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WEST VIRGINIA

2022 Report Card on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking

TIER III

Issue	Grade	Score	Highlights
 1. Criminal Provisions	F	$\frac{9.5}{17.5}$	Policy goals accomplished in areas related to buyer accountability under the trafficking law, trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, and business entity liability under the trafficking law. Gaps remain in areas related to buyer accountability under state CSEC laws, mistake of age defenses, decoy defenses, and financial penalties.
 2. Identification of and Response to Victims	F	$\frac{6.5}{27.5}$	Policy goal accomplished related to child abuse definitions. Gaps remain in areas related to third party control, 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-familial 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	F	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	Policy goal accomplished related to restitution. Gaps remain in areas related to civil orders of protection, crime victims' compensation, vacatur, civil remedies, and statutes of limitation.
 5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	F	$\frac{1}{10}$	Gaps remain in all areas, including hearsay exceptions, alternatives to live, in-court testimony, victim supports, and privileged communications.
 6. Prevention and Training	F	$\frac{1}{15}$	Gaps remain in all areas, including training for child welfare, juvenile justice agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, and school personnel and well as prevention education in schools.
EXTRA CREDIT	 Youth	0	N/A
	 Child Labor Trafficking	2	Protections related to child abuse definitions and restitution are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER III

F 32.5

LEARN MORE

TOOLKIT: To see how West Virginia compares, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org/toolkit.

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

WEST VIRGINIA SPECIFIC RESOURCES

To better understand West Virginia'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/westvirginia.

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.