
<td>3 states prohibit discretionary transfers.</td>
<td>3 states require the court to consider past trauma or past victimization when making transfer determinations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>