



Rep. Maurice A. West, II

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10400HB4949ham001

LRB104 17662 BDA 36809 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4949

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 4949 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Family 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.

1           (2) To support survivors and their children and  
2 encourage the development of partnerships to close gaps  
3 and implement best practices, entities must work  
4 collaboratively and actively to build a trauma-informed,  
5 survivor-centered community response to prevent domestic  
6 violence, child abuse, sexual violence, stalking, and  
7 human trafficking.

8           (3) The enactment of the Family Justice Centers Act  
9 promotes the health and safety of survivors of domestic  
10 violence, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking  
11 and provides alternative ways for survivors to seek  
12 services in a trauma-informed, survivor-centered,  
13 coordinated manner.

14           (4) In recent years, Illinois has experienced an  
15 upward trend in domestic violence incidents, including  
16 increased contacts to the Illinois Domestic Violence  
17 Hotline and higher rates of domestic-related homicides.  
18 Contacts to the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline rose  
19 26% from 2023 to 2024 to a total of 59,704 contacts, which  
20 is 140% higher than in 2019, according to Measuring  
21 Safety: Gender Based Violence in Illinois 2024, Illinois  
22 Domestic Violence Hotline Report, published in June 2025  
23 by The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence. This  
24 rising rate of reports, coupled with the reality that many  
25 incidents go unreported, demonstrates the need for a State  
26 response.

1           (5) Given the intimate and personal nature of sexual  
2 violence, advocacy services are necessary to support  
3 survivors of sexual assault by providing comprehensive  
4 assistance that addresses immediate and long-term needs.  
5 The State of Illinois should continue to support these  
6 programs, which have faced declining funds in recent  
7 years.

8           (6) In 2025, the Illinois General Assembly passed the  
9 Illinois Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human  
10 Trafficking Act, recognizing the need for a comprehensive  
11 response to human trafficking in the State. This Act  
12 requires agencies to investigate and respond in a  
13 survivor-centered, trauma-informed manner to increase the  
14 detection of survivors and provide a survivor-centered,  
15 trauma-informed response when survivors present for  
16 services.

17           (7) The Family Justice Center framework offers a  
18 comprehensive and collaborative approach to addressing  
19 domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and human  
20 trafficking. Family Justice Centers bring together  
21 professionals and services under one roof, providing a  
22 safe and supportive environment for survivors and ensuring  
23 a coordinated and effective response.

24           (8) Children's Advocacy Centers were established in  
25 Illinois by Public Act 86-276 and are governed by the  
26 Children's Advocacy Center Act. In response to the need

1 for a formal, comprehensive, integrated, and  
2 multidisciplinary approach to child maltreatment,  
3 Children's Advocacy Centers provide subject-matter  
4 expertise that complements Family Justice Centers. This  
5 Act is intended to enhance collaboration and sharing of  
6 expertise and is not meant to supersede the expertise of  
7 Children's Advocacy Centers. Domestic violence, sexual  
8 violence, and child abuse are forms of community violence  
9 that require coordinated responses. Family Justice Centers  
10 and Children's Advocacy Centers should work  
11 collaboratively.

12 (9) Family Justice Centers minimize the need for  
13 survivors to navigate multiple agencies, to travel to  
14 multiple locations, and to repeat their stories. They  
15 offer services shown to improve access to services,  
16 increase hope and well-being, reduce recantation, reduce  
17 homicides, and increase successful prosecution of  
18 offenders.

19 (10) Creating Family Justice Centers is essential to  
20 provide multiagency, multidisciplinary support and  
21 services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual  
22 violence, stalking, and human trafficking; to ensure  
23 survivors can access all needed services; to enhance  
24 survivor safety; to increase offender accountability; and  
25 to reduce the number of times survivors are questioned and  
26 examined and the number of places survivors must go to

1 receive assistance.

