

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****HB1329**

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Rep. Suzanne M. Ness

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

55 ILCS 5/3-6043 new  
65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-5  
65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-10  
65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-15  
65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-20

Amends the Co-Responder Pilot Program Division of the Illinois Municipal Code. Adds the McHenry County Sheriff's Office to the offices to which the Division is applicable and requires the Office to establish a co-responder unit no later than 6 months after the effective date of the amendatory Act and hire specified personnel. Makes conforming changes, including in the Counties Code. Provides that, along with the duties described elsewhere in the Division, the unit's social workers are responsible for following up with victims (rather than conducting follow-up visits for victims) who may benefit from mental or behavioral health services.

LRB104 07015 RTM 17052 b

1           AN ACT concerning local government.

2           **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3           **represented in the General Assembly:**

4           Section 5. The Counties Code is amended by adding Section  
5           3-6043 as follows:

6           (55 ILCS 5/3-6043 new)

7           Sec. 3-6043. Co-responder unit of the McHenry County  
8           Sheriff's Office. The McHenry County Sheriff's Office shall  
9           establish a co-responder unit as provided in Section 11-1.5-5  
10           of the Illinois Municipal Code.

11           Section 10. The Illinois Municipal Code is amended by  
12           changing Sections 11-1.5-5, 11-1.5-10, 11-1.5-15, and  
13           11-1.5-20 as follows:

14           (65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-5)

15           (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2029)

16           Sec. 11-1.5-5. Definitions. As used in this Division:

17           "Department" means the East St. Louis Police Department,  
18           the Peoria Police Department, the Springfield Police  
19           Department, ~~or~~ the Waukegan Police Department, or the McHenry  
20           County Sheriff's Office.

21           "Social Worker" means a licensed clinical social worker or

1 licensed social worker, as those terms are defined in the  
2 Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act.

3 "Station adjustment" has the meaning given to that term in  
4 Section 1-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

5 "Unit" means a co-responder unit created under this  
6 Division.

7 (Source: P.A. 102-756, eff. 5-10-22; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23.)

8 (65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-10)

9 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2029)

10 Sec. 11-1.5-10. Establishment; responsibilities; focus.

11 (a) Each department shall establish, subject to  
12 appropriation, a co-responder unit no later than 6 months  
13 after May 10, 2022 (the effective date of Public Act 102-756)  
14 ~~this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly~~, including  
15 the hiring of personnel as provided in this Division. The  
16 McHenry County Sheriff's Office shall establish a co-responder  
17 unit no later than 6 months after the effective date of this  
18 amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly and shall hire  
19 the personnel required under this Division.

20 (b) Along with the duties described in Sections 11-1.5-15  
21 and 11-1.5-20, the unit's social workers are responsible for  
22 ~~following up with conducting follow up visits for~~ victims who  
23 may benefit from mental or behavioral health services. The  
24 unit shall utilize community resources, including services  
25 provided through the Department of Human Services and social

1 workers in juvenile and adult investigations, to connect  
2 individuals with appropriate services.

3 (c) The unit's primary area of focus shall be victim  
4 assistance.

5 (Source: P.A. 102-756, eff. 5-10-22.)

6 (65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-15)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2029)

8 Sec. 11-1.5-15. Duties. The duties of the unit include,  
9 but are not limited to:

10 (1) Serving as a resource to a department's community  
11 to identify and coordinate the social services available  
12 to residents who are victims of criminal acts.

13 (2) Networking with area social service agencies to  
14 develop a community-mutual resource system and wrap-around  
15 services (a team-based, collaborative case management  
16 approach) for victims in need of social service  
17 assistance; and fostering relationships with community  
18 organizations not limited to area hospitals, school  
19 districts, juvenile justice system, and various community  
20 groups.

21 (3) Employing social workers of the unit who shall:

22 (A) Upon request, provide community presentations  
23 on an array of social service topics.

24 (B) Assist individuals in diversion from the  
25 criminal justice system by addressing problems or

1                   concerns through therapeutic intervention.

2                   (C) Facilitate follow-up treatment or referral to  
3                   the appropriate community resource organization.

4                   (D) When requested, assist department employees in  
5                   securing services for those in need and provide  
6                   educational information to help the employee better  
7                   understand the circumstances or the community concern.

8                   (E) Meet with walk-ins requesting information or  
9                   assistance.

10                  (F) Protect the interest, confidentiality, and  
11                  civil rights of the client.

12                  (G) Train social work interns who may be working  
13                  within the unit.

