



2023 REPORT

CONNECTICUT

Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking

State Action. National Change.



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IN 2011, SHARED HOPE RELEASED THE NATION'S FIRST LEGAL FRAMEWORK THAT CHALLENGED states to enact laws that comprehensively address the crime of child sex trafficking. When we launched the Protected Innocence Challenge project—and issued the inaugural State Report Cards—the majority of states received an “F” grade, reflecting the reality that many states’ laws failed to even recognize the crime of child sex trafficking. Since then, we have been working to lay the foundation for transformational policy, practice, and cultural change by supporting state legislators and stakeholders in identifying gaps in the fabric of laws needed to address this heinous crime. By 2019, no state received an “F” grade, and a majority of the country received an “A” or “B.”

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

CONNECTICUT

2019	SCORE	GRADE	10	16.5	14.5	5	20.5	12.5
	79	C	10	25	15	10	27.5	15
2011	SCORE	GRADE	6	6.5	12.5	4.5	14.5	3.5
	47.5	F	10	25	15	10	27.5	15

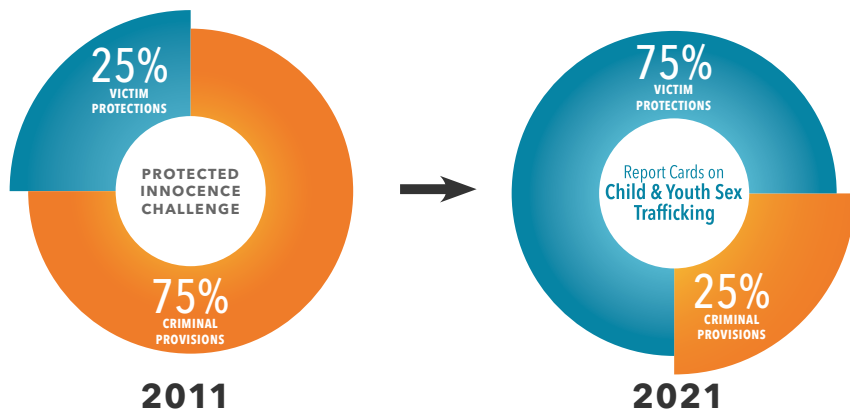
From 2011 to 2019, Connecticut raised their grade under the Protected Innocence Challenge from an “F” to a “C,” enacting legislation aimed at holding offenders accountable and protecting survivors.

To view Connecticut's 2019 PIC report, visit sharedhope.org/PICframe9/reportcards/PIC_RC_2019_CT.pdf

A SHIFT IN FOCUS

THE PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE PROJECT WAS SHARED HOPE'S VISION FOR MOBILIZING collective state action to ensure national change. Building on the progress already made under that project—while preserving its most fundamental components—we released a new, advanced legislative framework in 2020 that

focuses on new policy priorities reflective of feedback and research collected from the field. This framework is meant to challenge states to take the next step in the fight against sex trafficking by focusing on the area of law where the largest gaps remain—victim protections.



ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

6 **ISSUE AREAS** IDENTIFIED:

CRIMINAL
PROVISIONS

IDENTIFICATION OF &
RESPONSE TO VICTIMS

CONTINUUM
OF CARE

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR
TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

TOOLS FOR A VICTIM-CENTERED
CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

PREVENTION
& TRAINING

40 **POLICY GOALS** ANALYZED:

110 **TOTAL POINTS** AWARDED:

States earn up to 2.5
points per policy goal

Extra credit: Protections
for labor and youth 18+

100 possible points

plus up to 10 points

FINAL LETTER GRADES ASSIGNED:

A | 90-110 **B** | 80-89 **C** | 70-79 **D** | 60-69 **F** | <60

TIER RANKING

Another way the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking will measure progress is through a Tier system that will help states understand how they are doing compared to other states. Especially at this stage where grades are clustered at lower levels, the Tiers help to show states where they are on a spectrum. This provides another way for states to evaluate the progress they make beyond changes to their letter grade.

