



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

**HB4297**

Introduced 1/14/2026, by Rep. Jed Davis

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

730 ILCS 5/3-7-2

from Ch. 38, par. 1003-7-2

730 ILCS 5/3-7-2.1 new

Amends the Unified Code of Corrections. Provides that the Act may be referred to as the Corrections Family Notification Act. Provides that the Department of Corrections shall notify all approved visitors of a committed person when that person is: (1) placed in restrictive housing; (2) removed from restrictive housing; (3) housed in a unit subject to lockdown; or (4) returned to normal operations following a lockdown. Establishes the contents of the notification. Provides that no security-sensitive details shall be disclosed. Provides that notification shall be provided via email and SMS text message, if the visitor opts in. Provides that the Department shall maintain an online portal for visitors to update contact information and select preferred notification methods. Provides that notification of the end of confinement or lockdown must be sent within 2 hours of normal operations resuming. Provides that if a notification is sent in error, the Department shall issue a corrected notification within 2 hours of identifying the error. Provides that the Department shall publish an annual report summarizing compliance. Provides that the Department shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provision, including: (1) visitor contact management; (2) communication protocols; and (3) data privacy protections. Effective January 1, 2027.

LRB104 17041 RLC 30456 b

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be referred to as the  
5 Corrections Family Notification Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purpose. The General Assembly  
7 finds:

8 (1) Approved visitors play a critical role in the  
9 rehabilitation, stability, and mental health of committed  
10 persons.

11 (2) Families often experience fear and confusion when  
12 phone contact is suddenly cut off due to facility  
13 lockdowns or placement in restrictive housing.

14 (3) Transparency regarding lockdowns and solitary  
15 confinement promotes safety, reduces misinformation, and  
16 supports healthy family engagement.

17 (4) The purpose of this amendatory Act of the 104th  
18 General Assembly is to ensure timely notification to  
19 approved visitors when a committed person is placed in  
20 lockdown or restrictive housing, and when such conditions  
21 end.

22 Section 10. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by

1 changing Section 3-7-2 and by adding Section 3-7-2.1 as  
2 follows:

3 (730 ILCS 5/3-7-2) (from Ch. 38, par. 1003-7-2)

4 Sec. 3-7-2. Facilities.

5 (a) All institutions and facilities of the Department  
6 shall provide every committed person with access to toilet  
7 facilities, barber facilities, bathing facilities at least  
8 once each week, a library of legal materials and published  
9 materials including newspapers and magazines approved by the  
10 Director. A committed person may not receive any materials  
11 that the Director deems pornographic.

12 (b) (Blank).

13 (c) All institutions and facilities of the Department  
14 shall provide facilities for every committed person to leave  
15 his cell for at least one hour each day unless the chief  
16 administrative officer determines that it would be harmful or  
17 dangerous to the security or safety of the institution or  
18 facility.

19 (d) All institutions and facilities of the Department  
20 shall provide every committed person with a wholesome and  
21 nutritional diet at regularly scheduled hours, drinking water,  
22 clothing adequate for the season, including underwear,  
23 bedding, soap, towels, and medical and dental care. Underwear  
24 provided to each committed person in all institutions and  
25 facilities of the Department shall be free of charge and shall

1 be provided at any time upon request, including multiple  
2 requests, of the committed person or as needed by the  
3 committed person.

4 (e) All institutions and facilities of the Department  
5 shall permit every committed person to send and receive an  
6 unlimited number of uncensored letters, provided, however,  
7 that the Director may order that mail be inspected and read for  
8 reasons of the security, safety, or morale of the institution  
9 or facility.

10 (f) Subject to the notification requirements in Section  
11 3-7-2.1, all ~~All~~ of the institutions and facilities of the  
12 Department shall permit every committed person to receive  
13 in-person visitors and video contact, if available, except in  
14 case of abuse of the visiting privilege or when the chief  
15 administrative officer determines that such visiting would be  
16 harmful or dangerous to the security, safety or morale of the  
17 institution or facility. Each committed person is entitled to  
18 7 visits per month. Every committed person may submit a list of  
19 at least 30 persons to the Department that are authorized to  
20 visit the committed person. The list shall be kept in an  
21 electronic format by the Department beginning on August 1,  
22 2019, as well as available in paper form for Department  
23 employees. The chief administrative officer shall have the  
24 right to restrict visitation to non-contact visits, video, or  
25 other forms of non-contact visits for reasons of safety,  
26 security, and order, including, but not limited to,

