



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3510

Introduced 2/5/2026, by Sen. Julie A. Morrison

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Child Advocacy Center Act. Provides that Multidisciplinary Team members shall work together, share information, and maintain confidentiality throughout the investigative process. Provides that Multidisciplinary Team members shall coordinate, communicate, and keep nonoffending parents, caregivers, and their families aware of the status of child abuse investigations. Provides that Children's Advocacy Centers shall be (rather than may be) established to coordinate the activities of the various agencies involved in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child maltreatment. Provides that every Child Advocacy Center shall include a multidisciplinary systems approach that includes all Multidisciplinary Team members as equal partners in the investigation of child maltreatment. Provides that an investigation into child maltreatment shall include a comprehensive interagency notification procedure for all Multidisciplinary Team partners. Amends the Privacy of Child Victims of Criminal Sexual Offenses Act. Provides that a multidisciplinary team member shall not reveal the identity of any child who is the victim of a criminal sexual offense or is allegedly the victim of a criminal sexual offense in a criminal proceeding or a related investigation, unless permitted by a court order. Amends the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963. Provides that certain exceptions to the hearsay rule shall apply to prosecutions for physical or sexual acts perpetrated upon or against a child or youth who is a victim of trafficking in persons, involuntary servitude, and related offenses. Amends the Bill of Rights for Children. Provides that every child reported to the Department of Children and Family Services to be a victim of a physical act, trafficking in person, involuntary servitude, and related offenses has the right to a forensic interview. Provides that notice of this right must be given by investigative personnel. Amends the Bill of Rights for children. Provides that every child reported to the Department of Children and Family services to be a victim of a physical act, trafficking in persons, involuntary servitude, and related offenses has the right to a forensic interview. Provides that notice of this right must be given by investigation personnel. Makes other changes.

LRB104 20564 WRO 34043 b

A BILL FOR

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 5. The Children's Advocacy Center Act is amended
5 by changing Sections 2.5 and 4 as follows:

6 (55 ILCS 80/2.5)

7 Sec. 2.5. Definitions. As used in this Section:

8 "Accreditation" means the process in which certification
9 of competency, authority, or credibility is presented by
10 standards set by the National Children's Alliance to ensure
11 effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services by a
12 CAC.

13 "Child maltreatment" includes any act or occurrence, as
14 defined in Section 5 of the Criminal Code of 2012, under the
15 Children and Family Services Act or the Juvenile Court Act of
16 1987 involving either a child victim or child witness.

17 "Children's Advocacy Center" or "CAC" is a child-focused,
18 trauma-informed, facility-based program in which
19 representatives from law enforcement, child protection,
20 prosecution, mental health, forensic interviewing, medical,
21 and victim advocacy disciplines collaborate to interview
22 children, meet with a child's parent or parents, caregivers,
23 and family members, and make team decisions about the

1 investigation, prosecution, safety, treatment, and support
2 services for child maltreatment cases.

3 "Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois" or "CACI" is a
4 state chapter of the National Children's Alliance ("NCA") and
5 organizing entity for Children's Advocacy Centers in the State
6 of Illinois. It defines membership and engages member CACs in
7 the NCA accreditation process and collecting and sharing of
8 data, and provides training, leadership, and technical
9 assistance to existing and emerging CACs in the State.

10 "Electronic recording" includes a motion picture,
11 audiotape, videotape, or digital recording.

12 "Forensic interview" means an interview between a trained
13 forensic interviewer, as defined by NCA standards, and a child
14 in which the interviewer obtains information from children in
15 an unbiased and fact finding manner that is developmentally
16 appropriate and culturally sensitive to support accurate and
17 fair decision making by the multidisciplinary team in the
18 criminal justice and child protection systems. Whenever
19 practical, all parties involved in investigating reports of
20 child maltreatment shall observe the interview, which shall be
21 electronically recorded.

22 "Forensic interview transcription" means a verbatim
23 transcript of a forensic interview for the purpose of
24 translating the interview into another language.