THE TIERS ARE STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:

- ▶ **TIER 1 = TOP 10 SCORES**
- ▶ **TIER 2 = MIDDLE 31 SCORES**
- ▶ **TIER 3 = BOTTOM 10 SCORES**

F

CONNECTICUT

2023 Report Card

TIER II









GRADES ARE BASED SOLELY ON AN ANALYSIS OF STATE STATUTES. While we recognize the critical importance of non-legislative responses to propel progress, grading on statutory law provides a clear mechanism for evaluating policy goals across all states while ensuring that survivor-centered reforms are an enduring part of states' responses.

STATE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Between 2021-2023, raised score by 6 points.
- Requires convicted offenders of child sex or labor trafficking or CSEC offenses to pay restitution to victims.
- Allows child and youth victims of sex or labor trafficking to seek accountability for their offenders through civil processes.
- Law enforcement and prosecutors are required to receive initial and ongoing training on criminal justice responses specific to human trafficking.

SAFE HARBOR STATUS:

One of 30 states that statutorily prohibit the criminalization of minors for prostitution offenses.

Issue			Grade	Score	Summary
	1. Criminal Provisions		D	$\frac{12}{17.5}$	Policy goals accomplished related to buyer and trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, decoy defenses, and business entity liability under the trafficking law. Gaps remain related to buyer accountability under the trafficking law, mistake of age defenses, and financial penalties.
	2. Identification of and Response to Victims		F	$\frac{6}{27.5}$	Gaps remain in all areas, including 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, child abuse definitions, and non-caregiver trafficking cases.
	3. Continuum of Care		F	$\frac{5}{15}$	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		D	$\frac{10}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to restitution and civil remedies. Gaps remain related to civil orders of protection, crime victims' compensation, vacatur, and statutes of limitation.
	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response		F	$\frac{5}{10}$	Gaps remain in all areas, including hearsay exceptions, alternatives to live, in-court testimony, victim-witness supports, and privileged communications.
	6. Prevention and Training		F	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	Policy goals accomplished related to training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and school personnel. Gaps remain related to training for child welfare and juvenile justice agencies as well as prevention education in schools.
EXTRA CREDIT		Youth		1	Protection related to civil remedies is extended to sex trafficked youth.
		Child Labor Trafficking		2	Protections related to restitution and civil remedies are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER II

F 49.5

WHAT IS SAFE HARBOR?

“Safe Harbor” refers to laws that insulate survivors from a punitive response and direct them toward funded, comprehensive, and protective services.









WHY SAFE HARBOR?

These laws ensure survivors of child and youth sex trafficking are not involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system and receive trauma-informed care. Appropriate identification and access to services are vital to creating a just response for survivors of child and youth sex trafficking.

SAFE HARBOR LAWS

Comprehensive Safe Harbor laws
**SHOULD PROHIBIT
ARRESTING, DETAINING,
CHARGING, & PROSECUTING**
all minors for prostitution offenses, regardless of
whether a finding of trafficking victimization is
made, and, instead, require law enforcement to
direct child and youth survivors to
SPECIALIZED SERVICES & CARE.

Safe Harbor laws
**SHOULD ALSO PROHIBIT
CRIMINALIZATION**
of child sex trafficking survivors for other crimes
committed as a result of their victimization.