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

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

5 "Human trafficking" means an act as set forth in Section  
6 10-9 of the Criminal Code of 2012, including recruiting,  
7 harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for  
8 labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion.

9 "Sexual violence" means physical sexual acts attempted or  
10 perpetrated against a person's will or when a person is  
11 incapable of giving consent, including, without limitation,  
12 rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual  
13 coercion.

14 "Stalking" has the meaning given to that term in the  
15 Stalking No Contact Order Act. "Stalking" includes, without  
16 limitation, the following conduct:

- 17 (1) following a person;  
18 (2) conducting surveillance of the person;  
19 (3) appearing at the person's home, work, or school  
20 without a reasonable purpose under the circumstances;  
21 (4) making unwanted phone calls;  
22 (5) sending unwanted mail;  
23 (6) sending unwanted messages via social media;  
24 (7) sending unwanted text messages;  
25 (8) leaving objects for the person;

- 1           (9) vandalizing the person's property;
- 2           (10) injuring a pet; or
- 3           (11) using any electronic tracking system or acquiring
- 4 tracking information to determine the person's location,
- 5 movements, or travel patterns.

6           Section 15. Family Justice Centers.

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

8 organization, or a combination of these entities may establish

9 a multiagency, multidisciplinary Family Justice Center to

10 assist survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence,

11 stalking, and human trafficking, to ensure that survivors are

12 able to access needed services in one location, to enhance

13 survivor safety, to increase offender accountability, and to

14 improve access to services.

15           (b) A Family Justice Center is a multiagency,

16 multidisciplinary service center where public and private

17 agencies assign staff members on a full-time or part-time

18 basis to provide services to survivors of domestic violence,

19 sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking from one

20 location, to reduce the number of times survivors must repeat

21 their accounts, to reduce the number of places survivors must

22 go for help, and to increase access to services and support for

23 survivors and their children. A Family Justice Center shall,

24 as appropriate, partner with other agencies to provide

25 services.

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

3 (1) domestic violence providers recognized by the  
4 Department of Human Services;

5 (2) rape crisis organizations as defined in Section  
6 8-802.1 of the Code of Civil Procedure;

7 (3) civil legal service providers, in accordance with  
8 memoranda of understanding developed by the Family Justice  
9 Center;

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

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

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

18 (7) substance-use counselors, in accordance with  
19 memoranda of understanding developed by the Family Justice  
20 Center;

21 (8) Family Justice Center administrative personnel;

22 (9) medical personnel;

23 (10) local Children's Advocacy Centers;

24 (11) law enforcement;

25 (12) the State's Attorney's office and victim-witness  
26 personnel;

1 (13) supervised volunteers of partner agencies; and

2 (14) other professional agencies serving survivors of  
3 domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, or human  
4 trafficking, in accordance with memoranda of understanding  
5 developed by the Family Justice Center.

6 (d) If Department of Children and Family Services  
7 personnel are present on site at a Family Justice Center, they  
8 shall only interact with a survivor receiving services from  
9 the Family Justice Center upon the survivor's request.

10 (e) This Section does not abrogate existing laws regarding  
11 privacy or information sharing. Family Justice Center staff  
12 members shall comply with the laws governing their respective  
13 professions.

14 (f) Survivors shall not be required to participate with  
15 law enforcement, the Department of Children and Family  
16 Services, or the criminal justice system to receive services  
17 at a Family Justice Center. A Family Justice Center shall  
18 establish memoranda of understanding with law enforcement, the  
19 Department of Children and Family Services, and State's  
20 Attorneys' offices to facilitate collaboration, improved  
21 processes, and systems change for the benefit of survivors and  
22 the health, safety, and well-being of the community.

23 (g) Each Family Justice Center shall consult with  
24 statewide and local community-based domestic violence, sexual  
25 assault, stalking, and human trafficking agencies, in  
26 partnership with survivors and their advocates, in the

1 operation of the Family Justice Center. Each Family Justice  
2 Center shall establish procedures for ongoing input, feedback,  
3 and evaluation by survivors and community-based survivor  
4 service providers and advocates.

