



Juvenile Officer **Program**

Policies and Guidelines

June 2026

Core Concepts:

The Juvenile Court Act of 1987 defines a “juvenile police officer” as a sworn police officer who has “completed the necessary juvenile officers training as prescribed by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board.” See 705 ILCS 405/1-3(17) and 705 ILCS 405/5-105(9). For over 30 years, the Board has approved a select number of courses, all exceeding 32 hours in length and containing several core components, to satisfy this requirement upon completion. (See Appendix A).

In the wake of establishing standards and curriculum for School Resource Officers pursuant to PA 101-81, the Board began to reexamine the requirements and delivery methods of the juvenile courses and also began to receive feedback from the Illinois Juvenile Officers Association regarding the increasing need to obtain in-service courses to remain abreast of the evolving laws in this area. Therefore, pursuant to the additional authority of the Illinois Police Training Act giving the Board the general powers to provide “advanced or in-service training for permanent law enforcement officers” and to “establish appropriate mandatory minimum standards relating to....in-service training of permanent law enforcement officers” we now seek to incorporate in-service requirements into the “course of training” required for Juvenile Officers. 50 ILCS 705/6. These classes will ensure that juvenile officers stay at the forefront of new laws, administrative rules, the school code, and case law involving juvenile victims, witnesses, suspects and parents or guardians.

As a result, juvenile officers will continue to develop their communication skills with juveniles, increase their knowledge on child development, and understand the special needs of those individuals that face unique challenges and disabilities as a juvenile - while continuing to increase their knowledge on the latest changes to Illinois juvenile law paying close attention to child abuse and neglect. These officers will be the primary resource protecting juveniles and will be instrumental in building the necessary trust and relationships between juveniles and the policing community.

Requirements:

In an effort to identify officers serving in this role, and provide assistance related to the required trainings, agencies employing law enforcement offices specifically as juvenile officers in accordance with Juvenile Court Act will now be asked to identify and report those officers with ILETSB. A year of transition will be afforded to implement these new requirements for officers who previously completed a Basic Juvenile Officer course; therefore, reporting can begin on January 1, 2027, and must be complete before January 1, 2028, utilizing the form provided. (See Appendix C).

In an effort to ensure that those Illinois law enforcement officers serving as Juvenile Officer for their agency have met the in-service requirements established by ILETSB; a 4-year certification period will be established after completion of the requisite Basic Juvenile Officer Certification Course. A certificate of completion will be issued notating the start date of the 4-year period. Within this 4-year period, the Juvenile Officer will be

required to complete a minimum of 16-hours of juvenile specific coursework in two specific areas (communication and law) before a subsequent approval will be granted. (See Appendix B).

Courses meeting these requirements will be offered in juvenile law, juvenile interview/ interrogation, juvenile case studies (state or federal), juvenile specific trauma-informed procedures, behavioral threat assessments, cyberbullying, internet/social media safety, bullying prevention, youth mental health, autism, and youth de-escalation, among others. Additionally, most SRO courses related to juvenile law or officer/youth interaction and generational learning styles will be applicable. A recertification application will be available just prior to end of the 4-year period to reapply for an additional 4-year period.

Officers who have already completed a Basic Juvenile Course that met the requirements identified in Appendix A, prior to January 1, 2024, will be recognized as approved juvenile officers as of January 1, 2027, but must complete the 16 hours of reapproval in-service training before January 1, 2028. Officers who completed the Basic Juvenile Course after January 1, 2024, must simply complete the 16 hours of specific in-service training prior to recertification.

Eligibility:

To be eligible to serve as a Juvenile Officer, an individual must be an Illinois certified law enforcement officer and actively employed in a law enforcement position within the state for a minimum of 2-years (from the date of certification) for full-time officers and 3-years for part-time officers before being enrolled in the requisite Basic Juvenile Officer Certification Course. An agency's chief administrator must request enrollment of the individual officer into the Basic Juvenile Officer Certification Course and must register the officer as a Juvenile Officer with the Board. See Appendix C.

Basic Course Completion:

An agency seeking to appoint an individual as a Juvenile Officer must enroll that individual in the Basic Juvenile Officer Certification Course, which must be completed in consecutive days and must be attended in person or through the Board approved online format. While 10% of the class may be missed due to an excused absence, all attendees must complete the conclusionary exam and evaluation offered within the course. The material in the following Appendix A is intended to be the minimum standard for any facilitator or instructor that seeks to conduct a Board-approved course.

Re-Certification Requirements:

A Juvenile Officer certification issued by the Board shall be valid for 4 years from the date of issuance. Six months prior to expiration, an agency may seek to renew an officer's Juvenile Officer approval by completing a Juvenile Officer re-certification application. See Appendix D. This form must ensure that the Juvenile Officer has completed a minimum of **16 hours** in the core areas of the Juvenile Officer program:

- *Juvenile Communication and Development*
- *Illinois Specific Juvenile Law Highlighting Child Abuse/Neglect and Protections*

In order to obtain reapproval, a Juvenile Officer must complete a minimum of **8 hours** in **both** of the two core areas. See Appendix B. These courses must be completed within the 4-year approval period in order to be eligible for recertification. Once the application has been completed it should be sent to PTB.JO@Illinois.gov for processing. If approved, a new updated certificate will be emailed back to the individual's chief administrator.