25 "Multidisciplinary team" or "MDT" means a group of
26 professionals working collaboratively under a written

1 protocol, who represent various disciplines from the point of
2 a report of child maltreatment to assure the most effective
3 coordinated response possible for every child. MDT members
4 shall work together, share information, and maintain
5 confidentiality throughout the investigative process.
6 ~~Employees from each participating entity shall be included on~~
7 ~~the MDT.~~ A CAC's MDT must include professionals involved in
8 the ~~coordination,~~ investigation, and prosecution of child
9 abuse and professionals involved in the coordination of care
10 for and treatment of victims~~cases,~~ including the CAC's staff,
11 participating law enforcement agencies, the county state's
12 attorney, ~~and~~ the Illinois Department of Children and Family
13 Services, and specialized medical and mental health providers
14 ~~must include professionals involved in the delivery of~~
15 ~~services to victims of child maltreatment and non-offending~~
16 ~~parent or parents, caregiver, and their families.~~ MDT members
17 shall coordinate, communicate, and keep nonoffending parents
18 and caregivers and their families aware of the status of the
19 investigation.

20 "National Children's Alliance" or "NCA" means the
21 professional membership organization dedicated to helping
22 local communities respond to allegations of child abuse in an
23 effective and efficient manner. NCA provides training,
24 support, technical assistance and leadership on a national
25 level to state and local CACs and communities responding to
26 reports of child maltreatment. NCA is the national

1 organization that provides the standards for CAC
2 accreditation.

3 "Protocol" means a written methodology defining the
4 responsibilities of each of the MDT members in the
5 investigation and prosecution of child maltreatment within a
6 defined jurisdiction. Written protocols are signed documents
7 and are reviewed and/or updated annually, at a minimum, by a
8 CAC's Advisory Board.

9 (Source: P.A. 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-236, eff. 1-1-20.)

10 (55 ILCS 80/4) (from Ch. 23, par. 1804)

11 Sec. 4. Children's Advocacy Center.

12 (a) Children's Advocacy Centers shall ~~A CAC may~~ be
13 established to coordinate the activities of the various
14 agencies involved in the investigation, prosecution and
15 treatment of child maltreatment. The individual county or
16 regional Advisory Board shall set the written protocol of the
17 CAC within the appropriate jurisdiction. The operation of the
18 CAC may be funded through public or private grants, contracts,
19 donations, fees, and other available sources under this Act.
20 Each CAC shall operate to the best of its ability in accordance
21 with available funding. In counties in which a referendum has
22 been adopted under Section 5 of this Act, the Advisory Board,
23 by the majority vote of its members, shall submit a proposed
24 annual budget for the operation of the CAC to the county board,
25 which shall appropriate funds and levy a tax sufficient to

1 operate the CAC. The county board in each county in which a
2 referendum has been adopted shall establish a Children's
3 Advocacy Center Fund and shall deposit the net proceeds of the
4 tax authorized by Section 6 of this Act in that Fund, which
5 shall be kept separate from all other county funds and shall
6 only be used for the purposes of this Act.

7 (b) The Advisory Board shall pay from the Children's
8 Advocacy Center Fund or from other available funds the
9 salaries of all employees of the Center and the expenses of
10 acquiring a physical plant for the Center by construction or
11 lease and maintaining the Center, including the expenses of
12 administering the coordination of the investigation,
13 prosecution and treatment referral of child maltreatment under
14 the provisions of the protocol adopted pursuant to this Act.