1 restricting contact visits for committed persons engaged in  
2 gang activity. No committed person in a super maximum security  
3 facility or on disciplinary segregation is allowed contact  
4 visits. Any committed person found in possession of illegal  
5 drugs or who fails a drug test shall not be permitted contact  
6 visits for a period of at least 6 months. Any committed person  
7 involved in gang activities or found guilty of assault  
8 committed against a Department employee shall not be permitted  
9 contact visits for a period of at least 6 months. The  
10 Department shall offer every visitor appropriate written  
11 information concerning HIV and AIDS, including information  
12 concerning how to contact the Illinois Department of Public  
13 Health for counseling information. The Department shall  
14 develop the written materials in consultation with the  
15 Department of Public Health. The Department shall ensure that  
16 all such information and materials are culturally sensitive  
17 and reflect cultural diversity as appropriate. Implementation  
18 of the changes made to this Section by Public Act 94-629 is  
19 subject to appropriation. The Department shall seek the lowest  
20 possible cost to provide video calling and shall charge to the  
21 extent of recovering any demonstrated costs of providing video  
22 calling. The Department shall not make a commission or profit  
23 from video calling services. Nothing in this Section shall be  
24 construed to permit video calling instead of in-person  
25 visitation.

26 (f-5) (Blank).

1 (f-10) The Department may not restrict or limit in-person  
2 visits to committed persons due to the availability of  
3 interactive video conferences.

4 (f-15) (1) The Department shall issue a standard written  
5 policy for each institution and facility of the Department  
6 that provides for:

7 (A) the number of in-person visits each committed  
8 person is entitled to per week and per month including the  
9 requirements of subsection (f) of this Section;

10 (B) the hours of in-person visits;

11 (C) the type of identification required for visitors  
12 at least 18 years of age; and

13 (D) the type of identification, if any, required for  
14 visitors under 18 years of age.

15 (2) This policy shall be posted on the Department website  
16 and at each facility.

17 (3) The Department shall post on its website daily any  
18 restrictions or denials of visitation for that day and the  
19 succeeding 5 calendar days, including those based on a  
20 lockdown of the facility, to inform family members and other  
21 visitors.

22 (g) All institutions and facilities of the Department  
23 shall permit religious ministrations and sacraments to be  
24 available to every committed person, but attendance at  
25 religious services shall not be required. This subsection (g)  
26 is subject to the provisions of the Faith Behind Bars Act.

1 (h) Within 90 days after December 31, 1996, the Department  
2 shall prohibit the use of curtains, cell-coverings, or any  
3 other matter or object that obstructs or otherwise impairs the  
4 line of vision into a committed person's cell.

5 (i) A point of contact person appointed under subsection  
6 (u-6) of Section 3-2-2 of this Code shall promptly and  
7 efficiently review suggestions, complaints, and other requests  
8 made by visitors to institutions and facilities of the  
9 Department and by other members of the public. Based on the  
10 nature of the submission, the point of contact person shall  
11 communicate with the appropriate division of the Department,  
12 disseminate the concern or complaint, and act as liaison  
13 between the parties to reach a resolution.

14 (1) The point of contact person shall maintain  
15 information about the subject matter of each  
16 correspondence, including, but not limited to, information  
17 about the following subjects:

18 (A) the parties making the submission;

19 (B) any commissary-related concerns;

20 (C) any concerns about the institution or  
21 facility's COVID-19 protocols and mitigations;

22 (D) any concerns about mail, video, or electronic  
23 messages or other communications with incarcerated  
24 persons;

25 (E) any concerns about the institution or  
26 facility;

- 1 (F) any discipline-related concerns;
- 2 (G) any concerns about earned sentencing credits;
- 3 (H) any concerns about educational opportunities
- 4 for incarcerated persons;
- 5 (I) any concerns about health-related matters;
- 6 (J) any mental health concerns;
- 7 (K) any concerns about personal property;
- 8 (L) any concerns about the records of the
- 9 incarcerated person;
- 10 (M) any concerns about recreational opportunities
- 11 for incarcerated persons;
- 12 (N) any staffing-related concerns;
- 13 (O) any concerns about the transfer of individuals
- 14 in custody;
- 15 (P) any concerns about visitation; and
- 16 (Q) any concerns about work opportunities for
- 17 incarcerated persons.

18 The information shall be maintained in accordance with

19 standards set by the Department of Corrections, and shall

20 be made available to the Department's Planning and

21 Research Division. The point of contact person shall

22 provide a summary of the results of the review, including

23 any resolution or recommendations made as a result of

24 correspondence with the Planning and Research Division of

25 the Department.