Review & Revision

In accordance with Board practices, the Board reserves the right to periodically review, revise and update this policy and the corresponding course curriculum as needed.

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Appendix A

This Basic Juvenile Officer Certification Course course is designed for recently assigned juvenile officers and provides them with the basic skills and knowledge required to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. In addition, officers will discuss current trends, issues, and challenges they will meet in the juvenile system.

Required topics include:

- Role and responsibility of the Juvenile Officer
- Gaining perspectives on the assignment
- Communicating with adolescents and parents
- School Administration and School Code
- Adolescents and the media
- Intervention and the five prevention strategies
- Juvenile Court Act (Chapter 705)
 - Article I, General provisions
 - Article II, Abused, neglected, and dependent minors
 - Article III. Minors requiring authoritative intervention
 - Article V. Delinquent minors
- Investigations and Interrogations of Delinquent Minors
- Police Use of Force and School Code requirements for Physical Restraint, Isolated Time-Outs, and Time-Outs
- Role of law enforcement and social services
- Psychodynamics of child abuse
- Protective custody
- Investigative techniques
- Preparing child abuse cases for court
- Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation investigations
- Examination

Appendix B

Track A: Juvenile Communication and Development

- Child Abuse Investigations
- Juvenile Refresher
- Juvenile Investigative Case Review
- ILETSB CIT – Juvenile
- Juvenile Custody and Interrogations Review
- Interviewing Children
- Juvenile Interrogations & Delinquency Update
- Autism Awareness & Interaction for Law Enforcement
- Autism for School-Based Law Enforcement
- Autism Identification and Crisis Response
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for Police
- Autism: A Guide for First Responders
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for Corrections
- Youth De-Escalation and Conflict Resolution for SRO
- Behavioral Threat Assessments in Hybrid Environments
- Student Behavioral Threat Assessment
- NASRO 40-Hour Basic Course
- NASRO Advanced SRO Course
- Delivering Effective Internet Safety Presentations for Parents & Students
- Cyberbullying/Sexting & Vaping Investigations
- Identifying & Intercepting School Violence Through Cyber-Investigations
- ALICE Training
- Educate, Evade, Escape, Engage (4 E's)
- ILETSB 40-Hour SRO Certification Course

- ILETSB 16- Hour SRO Recertification Course
- ILETSB 8-Hour SRO Recertification Course excluding Active Threat
- Responding to Survivors with Physical & Intellectual Disabilities
- Better Encounters: Police and People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DOJ-COPS)
- Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Overview (DOJ-COPS)
- You Can Change the Long-Term Outcomes of Drug Endangered Children (DOJ-COPS)
- Illinois Juvenile Officer Association Conference
- ILSROA Conference

Track B: Illinois Specific Juvenile Law Highlighting Child Abuse/Neglect (Including State & Federal Case Law)

- Juvenile Law Analysis & Update
- Juvenile Court Act
- Illinois Legislative Update (Juvenile Specific)
- Child Abuse and Neglect (OLN)
- Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse
- Medical Aspects of Child Maltreatment
- Child Maltreatment & Child Sexual Abuse
- Juvenile Law Analysis & Expungement Update
- Juvenile Update: Effective Station Adjustment and Diversion
- Child Death Investigations
- Investigating Infant and Child Death
- Human Trafficking Courses
- Juvenile Law and Processing (OLN)
- Downstate Conference on Child Abuse

Note: Additional Courses will be added upon Board approval.

Appendix C



Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

JB Pritzker, Governor
Keith Calloway, Executive Director

Phone: 217/782-4540
Fax: 217/524-5350
TDD: 866-740-3933

Juvenile Officer Appointment Form

I seek to appoint the individual identified below as a juvenile officer pursuant to Section 5-105(9) of the Juvenile Court Act:

Name of Officer: _____

Juvenile Officer Appointment Date: _____ PTB ID: _____

Law Enforcement Agency: _____

Point of Contact Email: _____

Point of Contact Phone Number: _____

I certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Chief Law Enforcement Officer

Date

Scanned, electronic documents are the preferred method of submission. E-mailed documents should be sent to PTB.JPO@illinois.gov.

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Appendix D



Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

JB Pritzker, Governor
Keith Calloway, Executive Director

Phone: 217/782-4540
Fax: 217/524-5350
TDD: 866-740-3933

Juvenile Officer Recertification Form

I seek to reappoint the individual identified below as a juvenile officer pursuant to Section 5-105(9) of the Juvenile Court Act, and attest that all required trainings have been completed:

Name of Officer: _____

Juvenile Officer Approval Date: _____ PTB ID: _____

Law Enforcement Agency: _____

Point of Contact Email: _____

Point of Contact Phone Number: _____

I certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Chief Law Enforcement Officer

Date

Scanned, electronic documents are the preferred method of submission. E-mailed documents should be sent to PTB.JPO@illinois.gov.

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