15 (b-1) Recognizing the pivotal role of CACs in providing
16 comprehensive support to trafficked children and youth, each
17 CAC shall:

18 (1) ensure that each county's multi-disciplinary team
19 protocol includes a response to allegations of human
20 trafficking;

21 (2) increase the capacity of each multi-disciplinary
22 team to identify, assess, and serve trafficked children
23 and youth;

24 (3) facilitate collaboration between the CAC, law
25 enforcement, child welfare agencies, health care
26 providers, and other pertinent stakeholders to ensure a

1 synchronized and trauma-informed response to trafficked
2 children and youth;

3 (4) ensure all CAC employees and contractors treating,
4 interviewing, or coming in contact with victims receive
5 training on victim-centered, trauma-informed response to
6 child and youth victims of human trafficking, including
7 identifying and addressing the unique needs of trafficked
8 children and youth, thereby enabling access to appropriate
9 support services and legal remedies; and

10 (5) work with the Department of Human Services to
11 establish standards for victim-centered, trauma-informed
12 training for CACs and members of multi-disciplinary teams.

13 (c) Every CAC shall include at least the following
14 components:

15 (1) A multidisciplinary, coordinated systems approach
16 that includes all MDT members as equal partners in ~~to~~ the
17 investigation of child maltreatment, which shall include,
18 at a minimum:

19 (i) a comprehensive ~~an~~ interagency notification
20 procedure for all MDT partners;

21 (ii) a policy on multidisciplinary team
22 collaboration and communication that mandates every
23 ~~requires~~ MDT member has access to records related to
24 every child abuse investigation and shares all ~~members~~
25 ~~share~~ information in a confidential manner for
26 ~~pertinent to investigations~~ and the safety of

1 children;

2 (iii) (blank);

3 (iv) a description of the role each agency has in
4 responding to a referral for services in an individual
5 case;

6 (v) a dispute resolution process between the
7 involved agencies when a conflict arises on how to
8 proceed on the referral of a particular case;

9 (vi) a process for the CAC to assist in the
10 forensic interview of children that witness alleged
11 crimes;

12 (vii) a child-friendly, trauma informed space for
13 children and their non-offending family members;

14 (viii) an MDT approach including law enforcement,
15 prosecution, medical, mental health, victim advocacy,
16 the Department of Children and Family Services, school
17 personnel, if appropriate, and other community
18 resources;

19 (ix) medical evaluation on-site or off-site
20 through referral;

21 (x) mental health services on-site or off-site
22 through referral;

23 (xi) on-site forensic interviews;

24 (xii) culturally competent services;

25 (xiii) case tracking and review;

26 (xiv) case staffing on each investigation;

1 (xv) effective organizational capacity; and
2 (xvi) a policy or procedure to familiarize a child
3 and his or her non-offending family members or
4 guardians with the court process as well as
5 preparations for testifying in court, if necessary;

6 (2) A safe, separate space with assigned personnel
7 designated for the investigation and coordination of child
8 maltreatment cases;

9 (3) A multidisciplinary case review process for
10 purposes of decision-making, problem solving, systems
11 coordination, and information sharing;

12 (4) A comprehensive client tracking system to receive
13 and coordinate information concerning child maltreatment
14 cases from each participating agency;

15 (5) Multidisciplinary specialized training for all
16 professionals involved with the victims and non-offending
17 family members in child maltreatment cases; and

18 (6) A process for evaluating the effectiveness of the
19 CAC and its operations.

20 (d) In the event that a CAC has been established as
21 provided in this Section, the Advisory Board of that CAC may,
22 by a majority vote of the members, authorize the CAC to
23 coordinate the activities of the various agencies involved in
24 the investigation, prosecution, and treatment referral in
25 cases of serious or fatal injury to a child. For CACs receiving
26 funds under Section 5 or 6 of this Act, the Advisory Board

1 shall provide for the financial support of these activities in
2 a manner similar to that set out in subsections (a) and (b) of
3 this Section and shall be allowed to submit a budget that
4 includes support for physical abuse and neglect activities to
5 the County Board, which shall appropriate funds that may be
6 available under Section 5 of this Act. In cooperation with the
7 Department of Children and Family Services Child Death Review
8 Teams, the Department of Children and Family Services Office
9 of the Inspector General, and other stakeholders, this
10 protocol must be initially implemented in selected counties to
11 the extent that State appropriations or funds from other
12 sources for this purpose allow.

