

POLICY GOAL 4.6 Statutes of limitation for criminal and civil actions for child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses are eliminated to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal action and legal remedies.

State ¹	Does state law eliminate statutes of limitation for child sex trafficking and/or CSEC prosecutions?	Criminal statute of limitation periods for child sex trafficking and CSEC offenses	Does state law eliminate statutes of limitation for filing civil actions related to child sex trafficking? ²	Civil statute of limitation periods for child sex trafficking
Alabama	Yes	Eliminated for human trafficking and CSEC offenses involving victims under 16 years of age; otherwise, within 5 years	No; but lengthened ³	Within 5 years of the victim being freed from the trafficking situation or the victim turning 19
Alaska	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses; otherwise, within 5 years	Yes	None
Arizona	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses; otherwise, within 7 years for class 2 through class 6 felonies, 1 year for misdemeanors, and 6 months for petty offenses	No	Within 2 years
Arkansas	Yes	Eliminated for “transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct”; otherwise, within 5 years	No; but lengthened	Does not begin to run until the plaintiff turns 18, is not subjected to threats, intimidation, manipulation, or fraud, and/or discovers that the human trafficking incident occurred and that the defendant caused, was responsible for, or profited from the human trafficking incident

¹ Evaluations of state laws are based on legislation enacted as of August 1, 2021. For more information on the importance of this policy goal, please visit https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/IssueBrief_4.6.pdf.

² This chart only includes civil statutes of limitation for the trafficking-specific civil remedies discussed in policy goal 4.5. Accordingly, an “N/A” response indicates that state law does not expressly allow victims of child sex trafficking to pursue civil remedies against their exploiters. For an overview of state laws analyzed in policy goal 4.5, please visit https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/IssueBrief_4.5.pdf.

³ Notably, a civil action filed by the Attorney General under Ala. Code § 13A-6-157.1 (Attorney General may enforce the human trafficking laws and recover damages for victims) is not subject to a statute of limitation. Ala. Code § 13A-6-158(c) provides, “There shall be no limitation period for civil actions brought under this article by the Attorney General.”

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California	Yes	Eliminated for trafficking prosecutions involving force, fraud, or coercion; otherwise, within 6 years for crimes punishable by 8+ years or within 3 years for all other offenses	No; but lengthened	Within 7 years of the victim being freed from the trafficking situation or within 10 years of reaching the age of majority
Colorado	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking and other “unlawful sexual offenses,” including CSEC offenses	Yes	None
Connecticut	Yes	Eliminated for any offense involving sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or sexual assault of a minor	No; but lengthened	Within 30 years of turning 21
Delaware	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking and other “sexual offenses,” including CSEC offenses	No; but lengthened	Within 5 years of the victim being freed from the trafficking situation or the victim turning 18
District of Columbia	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses; otherwise, within 6 years	No; but lengthened	Does not begin to run until the plaintiff knew, or reasonably should have known, of the trafficking violation or the minor plaintiff reaches the age of majority
Florida	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking and generally for lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of persons less than 16 years of age; otherwise, up to 4 years depending on the classification of the offense	N/A	N/A
Georgia	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses involving victims under 16 years of age; otherwise, within 7 years	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years after the cause of action arose or the minor victim turns 18 (stayed during the pendency of any related criminal action)
Hawaii	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses; otherwise, within 3–6 years depending on the felony classification	No	Within 6 years
Idaho	No	Within 5 years	N/A	N/A

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Illinois	No; but lengthened	Within 25 years of a minor victim turning 18 for child sex trafficking offenses or within 1 year of a minor victim turning 18 for various CSEC offenses (but at least 3 years after the commission of the CSEC offense); otherwise, within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Within 25 years of the plaintiff discovering that the human trafficking incident occurred and that the defendant was responsible for, or profited from, the trafficking incident (does not begin to run until the plaintiff turns 18, the plaintiff is no longer subjected to threats, intimidation, manipulation, or fraud, and/or all limitations periods applicable to the criminal prosecution of the plaintiff for any acts which form the basis of the claim have expired)
Indiana	Yes	Eliminated for “child sexual trafficking”; for the state’s other child sex trafficking and CSEC offenses, within 10 years of the offense or 4 years of victim ceasing to be a dependent of their exploiter, whichever occurs later	No; but lengthened	Within 2 years of the exploiter being convicted
Iowa	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses; otherwise, within 3 years	N/A	N/A
Kansas	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the victim being freed from the human trafficking situation or the victim turning 18
Kentucky	Yes	Eliminated for felony offenses	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the commission of the act (or the last act in a series of acts), the victim knowing of the act, the victim turning 18, or the conviction of a civil defendant, whichever occurs later
Louisiana	No; but lengthened	Within 30 years for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses; otherwise, up to 6 years depending on the	Yes	Any time following conviction

