



POLICY GOAL #4 **State law should protect minors from being prosecuted as adults.**

State ¹	Does state law establish a minimum age of 12 (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 file?	Does state law prohibit discretionary transfers?	Does state law require the court to consider trauma or past victimization when making transfer determinations? ²
Alabama	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Alaska	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Arizona	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No ³
Arkansas	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	Yes
California	Yes (age 12 for most offenses; none for certain serious offenses)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Colorado	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No (discretionary)
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 felonies)	Yes	No	No	No
Georgia	No (none)	No (age 16)	No	No	No
Hawaii	Yes (age 12)	Yes	No	No	No

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/#2.9>.

² An asterisk (*) indicates that, while courts are not expressly required to consider trafficking victimization or past trauma, the court must broadly consider other factors that likely encompass trafficking victimization.

³ However, Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 8-327(D) (Transfer hearing) requires 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	Yes*
Indiana	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Iowa	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Kansas	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No (discretionary)
Kentucky	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Louisiana	No (none)	No (age 16)	No	No	No ⁴
Maine	No (age 11 generally; none for certain serious offenses)	Yes	No	No	No
Maryland	Yes (age 13 generally; age 10+ for certain serious offenses)	Yes	No	No	No
Massachusetts	Yes (age 12)	Yes	No	Yes	N/A
Michigan	No (none)	Yes	No	No	Yes*
Minnesota	Yes (age 13)	Yes (age 17 for standard delinquency matters; age 21 for youth designated as extended jurisdiction juveniles)	No	No	No ⁵
Mississippi	Yes (age 13)	Yes	No	No	Yes*
Missouri	No	Yes	No	No	No ⁶

⁴ 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.”

⁵ 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).

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	Yes*
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; in making a determination as to whether the child shall be adjudicated as a “youthful offender,” the court is required to consider the child’s trauma history
New York	Yes (age 12 generally; age 7 for specified crimes)	Yes	No	Yes	N/A
North Carolina	No (age 8)	Yes	No	No	No
North Dakota	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No
Ohio	No (none)	Yes	No	No	Yes*
Oklahoma	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Oregon	No (none)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes*
Pennsylvania	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
South Carolina	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No

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South Dakota	No (age 10)	Yes	No	No	No (discretionary)
Tennessee	No (none)	Yes	No	No	Yes
Texas	No (age 10)	No (age 16)	No	No	No
Utah	No (none)	Yes (generally)	No	No	Yes
Vermont	Yes (age 12)	Yes (age 20)	No	No	No
Virginia	No (none)	Yes	No	No	Yes; for offenses committed against a child's exploiter
Washington	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
West Virginia	No (none)	Yes	No	No	Yes*
Wisconsin	No (age 10)	No (age 16)	No	No	No
Wyoming	No (none)	Yes	No	No	No
Totals:	8 states establish a minimum age of 12 (or older) for entry into the juvenile court system.	46 states + D.C. extend juvenile court jurisdiction to all minors under 18 years of age.	2 states prohibit automatic transfers or direct files.	3 states prohibit discretionary transfers.	13 states require the court to consider trauma or past victimization when making transfer determinations.