13 (e) CACI may also provide technical assistance and
14 guidance to the Advisory Boards.

15 (e-5) CACI shall convene an annual meeting of statewide
16 leadership from each MDT discipline to review data, discuss
17 and analyze findings, and work collaboratively to identify
18 service gaps and opportunities for process improvements. CACI
19 shall create a report that summarizes discussion at the annual
20 meeting and shall share the report with the leadership of MDT
21 partners and other agencies.

22 (f) In this Section:

23 "Child" or "children" refers to persons under 18 years of
24 age.

25 "Youth" means persons between the ages of 18 and 24 years.

26 (Source: P.A. 104-159, eff. 1-1-26.)

1 Section 10. The Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 is
2 amended by changing Section 115-10 as follows:

3 (725 ILCS 5/115-10) (from Ch. 38, par. 115-10)

4 Sec. 115-10. Certain hearsay exceptions.

5 (a) In a prosecution for a physical or sexual act
6 perpetrated upon or against a child or youth who is a victim of
7 trafficking in persons, involuntary servitude, and related
8 offenses ~~under the age of 13~~, a person with an intellectual
9 disability, a person with a cognitive impairment, or a person
10 with a developmental disability, including, but not limited
11 to, prosecutions for violations of Sections 11-1.20 through
12 11-1.60 or 12-13 through 12-16 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or
13 the Criminal Code of 2012 and prosecutions for violations of
14 Sections 10-1 (kidnapping), 10-2 (aggravated kidnapping), 10-3
15 (unlawful restraint), 10-3.1 (aggravated unlawful restraint),
16 10-4 (forcible detention), 10-5 (child abduction), 10-6
17 (harboring a runaway), 10-7 (aiding or abetting child
18 abduction), 10-9 (trafficking in persons, involuntary
19 servitude, and related offenses), 11-9 (public indecency),
20 11-11 (sexual relations within families), 11-21 (harmful
21 material), 12-1 (assault), 12-2 (aggravated assault), 12-3
22 (battery), 12-3.2 (domestic battery), 12-3.3 (aggravated
23 domestic battery), 12-3.05 or 12-4 (aggravated battery),
24 12-4.1 (heinous battery), 12-4.2 (aggravated battery with a

1 firearm), 12-4.3 (aggravated battery of a child), 12-4.7 (drug
2 induced infliction of great bodily harm), 12-5 (reckless
3 conduct), 12-6 (intimidation), 12-6.1 or 12-6.5 (compelling
4 organization membership of persons), 12-7.1 (hate crime),
5 12-7.3 (stalking), 12-7.4 (aggravated stalking), 12-10 or
6 12C-35 (tattooing the body of a minor), 12-11 or 19-6 (home
7 invasion), 12-21.5 or 12C-10 (child abandonment), 12-21.6 or
8 12C-5 (endangering the life or health of a child) or 12-32
9 (ritual mutilation) of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the
10 Criminal Code of 2012 or any sex offense as defined in
11 subsection (B) of Section 2 of the Sex Offender Registration
12 Act, the following evidence shall be admitted as an exception
13 to the hearsay rule:

14 (1) testimony by the victim or qualified witness of an
15 out of court statement made by that person ~~the victim~~ that
16 he or she complained of a qualified ~~such~~ act to another;
17 and

18 (2) testimony of an out of court statement made by the
19 victim or qualified witness describing any complaint of
20 such act or matter or detail pertaining to any act which is
21 an element of an offense which is the subject of a
22 prosecution for a sexual or physical act against the ~~that~~
23 victim.