14                  (H) Be on-call after regular business hours, as  
15                  needed.

16                  (I) Inform clients, prior to providing services  
17                  under this Division, what communications are  
18                  confidential pursuant to applicable provisions of  
19                  State or federal law, rule, or regulation and what may  
20                  be shared with the social worker's employer.

21                  (J) Consult on all cases as needed by the  
22                  department.

23                  (K) Perform other functions as provided in Section  
24                  11-1.5-20 or otherwise needed by a department.

25                  (4) Employing social workers who shall work with  
26                  victims of crimes as follows:

(A) Review police reports to identify known victims and contact them to offer direct and referred services.

(B) Assist victims with filing police reports and victim compensation forms.

(C) Provide safety planning services to victims.

(D) Provide crisis counseling services to victims and their families.

(E) Conduct home visits with victims in conjunction with law enforcement ~~police~~ backup, when needed.

(F) Assist victims in obtaining orders of protection. A social worker, in the performance of his or her duties under this subparagraph, is an advocate, as that term is defined in Section 112A-3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963.

(G) Facilitate court advocacy services for victims, including arranging for transportation to and from court.

(H) Maintain confidential case files which include social history, diagnosis, formulation of treatment, and documentation of services.

(I) Perform miscellaneous personal advocacy tasks for victims, as needed.

(J) Oversee activities to ensure those victims with the most urgent needs are given the highest

1 priority for services.

2 (K) Provide status updates on the progress of a  
3 victim's case.

4 (5) Adhering to and understanding the applicable  
5 policies, procedures, and orders of a department.

6 (6) Attaining department-established unit goals.

7 (7) Maintaining a positive relationship with  
8 co-workers, as well as the investigators from area law  
9 enforcement agencies, police departments and facilitating  
10 the exchange of information and resources pertaining to  
11 investigations that would not violate confidentiality as  
12 protected pursuant to applicable provisions of State or  
13 federal law, rule, or regulation.

14 (8) Keeping informed on crime trends within the  
15 department the unit supports City.

16 (9) Remaining obedient and responsive to all lawful  
17 verbal and written orders issued by superiors.

18 (10) Completing ~~police~~ reports and other required  
19 documentation.

20 (11) Performing such other duties as may be required  
21 by State law, city ordinance, and department policy or as  
22 may be assigned by a sworn supervisor.

23 (Source: P.A. 102-756, eff. 5-10-22.)

24 (65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-20)

25 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2029)

## 1        Sec. 11-1.5-20. Social workers.

2        (a) Unit social workers may be referred to as victim  
3 service specialists. Social workers are responsible for  
4 working as a team to provide trauma-informed crisis  
5 intervention, case management, advocacy, and ongoing emotional  
6 support to the victims of all crimes, with extra attention to  
7 crimes that cause a high level of victim trauma.8        (b) Unit social workers involved in a case under adult  
9 investigations may perform the following responsibilities:

10        (1) Working with domestic violence investigators.

11        (2) Assisting victims with finding safe housing,  
12 transportation, and legal assistance.13        (3) Providing other needed resources for victims and  
14 their families, including working with children who  
15 witness or experience domestic violence.16        (4) Assisting victims and their children in setting up  
17 counseling.18        (5) Helping reduce victims' chances of reentry into  
19 violent situations.20        (c) Unit social workers involved in a case under juvenile  
21 investigations may perform the following responsibilities:22        (1) Working with families that have habitual runaways  
23 and determining why the juveniles keep running away.24        (2) Providing services to families where there have  
25 been domestic disturbances between the juveniles and their  
26 parents.

(3) Providing resources for parents to help their children who are struggling in school or need transportation to school.

(4) Providing guidance and advice to the families of a juvenile who has been arrested and what the next steps and options are in the process.

(5) Assisting a juvenile with station adjustments and creating a station adjustment program in a department.

(6) Providing services to juvenile victims and families where the Department of Children and Family Services either did not get involved or did not provide services.

(7) Assisting with overcoming feuds between groups of juveniles.

(8) Assisting in instances where the families are not cooperative with law enforcement police.

(9) Discussing with families and juveniles options and solutions to prevent future arrest.

(10) Maintaining a list of families in need that the unit or department have had contact with for department or city special events.

(11) Helping facilitate or assist a department in community-oriented events, such as setting up an event where officers or unit personnel read books with younger children, talking about cyber crimes and social media, or having an officer or unit personnel visit a school for

1           other activities.

2           (12) Helping reduce juvenile recidivism.

3           (Source: P.A. 102-756, eff. 5-10-22.)