



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

**HB4949**

by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Family Justice Centers Act. Authorizes cities, counties, the State, and community-based nonprofits to establish multiagency, multidisciplinary Family Justice Centers to serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking. Sets requirements for center operations, including survivor consent and confidentiality policies, privacy protections, collaboration with law enforcement and community providers, operating agreements, survivor feedback processes, and annual training standards. Provides a framework for coordinated service delivery among participating agencies. Declares findings. Defines terms.

LRB104 17662 BDA 34073 b

1 AN ACT concerning government.

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 cited as the Family  
5 Justice Centers Act.

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

8 (1) Underreporting of domestic violence, sexual  
9 violence, stalking, and human trafficking to service  
10 providers, law enforcement, and protective agencies is  
11 detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the  
12 State of Illinois. Survivors have stressed the need for  
13 collaborative implementation of resources and interagency  
14 communication and assessment of policies and procedures to  
15 allow for intentional process improvement in the delivery  
16 of and response to survivors.

17 (2) To support survivors and their children and  
18 encourage the development of partnerships to close gaps  
19 and implement best practices, entities must work  
20 collaboratively and actively to build a trauma-informed,  
21 survivor-centered community response to prevent domestic  
22 violence, child abuse, sexual violence, stalking, and  
23 human trafficking.

1           (3) The enactment of the Family Justice Centers Act  
2 promotes the health and safety of survivors of domestic  
3 violence, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking  
4 and provides alternative ways for survivors to seek  
5 services in a trauma-informed, survivor-centered,  
6 coordinated manner.

7           (4) In recent years, Illinois has experienced an  
8 upward trend in domestic violence incidents, including  
9 increased contacts to the Illinois Domestic Violence  
10 Hotline and higher rates of domestic-related homicides.  
11 Contacts to the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline rose 26  
12 percent from 2023 to 2024 to a total of 59,704 contacts,  
13 which is 140 percent higher than in 2019 (Measuring Safety  
14 2024, Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline Report - The  
15 Network). This rising rate of reports, coupled with the  
16 reality that many incidents go unreported, demonstrates  
17 the need for a State response.

18           (5) Given the intimate and personal nature of sexual  
19 violence, advocacy services are necessary to support  
20 survivors of sexual assault by providing comprehensive  
21 assistance that addresses immediate and long-term needs.  
22 The State of Illinois should continue to support these  
23 programs, which have faced declining funds in recent  
24 years.

25           (6) In 2025, the Illinois General Assembly enacted  
26 Public Act 104-159, the Illinois Statewide Trauma-Informed

1 Response to Human Trafficking Act, recognizing the need  
2 for a comprehensive response to human trafficking in the  
3 State. Public Act 104-159 requires agencies to investigate  
4 and respond in a survivor-centered, trauma-informed manner  
5 to increase the detection of survivors and provide a  
6 survivor-centered, trauma-informed response when  
7 survivors present for services.

8 (7) The Family Justice Center framework offers a  
9 comprehensive and collaborative approach to addressing  
10 domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and human  
11 trafficking. Family Justice Centers bring together  
12 professionals and services under one roof, providing a  
13 safe and supportive environment for survivors and ensuring  
14 a coordinated and effective response.

15 (8) Children's Advocacy Centers were established in  
16 Illinois by Public Act 86-276 and are governed by the  
17 Children's Advocacy Center Act. In response to the need  
18 for a formal, comprehensive, integrated, and  
19 multidisciplinary approach to child maltreatment,  
20 Children's Advocacy Centers provide subject-matter  
21 expertise that complements Family Justice Centers. This  
22 Act is intended to enhance collaboration and sharing of  
23 expertise and is not meant to supersede the expertise of  
24 Children's Advocacy Centers. Domestic violence, sexual  
25 violence, and child abuse are forms of community violence  
26 that require coordinated responses. Family Justice Centers

1 and Children's Advocacy Centers should work  
2 collaboratively.

3 (9) Family Justice Centers minimize the need for  
4 survivors to navigate multiple agencies, to travel to  
5 multiple locations, and to repeat their stories. They  
6 offer services shown to improve access to services,  
7 increase hope and well-being, reduce recantation, reduce  
8 homicides, and increase successful prosecution of  
9 offenders.