24 (b) Such testimony shall only be admitted if:

25 (1) The court finds in a hearing conducted outside the
26 presence of the jury that the time, content, and

1 circumstances of the statement provide sufficient
2 safeguards of reliability; and

3 (2) The victim or qualified witness ~~child or person~~
4 ~~with an intellectual disability, a cognitive impairment,~~
5 ~~or developmental disability~~ either:

6 (A) testifies at the proceeding; or

7 (B) is unavailable as a witness and there is
8 corroborative evidence of the act which is the subject
9 of the statement; and

10 (3) In a case in which the victim or qualified witness
11 is ~~involving an offense perpetrated against~~ a child under
12 the age of 18, ~~where 13~~, the out of court statement was
13 made before the victim attained 18 ~~13~~ years of age or
14 within 3 months after the commission of the offense,
15 whichever occurs later, such ~~but the~~ statement may be
16 admitted regardless of the age of the victim or qualified
17 witness at the time of the proceeding.

18 (c) If a statement is admitted pursuant to this Section,
19 the court shall instruct the jury that it is for the jury to
20 determine the weight and credibility to be given the statement
21 and that, in making the determination, it shall consider the
22 age and maturity of the child, or the intellectual
23 capabilities of the person with an intellectual disability, a
24 cognitive impairment, or developmental disability, the nature
25 of the statement, the circumstances under which the statement
26 was made, and any other relevant factor.

1 (d) The proponent of the statement shall give the adverse
2 party reasonable notice of his intention to offer the
3 statement and the particulars of the statement.

4 (e) Statements described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
5 subsection (a) shall not be excluded on the basis that they
6 were obtained as a result of interviews conducted pursuant to
7 a protocol adopted by a Child Advocacy Advisory Board as set
8 forth in subsections (c), (d), and (e) of Section 3 of the
9 Children's Advocacy Center Act or that an interviewer or
10 witness to the interview was or is an employee, agent, or
11 investigator of a State's Attorney's office.

12 (f) For the purposes of this Section:

13 "Child" refers to persons under 18 years of age.

14 "Person with a cognitive impairment" means a person with a
15 significant impairment of cognition or memory that represents
16 a marked deterioration from a previous level of function.
17 Cognitive impairment includes, but is not limited to,
18 dementia, amnesia, delirium, or a traumatic brain injury.

19 "Person with a developmental disability" means a person
20 with a disability that is attributable to (1) an intellectual
21 disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or autism, or (2) any
22 other condition that results in an impairment similar to that
23 caused by an intellectual disability and requires services
24 similar to those required by a person with an intellectual
25 disability.

26 "Person with an intellectual disability" means a person

1 with significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning
2 which exists concurrently with an impairment in adaptive
3 behavior.

4 "Qualified act" means an act of the defendant, or one for
5 whose conduct the defendant legally responsible, deemed
6 admissible by the court under Illinois Rules of Evidence
7 404(b) and/or 413, and/or Sections 115-7.3, 115-7.4, and/or
8 115-20 of this Code.

9 "Qualified witness" means a witness who is a child under
10 the age of 18, a person with an intellectual disability, a
11 person with a cognitive impairment, or a person with a
12 developmental disability.

13 "Youth" refers to a victim of trafficking in persons,
14 involuntary servitude, and related offenses.

15 (Source: P.A. 104-159, eff. 1-1-26.)

16 Section 15. The Bill of Rights for Children is amended by
17 changing Section 3.5 as follows:

18 (725 ILCS 115/3.5)

19 Sec. 3.5. Right to forensic interview with children's
20 advocacy center.

21 (a) In this Section:

22 "Child" means a person under 18 years of age.

23 "Youth" means a person between the ages of 18 and 24 years.

24 (b) Every child reported to the Department of Children and

1 Family Services or law enforcement to be a victim of sexual
2 assault or sexual abuse, a physical act, trafficking in
3 persons, involuntary servitude, and related offenses, whose
4 case is accepted by either agency for investigation has the
5 right to have that child's forensic interview conducted by a
6 forensic interviewer from a children's advocacy center
7 accredited according to the Children's Advocacy Center Act and
8 serving the child's area or jurisdiction where the incident(s)
9 occurred, when such service is accessible based on the CAC's
10 available resources. Notice of the ~~This~~ right to a forensic
11 interview and the trauma-informed services provided by a CAC
12 must be given by the investigative personnel and may be
13 asserted by the child or the child's parent or guardian
14 informing the investigating personnel at the Department of
15 Children and Family Services or the law enforcement agency
16 that the parent or guardian wants the child to have the child's
17 interview conducted by the children's advocacy center. Each
18 local CAC protocol will outline a process to address
19 situations in which it is deemed not possible for a forensic
20 interview to occur, to ensure a trauma-informed response with
21 follow up services from the CAC.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-477, eff. 1-1-22.)

