

POLICY GOAL 1.4 Mistake of age is not an available defense in child sex trafficking prosecutions.

State ¹	Does state law prohibit a mistake of age defense in prosecutions for child sex trafficking? ²
Alabama	Yes
Alaska	Yes
Arizona	Yes
Arkansas	Yes
California	Yes
Colorado	Yes
Connecticut	No*
Delaware	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes
Florida	Yes
Georgia	Yes
Hawaii	Yes
Idaho	No
Illinois	No*
Indiana	No
Iowa	Yes
Kansas	Yes
Kentucky	Yes
Louisiana	Yes
Maine	No
Maryland	Yes
Massachusetts	No
Michigan	Yes
Minnesota	Yes
Mississippi	Yes
Missouri	Yes

Montana	Yes
Nebraska	Yes
Nevada	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes
New Jersey	Yes
New Mexico	No
New York	Yes
North Carolina	Yes
North Dakota	Yes
Ohio	No*
Oklahoma	Yes
Oregon	No*
Pennsylvania	Yes (but only when the victim is under 15 years of age)
Rhode Island	Yes
South Carolina	Yes
South Dakota	Yes
Tennessee	Yes
Texas	Yes
Utah	Yes
Vermont	No
Virginia	No
Washington	Yes
West Virginia	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes
Wyoming	Yes
Totals:	40 states³ prohibit a mistake of age defense in prosecutions for child sex trafficking.

¹ Evaluations of state laws are based on legislation enacted as of July 1, 2023. Responses do not include an analysis of case law, agency rules, regulations, or practices/initiatives that exist outside of statutory law. For more information on the importance of this policy goal, please visit <https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/related-resources/#1.4>.

² A “yes” response indicates that a mistake of age defense is prohibited in prosecutions for at least one child sex trafficking offense. An asterisk (*) indicates that, while state statutes do not prohibit a mistake of age defense in prosecutions for child sex trafficking, they do prohibit a mistake of age defense in prosecutions for at least one CSEC offense.

³ Though not technically a state, District of Columbia has been included in the overall state count for statistical purposes.

4 other states prohibit a mistake of age defense in prosecutions for at least one CSEC offense.