

SCORECARD

REPORT CARD WASHINGTON | 2020

Final Score
71%Final Grade
B-**16 10 7 6 0 1****19 10 10 7 4 6**

SCORECARD TOPLINES

Marriage is permitted for minors at 17 years of age with judicial approval only - parental consent not required. Does not criminalize interference with religious worship. Does not have a penalty enhancement for crimes motivated by political affiliation or age. Does not have a recurring inventory of untested rape kits. Treats rape of a spouse differently than rape of an individual who is not a spouse of the perpetrator. An exemption for spousal rape exists under laws criminalizing statutory rape. An exemption for spousal rape or unwanted sexual contact exists under laws criminalizing sexual contact between people with a supervisory relationship. Does have a reduced statute of limitations for criminal prosecution if a victim chooses not to report the crime. The statute of limitations for the most serious felony sex crime is 10 years or less. The statute of limitations has not been eliminated for all felony sex crimes.

Child Marriage

The age of consent for marriage is generally 18 years of age. Marriage is permitted for minors at 17 years of age with judicial approval only - parental consent not required. No lower age limit is permitted because a minor is pregnant, has been married previously, or if the individuals are active members of the armed forces. No gender difference exists in the lowest age limit allowed.

Consent to Sexual Contact

The lowest age of consent for sexual contact is 16 years of age. The law does account for a difference in age between the individuals engaging in sexual contact. The law does require consent to be freely given or given by affirmative consent. The law accounts for a person's developmental disability or mental capacity, consciousness, intoxication, and the relationship between a victim and perpetrator impacting the victim's ability to consent.

Discrimination & Hate Crimes

The state does have a hate crimes law and requires data collection on hate crimes. The state does not criminalize interference with religious worship. The state does have a penalty enhancement for crimes or an independent crime for crimes motivated by race, religion, or ethnicity. The state does have a penalty enhancement for crimes motivated by sexual orientation, gender, and disability. The state does have a penalty enhancement for crimes or an independent crime

SCORECARD

REPORT CARD WASHINGTON | 2020



for crimes motivated by gender identity. The state does not have a penalty enhancement for crimes motivated by political affiliation or age.

Rape Kit Processing



The state has conducted a one-time inventory of untested rape kits. Testing of the backlog of untested rape kits has occurred through nonlegislative action.

Mandatory testing of new rape kits is required to occur. A rape kit tracking system has been implemented through legislative action. A survivor's right to notice does exist. The state has provided funding for rape kit handling reform.

Spousal Rape



The state does treat rape of a spouse differently than rape of an individual who is not a spouse of the perpetrator. The state does not allow for conviction of a spouse for raping their partner if the partner is unconscious, drugged, or otherwise incapacitated. An exemption for spousal rape does exist under laws criminalizing statutory rape. An exemption for spousal rape or unwanted sexual contact does exist under laws criminalizing sexual contact between people with a supervisory relationship.

Statute of Limitations for Sexual Crimes



The state does have a reduced statute of limitations for criminal prosecution if a victim chooses not to report or delays reporting the crime. For certain sex crimes, the 10 year statute of limitations only applies if the victim reports within 1 year of the crime occurring. If the victim does not report, the statute of limitations is reduced to 3 years. The statute of limitations for the most serious felony sex crime is 10 years or less. The statute of limitations has not been eliminated for all felony sex crimes. Exceptions to the statute of limitations do exist to allow an exception for DNA evidence. The statute of limitations extends 1 year after DNA establishes the perpetrator's identify.