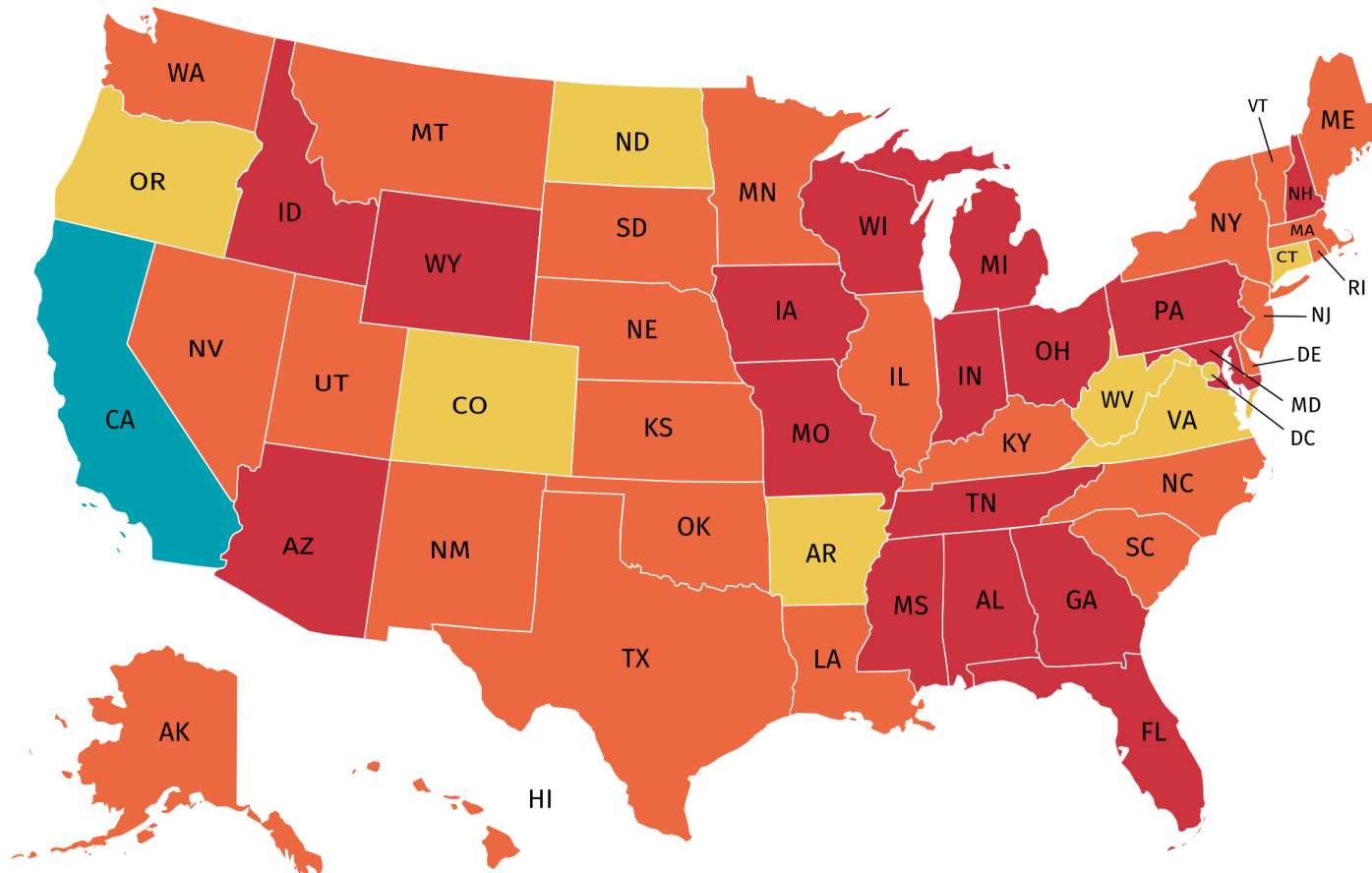


How Does Your State Treat Kids in the Justice System?

Human Rights for Kids has rated all 50 States and the District of Columbia on 12 categories of law that are vital to protecting the human rights of children in the U.S. Criminal Justice System. (See the other side for Category Descriptions)

- 1 Tier One (10+ points):** State has created an impressive legal framework to protect the human rights of children in its justice system and has taken its obligation to defend human rights seriously.
- 8 Tier Two (7 - 9 points):** State has passed several laws to protect the human rights of children in the justice system and should take additional steps to improve and implement its burgeoning legal framework.
- 27 Tier Three (4 - 6 points):** State has made minimal efforts to protect the human rights of children in the justice system and should take immediate action to improve and implement its laws.
- 15 Tier Four (1 - 3 points):** State has made little to no effort to protect the human rights of children in the justice system and is likely in violation of international human rights standards.



Best Human Rights Protectors

California (9.5)
North Dakota (8)
Arkansas (7.5)

Worst Human Rights Offenders

Alabama (2)
Georgia (2)
Maryland (2)
Mississippi (2)
Tennessee (2)
Wyoming (2)

Category Descriptions



DUE PROCESS

Require children to consult with their parents or legal counsel before waiving their Miranda Rights or being subject to a custodial interrogation.



MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES

Authorize judges or juries to depart from all mandatory minimum sentences when sentencing children in adult criminal court.



SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Prohibit the use of solitary confinement, room isolation, seclusion, or administrative segregation on incarcerated children.



10+ MINIMUM COURT AGE

Prohibit all children less than 10 years of age from being adjudicated delinquent in the juvenile court system.



FELONY-MURDER RULE

Eliminate the felony murder rule for children who do not kill or intend to kill anyone during the commission of a felony offense.



INCARCERATION

Prohibit detaining or incarcerating children less than 18 years of age in adult correctional facilities, including local jails, lock-ups, and prisons.



17- MAXIMUM COURT AGE

Do not exclude children less than 18 years of age from being adjudicated in the juvenile court system.



LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

Ban life without parole sentences from being imposed on all children less than 18 years of age.



POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION

Allow formerly incarcerated children to be discharged from lengthy parole or community supervision at a reasonable point after their release.



ADULT COURTS

Prohibit prosecuting kids under 14 as adults AND require a child status hearings for all kids 14+ before allowing transfer to adult criminal court.



RELEASE SAFETY VALVE

Allow the parole board or judge to review all sentences previously imposed on child offenders after no more than 30 calendar years (end de facto life without parole).



VOTING RIGHTS

Allow formerly incarcerated children to have their voting rights restored.

Working to End Children's Rights Abuses

We founded **Human Rights for Kids** because we believe every child deserves hope and love. What started as an idea, is now a growing movement making a difference in every U.S. state and beyond. Learn more about our mission, our vision and what our team values most.

VISIT US