26 (2) The Department shall provide an annual written

1 report to the General Assembly and the Governor, with the  
2 first report due no later than January 1, 2023, and  
3 publish the report on its website within 48 hours after  
4 the report is transmitted to the Governor and the General  
5 Assembly. The report shall include a summary of activities  
6 undertaken and completed as a result of submissions to the  
7 point of contact person. The Department of Corrections  
8 shall collect and report the following aggregated and  
9 disaggregated data for each institution and facility and  
10 describe:

11 (A) the work of the point of contact person;

12 (B) the general nature of suggestions, complaints,  
13 and other requests submitted to the point of contact  
14 person;

15 (C) the volume of emails, calls, letters, and  
16 other correspondence received by the point of contact  
17 person;

18 (D) the resolutions reached or recommendations  
19 made as a result of the point of contact person's  
20 review;

21 (E) whether, if an investigation is recommended, a  
22 report of the complaint was forwarded to the Chief  
23 Inspector of the Department or other Department  
24 employee, and the resolution of the complaint, and if  
25 the investigation has not concluded, a detailed status  
26 report on the complaint; and

1 (F) any recommendations that the point of contact  
2 person has relating to systemic issues in the  
3 Department of Corrections, and any other matters for  
4 consideration by the General Assembly and the  
5 Governor.

6 The name, address, or other personally identifiable  
7 information of a person who files a complaint, suggestion,  
8 or other request with the point of contact person, and  
9 confidential records shall be redacted from the annual  
10 report and are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom  
11 of Information Act. The Department shall disclose the  
12 records only if required by a court order on a showing of  
13 good cause.

14 (3) The Department must post in a conspicuous place in  
15 the waiting area of every facility or institution a sign  
16 that contains in bold, black type the following:

17 (A) a short statement notifying visitors of the  
18 point of contact person and that person's duty to  
19 receive suggestions, complaints, or other requests;  
20 and

21 (B) information on how to submit suggestions,  
22 complaints, or other requests to the point of contact  
23 person.

24 (j) Menstrual hygiene products shall be available, as  
25 needed, free of charge, at all institutions and facilities of  
26 the Department for all committed persons who menstruate. In

1 this subsection (j), "menstrual hygiene products" means  
2 tampons and sanitary napkins for use in connection with the  
3 menstrual cycle.

4 (Source: P.A. 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-331, eff. 1-1-24;  
5 104-417, eff. 8-15-25.)

6 (730 ILCS 5/3-7-2.1 new)

7 Sec. 3-7-2.1. Family notification.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Approved visitor" means any individual listed on a  
10 committed person's approved visitation roster maintained by  
11 the Department of Corrections.

12 "Restrictive housing" or "solitary confinement" means any  
13 housing unit or cell-based separation restricting a committed  
14 person to the committed person's cell for more than 22 hours in  
15 a 24-hour period.

16 "Lockdown" means any facility-wide or unit-wide suspension  
17 of normal movement, visitation, or programming.

18 (b) (1) The Department of Corrections shall notify all  
19 approved visitors of a committed person when that person is:

20 (A) placed in restrictive housing;

21 (B) removed from restrictive housing;

22 (C) housed in a unit subject to lockdown; or

23 (D) returned to normal operations following a  
24 lockdown.

25 (2) Notifications shall include only:

1           (A) the committed person's name and identification  
2           number;

3           (B) whether the event is a lockdown or restrictive  
4           housing placement;

5           (C) the start date and time; and

6           (D) the end date and time, once applicable.

7           (3) No security-sensitive details shall be disclosed.

8           (c) (1) Notification shall be provided via email and SMS  
9           text message, if the visitor opts in.

10           (2) The Department shall maintain an online portal for  
11           visitors to update contact information and select preferred  
12           notification methods.

13           (3) The Department may not charge committed persons or  
14           visitors any fee for receiving notifications.

15           (d) (1) Notification must be sent within 2 hours of the  
16           start of restrictive housing placement or lockdown affecting  
17           the committed person's housing unit.

18           (2) Notification of the end of confinement or lockdown  
19           must be sent within 2 hours of normal operations resuming.

20           (e) If a notification is sent in error, the Department  
21           shall issue a corrected notification within 2 hours of  
22           identifying the error.

23           (f) (1) The Department shall maintain records of:

24           (A) the number of notifications issued;

25           (B) the timeliness of notifications;

26           (C) any failures to notify; and

1           (D) corrective actions taken.

2           (2) The Department shall publish an annual report  
3 summarizing compliance.

4           (g) The Department shall adopt rules necessary to  
5 implement this Section, including:

6                   (1) visitor contact management;

7                   (2) communication protocols; and

8                   (3) data privacy protections.

9           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
10 1, 2027.