10 (10) Creating Family Justice Centers is essential to  
11 provide multiagency, multidisciplinary support and  
12 services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual  
13 violence, stalking, and human trafficking; to ensure  
14 survivors can access all needed services; to enhance  
15 survivor safety; to increase offender accountability; and  
16 to reduce the number of times survivors are questioned and  
17 examined and the number of places survivors must go to  
18 receive assistance.

19 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

20 "Domestic violence" means any act of abuse as defined in  
21 the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986.

22 "Human trafficking" means an act as set forth in Section  
23 10-9 of the Criminal Code of 2012, including recruiting,  
24 harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for  
25 labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion.

1 "Sexual violence" means physical sexual acts attempted or  
2 perpetrated against a person's will or when a person is  
3 incapable of giving consent, including, without limitation,  
4 rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual  
5 coercion.

6 "Stalking" has the meaning given to that term in the  
7 Stalking No Contact Order Act.

8 "Stalking" includes, without limitation, the following  
9 conduct:

- 10 (1) following a person;
- 11 (2) conducting surveillance of the person;
- 12 (3) appearing at the person's home, work, or school  
13 without a reasonable purpose under the circumstances;
- 14 (4) making unwanted phone calls;
- 15 (5) sending unwanted mail;
- 16 (6) sending unwanted messages via social media;
- 17 (7) sending unwanted text messages;
- 18 (8) leaving objects for the person;
- 19 (9) vandalizing the person's property;
- 20 (10) injuring a pet; or
- 21 (11) using any electronic tracking system or acquiring  
22 tracking information to determine the person's location,  
23 movements, or travel patterns.

24 Section 15. Family Justice Centers.

25 (a) A city, county, State, community-based nonprofit

1 organization, or a combination of these entities may establish  
2 a multiagency, multidisciplinary Family Justice Center to  
3 assist survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence,  
4 stalking, and human trafficking, to ensure that survivors are  
5 able to access needed services in one location, to enhance  
6 survivor safety, to increase offender accountability, and to  
7 improve access to services.

8 (b) A Family Justice Center is a multiagency,  
9 multidisciplinary service center where public and private  
10 agencies assign staff members on a full-time or part-time  
11 basis to provide services to survivors of domestic violence,  
12 sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking from one  
13 location, to reduce the number of times survivors must repeat  
14 their accounts, to reduce the number of places survivors must  
15 go for help, and to increase access to services and support for  
16 survivors and their children. A Family Justice Center shall,  
17 as appropriate, partner with other agencies to provide  
18 services.

19 (c) Staff members at a Family Justice Center may include,  
20 but are not limited to:

21 (1) domestic violence providers recognized by the  
22 Department of Human Services;

23 (2) rape crisis organizations as defined in Section  
24 8-802.1 of the Code of Civil Procedure;

25 (3) civil legal service providers, in accordance with  
26 memoranda of understanding developed by the Family Justice

1 Center;

2 (4) legal advocacy providers, in accordance with  
3 memoranda of understanding developed by the Family Justice  
4 Center;

5 (5) mental health care providers, in accordance with  
6 memoranda of understanding developed by the Family Justice  
7 Center;

8 (6) housing providers, in accordance with memoranda of  
9 understanding developed by the Family Justice Center;

10 (7) substance-use counselors, in accordance with  
11 memoranda of understanding developed by the Family Justice  
12 Center;

13 (8) Family Justice Center administrative personnel;

14 (9) medical personnel;

15 (10) local Children's Advocacy Centers;

16 (11) law enforcement;

17 (12) the State's Attorney's office and victim-witness  
18 personnel;

19 (13) supervised volunteers of partner agencies; and

20 (14) other professional agencies serving survivors of  
21 domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault,  
22 stalking, or human trafficking, in accordance with  
23 memoranda of understanding developed by the Family Justice  
24 Center.

25 (d) This Section does not abrogate existing laws regarding  
26 privacy or information sharing. Family Justice Center staff

1 members shall comply with the laws governing their respective  
2 professions.

3 (e) Survivors shall not be required to participate with  
4 law enforcement or the criminal justice system to receive  
5 services at a Family Justice Center. A Family Justice Center  
6 shall establish memoranda of understanding with law  
7 enforcement and State's Attorney's offices to facilitate  
8 collaboration, improved processes, and systems change for the  
9 benefit of survivors and the health, safety, and well-being of  
10 the community.