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		classification of the offense		
Maine	No	Within 3–6 years depending on the classification of the crime	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the victim being freed from the trafficking situation (tolled during the pendency of any criminal proceedings against the trafficked person)
Maryland	Yes	Eliminated for felony offenses; generally within 1 year for misdemeanor offenses	N/A	N/A
Massachusetts	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses; otherwise, generally within 6 years	No; but lengthened	Within 3 years of the victim being freed from the trafficking situation or the victim turning 18
Michigan	No; but lengthened	Within 25 years for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses; otherwise, within 6 years	No; but lengthened	Within 3 years after the last violation that is the subject of the action occurred
Minnesota	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses; otherwise, within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Within 6 years (suspended during the time that coercion continues)
Mississippi	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses; otherwise, within 2 years	No	Within 3 years
Missouri	Yes	Eliminated for “unlawful sexual offenses,” including child sex trafficking and CSEC offenses	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the final order in the related criminal case, the victim’s emancipation from the defendant, or the victim turning 18
Montana	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses; otherwise, up to 5 years depending on the classification of the offense	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the victim no longer be subjected to human trafficking or the victim turning 18
Nebraska	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses or within 7 years for “child abuse”; otherwise, within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the conclusion of any related criminal prosecution, the victim is informed of the exploiter’s identity, or the victim reaches the age of majority

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Nevada	No, but lengthened ⁴	Before the victim turns 36 years if the victim discovered they were a victim of child sex trafficking before turning 36 or before the victim turns 43 if the victim did not discover they were a victim of child sex trafficking before turning 36); otherwise, generally within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Does not begin to run until the plaintiff discovers they were a victim of sex trafficking and that the defendant was responsible for, or profited from, their victimization or until the plaintiff turns 18
New Hampshire	No; but lengthened	Within 20 years of a child sex trafficking victim turning 18; otherwise, up to 6 years depending upon the classification of the offense	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the victim being released from the human trafficking situation or the victim turning 18
New Jersey	No	Within 5 years	No	Within 2 years
New Mexico	No	Up to 6 years depending on the classification of the child sex trafficking or CSEC offense	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years from the date the defendant's human trafficking actions occurred or the victim turns 18
New York	No	Within 5 years for felony offenses and within 2 years for misdemeanor offenses	No; but lengthened	Within 15 years of the victim being freed from the trafficking situation or the victim reaching the age of majority (suspended if the victim could not have reasonably discovered the cause of action due to circumstances resulting from the trafficking situation, including trauma, and postponed during the pendency of criminal proceedings against the victim)
North Carolina	Yes	Eliminated for felony offenses	No	Within 10 years after the cause of action arose or the victim turns 18

⁴ Notably, Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 171.083(1)–(4) (No limitation for sexual assault or sex trafficking if written report filed with law enforcement officer during period of limitation; effect of disability on period of limitation) allows prosecutions for sex trafficking to commence at any time but only if the victim filed a report with law enforcement before the criminal statute of limitation expired.

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North Dakota	No; but lengthened	Within 7 years for child sex trafficking offenses; otherwise, within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the victim no longer being subject to human trafficking or the victim turning 18
Ohio	No; but lengthened	Within 20 years for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses; otherwise, within up to 6 years depending on the classification of the offense	No	Within 2 years
Oklahoma	No; but lengthened	By the time the victim turns 45 for “child abuse”; otherwise, within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Does not begin to run the victim is emancipated from the defendant, turns 21, or discovers they were a victim of human trafficking and that the defendant cause, was responsible for, or profited from the human trafficking; whichever occurs later
Oregon	No; but lengthened	Before the victims turns 30 or within 12 years of reporting the offense to law enforcement for “promoting prostitution” and “compelling prostitution”; otherwise, within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Within 6 years
Pennsylvania	No; but lengthened	Generally within 20 years for “sexual servitude”; otherwise, within 2 years	No; but lengthened	Before the victim turns 30
Rhode Island	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years for child sex trafficking offenses; otherwise, within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the victim being freed from the trafficking situation or the victim turning 18
South Carolina	Yes	Eliminated for criminal actions generally	No; but lengthened	Suspended when the victim could not reasonably have discovered the cause of action due to circumstances from the trafficking situation, including trauma, and, for actions against an incarcerated offender, within 3 years of the offender completing the sentence or being released

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South Dakota	No	Within 7 years	No; but lengthened	Within 6 years of the plaintiff discovering the injury
Tennessee	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses; lengthened, and in some cases eliminated, for specified CSEC offenses	No	Generally within 1 year
Texas	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses; otherwise, within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Within 30 years (tolled while the defendant's identity is unknown)
Utah	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses; otherwise, within 4 years	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years of the victim being freed from the human trafficking or the victim turning 18 (tolled during any time in which the defendant induced the victim to delay filing the action, prevented the victim from filing the action, or threatened the victim to prevent filing of the action)
Vermont	Yes	Eliminated for child sex trafficking offenses; otherwise, within 3 years	No	Within 6 years
Virginia	Yes	Eliminated for felony offenses	No; but lengthened	Within 7 years of the victim no longer being subjected to trafficking or the victim turning 18
Washington	No; but lengthened	Within 10 years for child sex trafficking offenses or until the victim turns 30 for specified CSEC offenses; otherwise, within 3 years	No; but lengthened	Within 3 years after the final disposition of any criminal charges related to the offense
West Virginia	Yes	Eliminated for felony offenses	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	No; but lengthened	Before the victim turns 45 for child sex trafficking and specified CSEC offenses or before the victim turns 26 for "child enticement"; otherwise, within 6 years	No	Within 3 years
Wyoming	Yes	Eliminated for crimes generally	N/A	N/A

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Totals:	30 states eliminate statutes of limitation for child sex trafficking and/or CSEC prosecutions; 14 other states & DC lengthen statutes of limitation for child sex trafficking and/or CSEC prosecutions.		3 states eliminate statutes of limitation for filing civil actions related to child sex trafficking; 32 other states & DC lengthen statutes of limitation for filing civil actions related to child sex trafficking.	