Status	Safe Harbor Policy Goal
 Not met	The definition of child sex trafficking victim in the criminal code includes all commercially sexually exploited children without requiring third party control (see Policy Goal 2.1 for further analysis and Issue Brief 2.1 for background).
 Not met	State law mandates child welfare agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening for children at risk of sex trafficking (see Policy Goal 2.3 for further analysis and Issue Brief 2.3 for background).
 Not met	State law mandates juvenile justice agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening of children at risk of sex trafficking (see Policy Goal 2.4 for further analysis and Issue Brief 2.4 for background).
 Partially met	State law prohibits the criminalization of minors under 18 for prostitution offenses and establishes a services-referral protocol as an alternative to arrest (see Policy Goal 2.5 for further analysis and Issue Brief 2.5 for background).
 Not met	State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for status offenses, and misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses committed as a result of their trafficking victimization (see Policy Goal 2.6 for further analysis and Issue Brief 2.6 for background).
 Partially met	State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation offenses, including accomplice and co-conspirator liability, committed as a result of their trafficking victimization (see Policy Goal 2.7 for further analysis and Issue Brief 2.7 for background).
 Not met	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization (see Policy Goal 2.8 for further analysis and Issue Brief 2.8 for background).
 Not met	State law mandates a process for coordinating access to specialized services for child sex trafficking victims that does not require involvement in child-serving systems (see Policy Goal 3.1 for further analysis and Issue Brief 3.1 for background).
 Not met	State funding is appropriated to support specialized services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children regardless of system involvement (see Policy Goal 3.6 for further analysis and Issue Brief 3.6 for background).

STATE SUMMARY:

Connecticut law prohibits the criminalization of minors for prostitution offenses but does not facilitate access to, or provide funding for, community-based services, potentially leaving some survivors underserved or disconnected from resources that are necessary to address trauma and promote healing. Further, Connecticut limits the definition of child sex trafficking victim by requiring third party control, preventing commercially sexually exploited children who are unable or unwilling to identify a trafficker, as well as those who are not under the control of a trafficker, from accessing protections and relief that are specifically designed for sex trafficked children.

SAFE HARBOR RESOURCES: For additional information, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org/safeharbor/.

SAFE HARBOR MAP: To see our map of state Safe Harbor law development, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SafeHarborMapDec2022.pdf.

RESOURCES

REPORT CARDS PROJECT: For more information on the Report Cards Project, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org.

TOOLKIT: To see how your state compares, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org/toolkit.

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

SURVEY CHARTS: To see where the nation stands as a whole on a particular issue, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org/state-survey-charts.

HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES

Community-Based Services White Paper



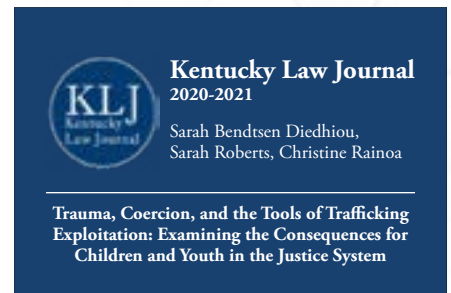
This white paper discusses the importance of providing comprehensive, trauma-informed services to all child sex trafficking victims, regardless of system involvement, and provides examples of state statutory responses.

Victim-Offender Intersectionality Report



This report examines the phenomenon of sex trafficking survivors entering the criminal justice system for allegedly engaging in sex trafficking conduct and provides tools for criminal justice stakeholders to assist in identifying and responding to these cases in a trauma-informed manner.

Trauma, Coercion, and the Tools of Trafficking Exploitation



This law journal article examines the harms of relying on a juvenile justice-based response for serving child sex trafficking victims, the importance of enacting strong non-criminalization laws, the intertwined nature of sex trafficking victimization and criminalized conduct, and the importance of using a trauma-informed lens in response.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For legislators and policy advocates assisting 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 plan for ongoing technical assistance, bill drafting services, and legislative support.

ADVOCACY ACTION CENTER

The Advocacy Action Center is an online resource that allows individuals to join the fight against child sex trafficking either through legislator engagement or by signing a petition. For more information, visit act.sharedhope.org/actioncenter.



Contact your legislators, letting them know you want greater protections for child sex trafficking victims and increased accountability for their exploiters.



Sign a petition to show your support for issues that advance justice for child sex trafficking survivors.



Help end the criminalization of child sex trafficking survivors! Several states can still criminalize child sex trafficking victims for prostitution. Sign the petition to show your support for changing these laws.