11 (f) Each Family Justice Center shall consult with  
12 community-based domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking,  
13 and human trafficking agencies, in partnership with survivors  
14 and their advocates, in the operation of the Family Justice  
15 Center. Each Family Justice Center shall establish procedures  
16 for ongoing input, feedback, and evaluation by survivors and  
17 community-based survivor service providers and advocates.

18 (g) Each Family Justice Center shall develop operating  
19 agreements, policies, and procedures, in collaboration with  
20 local community-based survivor service providers and local  
21 survivors, to ensure coordinated services and to enhance the  
22 safety of survivors and professionals at the Family Justice  
23 Center, including participants in affiliated survivor-centered  
24 support or advocacy groups. Each Family Justice Center shall  
25 maintain a formal survivor feedback, complaint, and input  
26 process to address concerns about services or the conduct of

1 any Family Justice Center professionals, agency partners, or  
2 volunteers.

3 (h) Each Family Justice Center shall provide survivors  
4 with educational materials relating to rights available under  
5 Illinois law.

6 (i) Each Family Justice Center shall maintain a survivor  
7 consent policy and shall follow all State and federal laws  
8 protecting the confidentiality of information and documents in  
9 a survivor's file, including, but not limited to, medical,  
10 legal, and survivor counselor records. Each Family Justice  
11 Center shall develop privacy policies and procedures  
12 consistent with State and federal privacy and confidentiality  
13 laws and the Fair Information Practice Principles promulgated  
14 by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

15 (j) A Family Justice Center shall obtain informed,  
16 written, time-limited consent from a survivor before sharing  
17 information obtained from the survivor with any staff member  
18 or agency partner, except as provided in paragraphs (1) and  
19 (2) of this subsection.

20 (1) A Family Justice Center is not required to obtain  
21 consent before sharing information obtained from the  
22 survivor with a mandated reporter, a peace officer, or a  
23 member of the prosecution team if that person is required  
24 by law to report or disclose specific information or  
25 incidents. Such persons shall inform the survivor that  
26 they may share information without the survivor's consent.

1           (2) A Family Justice Center shall inform the survivor  
2           that information shared with staff members or partner  
3           agencies may be shared with law enforcement without the  
4           survivor's consent if there is a mandatory duty to report  
5           or if the survivor is a danger to itself or others. A  
6           Family Justice Center shall obtain written acknowledgment  
7           that the survivor has been informed of this policy.

8           (k) Consent by a survivor to share information within a  
9           Family Justice Center under this Section shall not be  
10          construed as a universal waiver of any evidentiary privilege  
11          that makes confidential communications or documents between  
12          the survivor and a service provider, including, without  
13          limitation, any lawyer, advocate, rape crisis counselor, or  
14          domestic violence counselor, and including protections under  
15          applicable State and federal law, such as the Address  
16          Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual  
17          Assault, Human Trafficking, or Stalking Act; and Sections  
18          8-802, 8-802.1, and 8-802.2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.  
19          Any oral or written communication or document authorized by  
20          the survivor to be shared for the purposes of enhancing safety  
21          and providing more effective and efficient services shall not  
22          be disclosed to any third party, unless authorized by the  
23          survivor or required by State or federal law or court order.

24          (1) An individual staff member, volunteer, or agency that  
25          has survivor information governed by this Section shall not be  
26          required to disclose that information unless the survivor has

1 consented to the disclosure or the disclosure is consistent  
2 with applicable State law regarding crime victims' rights.

3 (m) A disclosure of information consented to by the  
4 survivor in a Family Justice Center, made for the purposes of  
5 clinical assessment, risk assessment, safety planning, or  
6 service delivery, shall not be deemed a waiver of any  
7 privilege or confidentiality provision contained in any other  
8 law of this State.

9 (n) In addition to any other required training, each  
10 Family Justice Center shall maintain a training program with  
11 mandatory training of not less than 16 hours per year for all  
12 persons providing services at the Family Justice Center,  
13 including, but not limited to, training on evidentiary  
14 privileges, confidentiality provisions, information sharing,  
15 risk assessment, safety planning, survivor advocacy, and  
16 high-risk case response.