23 Section 20. The Privacy of Child Victims of Criminal
24 Sexual Offenses Act is amended by changing Section 3 as
25 follows:

1 (725 ILCS 190/3) (from Ch. 38, par. 1453)

2 Sec. 3. Confidentiality of law enforcement and court
3 records. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
4 inspection and copying of law enforcement records maintained
5 by any law enforcement agency or all circuit court records
6 maintained by any circuit clerk relating to any investigation
7 or proceeding pertaining to a criminal sexual offense, by any
8 person, except a judge, state's attorney, assistant state's
9 attorney, Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General,
10 psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, doctor,
11 nonoffending parent or guardian, parole agent, aftercare
12 specialist, probation officer, multidisciplinary team member
13 (as defined in the Child Advocacy Center Act), defendant,
14 defendant's attorney, advocate, or victim's attorney (as
15 defined in Section 3 of the Rights of Crime Victims and
16 Witnesses Act) in any criminal proceeding or investigation
17 related thereto, shall be restricted to exclude the identity
18 of any child who is a victim of such criminal sexual offense or
19 alleged criminal sexual offense unless a court order is issued
20 authorizing the removal of such restriction as provided under
21 this Section of a particular case record or particular records
22 of cases maintained by any circuit court clerk. A court may,
23 for the child's protection and for good cause shown, prohibit
24 any person or agency present in court from further disclosing
25 the child's identity.

1 A court may prohibit such disclosure only after giving
2 notice and a hearing to all affected parties. In determining
3 whether to prohibit disclosure of the minor's identity, the
4 court shall consider:

5 (1) the best interest of the child; and

6 (2) whether such nondisclosure would further a
7 compelling State interest.

8 When a criminal sexual offense is committed or alleged to
9 have been committed by a school district employee or any
10 individual contractually employed by a school district, a copy
11 of the criminal history record information relating to the
12 investigation of the offense or alleged offense shall be
13 transmitted to the superintendent of schools of the district
14 immediately upon request or if the law enforcement agency
15 knows that a school district employee or any individual
16 contractually employed by a school district has committed or
17 is alleged to have committed a criminal sexual offense, the
18 superintendent of schools of the district shall be immediately
19 provided a copy of the criminal history record information.
20 The copy of the criminal history record information to be
21 provided under this Section shall exclude the identity of the
22 child victim. The superintendent shall be restricted from
23 revealing the identity of the victim. Nothing in this Article
24 precludes or may be used to preclude a mandated reporter from
25 reporting child abuse or child neglect as required under the
26 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

1 For the purposes of this Act, "criminal history record
2 information" means:

3 (i) chronologically maintained arrest information,
4 such as traditional arrest logs or blotters;

5 (ii) the name of a person in the custody of a law
6 enforcement agency and the charges for which that person
7 is being held;

8 (iii) court records that are public, as defined in
9 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Section 5 of the Court
10 Record and Document Accessibility Act;

11 (iv) records that are otherwise available under State
12 or local law; or

13 (v) records in which the requesting party is the
14 individual identified, except as provided under part (vii)
15 of paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of Section 7 of the
16 Freedom of Information Act.

17 (Source: P.A. 102-651, eff. 1-1-22; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22;
18 103-166, eff. 1-1-24.)

1 INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3 55 ILCS 80/2.5

4 55 ILCS 80/4 from Ch. 23, par. 1804

5 725 ILCS 5/115-10 from Ch. 38, par. 115-10

6 725 ILCS 115/3.5

7 725 ILCS 190/3 from Ch. 38, par. 1453