5 (h) Each Family Justice Center shall develop operating  
6 agreements, policies, and procedures, in collaboration with  
7 local community-based survivor service providers and local  
8 survivors, to ensure coordinated services and to enhance the  
9 safety of survivors and professionals at the Family Justice  
10 Center, including participants in affiliated survivor-centered  
11 support or advocacy groups. Each Family Justice Center shall  
12 maintain a formal survivor feedback, complaint, and input  
13 process to address concerns about services or the conduct of  
14 any Family Justice Center professionals, agency partners, or  
15 volunteers.

16 (i) Each Family Justice Center shall provide survivors  
17 with educational materials relating to rights available under  
18 Illinois law.

19 (j) Each Family Justice Center shall maintain a survivor's  
20 informed, specific, and time-limited consent. The consent  
21 policy, and the sharing of any details gathered from the  
22 survivor, the survivor's family, or other sources shall follow  
23 all State and federal laws, including, but not limited to, the  
24 Violence Against Women Act of 1994, so as to protect the  
25 confidentiality of information gathered and any documents in a  
26 survivor's file, including, but not limited to, medical

1 records, legal records, survivor counselor records, and any  
2 other information gathered during intake or throughout the  
3 period of engagement with the survivor. Each Family Justice  
4 Center shall develop privacy policies and procedures  
5 consistent with State and federal privacy and confidentiality  
6 laws and the Fair Information Practice Principles adopted by  
7 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Privacy Policy  
8 Guidance Memorandum 2008-01.

9 (k) A Family Justice Center shall obtain informed,  
10 written, time-limited consent from a survivor before sharing  
11 information obtained from the survivor with any staff member  
12 or agency partner, except that a Family Justice Center shall  
13 inform the survivor that information shared with staff members  
14 or partner agencies may be shared with the Department of  
15 Children and Family Services or a peace officer without the  
16 survivor's consent if there is a mandatory duty to report or if  
17 the survivor is a danger to self or others. A Family Justice  
18 Center shall obtain written acknowledgment that the survivor  
19 has been informed of this policy.

20 (l) Consent by a survivor to share information within a  
21 Family Justice Center under this Section shall not be  
22 construed as a universal waiver of any evidentiary privilege  
23 that makes confidential communications or documents between  
24 the survivor and a service provider, including, without  
25 limitation, any lawyer, advocate, rape crisis counselor, or  
26 domestic violence counselor, and including protections under

1 applicable State and federal law, such as the Address  
2 Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual  
3 Assault, Human Trafficking, or Stalking Act; and Sections  
4 8-802, 8-802.1, and 8-802.2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.  
5 Any oral or written communication or document authorized by  
6 the survivor to be shared for the purposes of enhancing safety  
7 and providing more effective and efficient services shall not  
8 be disclosed to any third party, unless authorized by the  
9 survivor or required by State or federal law or court order.

10 (m) An individual staff member, volunteer, or agency that  
11 has survivor information governed by this Section shall not be  
12 required to disclose that information unless the survivor has  
13 consented to the disclosure or the disclosure is consistent  
14 with applicable State law regarding crime victims' rights.

15 (n) A disclosure of information consented to by the  
16 survivor in a Family Justice Center, made for the purposes of  
17 clinical assessment, risk assessment, safety planning, or  
18 service delivery, shall not be deemed a waiver of any  
19 privilege or confidentiality provision contained in any other  
20 law of this State.

21 (o) In addition to any other required training, each  
22 Family Justice Center shall maintain a training program with  
23 mandatory training of not less than 16 hours per year for all  
24 persons providing services at the Family Justice Center,  
25 including, but not limited to, training on evidentiary  
26 privileges, confidentiality provisions, information sharing,

1 risk assessment, safety planning, survivor advocacy, and  
2 high-risk case response.".