

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

State ¹	Does state law establish a minimum age of 13 or older for entry into the juvenile court system?	Does state law extend juvenile court jurisdiction to all minors under 18 years of age?	Does state law prohibit automatic transfers or direct files?	Does state law prohibit discretionary transfers?	Does state law require the court to consider past trauma or past victimization when making transfer determinations?
Alabama	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Alaska	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Arizona	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No ²
Arkansas	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No
California	No (age 12 for most offenses; none for certain serious offenses)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Colorado	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No
Connecticut	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No
Delaware	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
District of Columbia	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Florida	No (age 7 generally; none for forcible felony offenses)	Yes	No	No	No
Georgia	No (none)	No (age 16)	No	No	No
Hawaii	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No

¹ Evaluations of state laws are based on legislation enacted as of August 1, 2022. For more information on the importance of this policy goal, please visit <https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-Issue-Briefs-2.9.pdf>.

² Notably, however, Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 8-327(D) (Transfer hearing) does require the court to consider the child’s emotional condition.

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Idaho	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Illinois	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Indiana	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Iowa	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Kansas	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No
Kentucky	No (none)	Yes	Yes	No	No
Louisiana	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No ³
Maine	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Maryland	Yes (age 13 generally; age 10+ if charged with a crime of violence)	Yes	No	No	No
Massachusetts	No (age 12)	Yes	No	Yes	No
Michigan	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Minnesota	No (age 10)	Yes (age 17 for standard delinquency matters; age 21 for youth designated as extended jurisdiction juveniles)	No	No	No ⁴
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	No	No	No ⁵
Missouri	No	Yes	No	No	No ⁶

³ 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.”

⁴ Consideration is discretionary if the trauma is determined to be a mitigating factor under the sentencing guidelines. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 260B.125 subd. 4(2) (Certification); Minn. Sent. Guidelines 2.D.3.a.(3), (5).

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

⁶ 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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	(none)				
Montana	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Nebraska	No (age 11)	Yes	No	No	No
Nevada	No (age 8 for children charged with murder or a sexual offense; age 10 for all other offenses)	Yes	No	No	No
New Hampshire	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
New Jersey	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No ⁷
New Mexico	No (none)	Yes	No	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	Yes
New York	No (age 12 generally; age 7 for specified crimes)	Yes	No	Yes	No
North Carolina	No (age 8)	Yes	No	No	No
North Dakota	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No
Ohio	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Oregon	No (none)	Yes	Yes	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	Yes	No	No	No

⁷ 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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	(age 10)				
Rhode Island	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
South Carolina	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
South Dakota	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No
Tennessee	No (none)	Yes	No	No	Yes
Texas	No (age 10)	No (age 16)	No	No	No
Utah	No (none)	Yes	No	No	Yes
Vermont	No (age 10 generally; under age 10 for murder)	Yes (age 18)	No	No	No
Virginia	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Washington	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
West Virginia	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Wisconsin	No (age 10)	No (age 16)	No	No	No
Wyoming	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Totals:	2 states establish a minimum age of 13 or older for entry into the juvenile court system.	47 states & D.C. extend juvenile court jurisdiction to all minors under 18 years of age.	3 states prohibit automatic transfers or direct files.	3 states prohibit discretionary transfers.	4 states require the court to consider past trauma or past victimization when making transfer determinations.