



The Amara Legal Center envisions a society where our clients are free from stigma, violence, oppression, exploitation, and criminalization.

End the Criminalization of Child Sex Trafficking Victims in Virginia



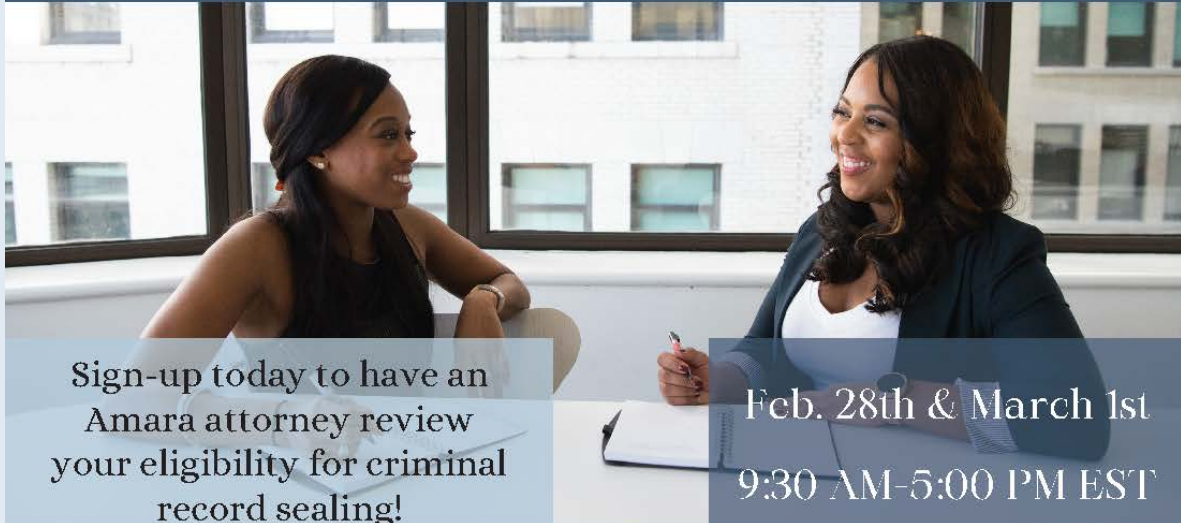
Commercially sexually exploited minors are not prostitution offenders; contrarily, all minors who experience commercial sex are victims of sex trafficking and should be identified and responded to as such. Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), all minors engaging in commercial sex work are victims of sex trafficking. This is true regardless of the presence of force, fraud, or coercion, or whether a trafficker/pimp or other third party is involved.

The Virginia Senate bill, SB664, prevents minors (any child under 18) from being prosecuted for prostitution and directs juvenile sex trafficking victims to non-punitive specialized services in Virginia. Amara supports legislation that prohibits the arrest, charge, and prosecution of minors for prostitution-related offenses. Additionally, because minor victims are often forced to commit crimes beyond prostitution-related offenses, Amara also supports legislation that prohibits the arrest, charge, and prosecution for status offenses, misdemeanors, and non-violent felonies committed as a direct result of a child's trafficking. By expanding eligible offenses, SB664 ensures juveniles are entitled to relief as they are far more likely to be arrested on status and misdemeanor offenses than prostitution. It is expected that the bill will be heard next week, so it is crucial for individuals with a Virginia zip code to reach out to their legislators today!

**Join Amara in supporting this bill
and ending the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims in Virginia!**

Support SB664

There's Still Time to Register for Amara's February 28th Expungement Clinic



Sign-up today to have an Amara attorney review your eligibility for criminal record sealing!

Feb. 28th & March 1st
9:30 AM-5:00 PM EST

The Amara Legal Center provides free trauma-informed legal representation, access to support services, and advocacy for a more equitable legal system for individuals impacted by sex trafficking or involved in sex work in the DC-metro area.

Many of Amara's clients and those of our partner organizations have criminal records for charges that can be removed.

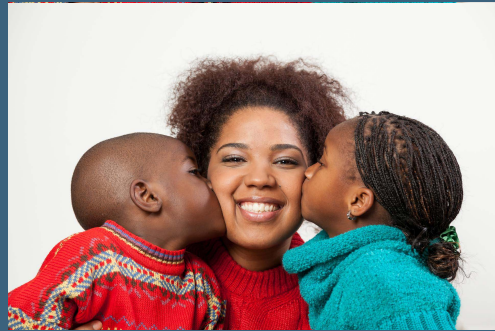
- Eligible individuals can file a petition for expungement (removing or sealing these records from public view).
- Eligible individuals can file a petition for vacatur (having the court undo a judgment).

Criminal records can restrict individuals from finding legal employment, receiving publicly funded housing, and from other social services.

[Click here](#) to reserve your spot to meet with an Amara attorney!

Register Today

**HELP SURVIVORS
ACCESS JUSTICE & PAVE
A PATH TOWARDS
HEALING!**



Become A Monthly "Circle of Hope" Donor Today!



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