



Recent Federal Legislation

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Recent Federal Legislation

Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, Public Law 113-183: Prevents and addresses sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery.

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[PL 113-183](#) Modifies existing or adds new title IV-E plan requirements for state agency to develop, in consultation with State and local law enforcement, juvenile justice systems, health care providers, education agencies, and organizations with experience in dealing with at-risk children and youth to develop policies, procedures, and training for:

- Appropriate services for children in placement, care, or supervision who is or is at risk of being sex trafficked
- This includes youth in foster care who have run away from their placement

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- Also includes youth not in foster care who are receiving services under the Chafee Foster Care Independence program
- At the option of the state, youth under age 26 who were or were never in foster care

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PL 113-83 also requires state agencies to:

- Report to law enforcement immediately children or youth who the agency identifies as being a sex trafficking victim
- Report information on missing or abducted children to the law enforcement authorities for entry into the National Crime Information Center database and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children immediately
- Report annually to HHS the total number of child welfare-involved children and youth who are sex trafficking victims

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These Program Instructions (PI) and Information Memorandums (IM) address PL 113-183:

- [ACYF-CB-IM-14-03](#)
- [ACYF-CB-PI-14-06](#)
- [ACYF-CB-PI-15-07](#)

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Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Public Law 114-22 Amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to allow U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are victims of severe forms of trafficking to obtain benefits and services without obtaining official certification from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of their status as victims.

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Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 Also amended CAPTA so that “a child shall be considered a victim of ‘child abuse and neglect’ and of ‘sexual abuse’ if the child is identified, by a State or local agency employee of the State or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking...”

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The CAPTA changes in PL 114-22 also require:

- training of CPS workers “about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims ...”
- states to collect and report, to the maximum extent practicable, the number of children who are victims of sex trafficking as part of the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)

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ACYF-CB-IM-15-05

Provides an Information Memorandum on Public Law 114-22, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015.