

LAWS FOR YOUTH



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Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability

802 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Phone: 217.782.5320
Fax: 217.782.3513
<http://cgfa.ilga.gov>

Laws for Youth

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Revised by Jaynen M. Kates, Research Assistant
and David R. Miller, Research Administrator

Introduction

This booklet tells about major laws that affect young residents of Illinois. It is arranged by subject under “Contents” and written in a question-and-answer format to make it easy to read. All laws that it mentions are cited in the endnotes on pages 35 to 43.

The topics addressed were chosen because they affect young people more than adults. But most other laws apply to young people also. Although there are some different procedures for enforcing laws for persons under 17 (or in some cases 18 or 21), laws generally apply to everyone regardless of age.

The law exists to protect everyone. We all need to know what it says so we can act as responsible members of society. If you need more information on laws or other topics addressed in this booklet, see the suggestions under “For More Information” on page 33. The back cover lists major websites that offer more information on the laws and related topics.

Clayton Klenke
Executive Director

Contents

Bicycling.....	1
Hitchhiking	3
Driving.....	3
Motorcycling.....	6
General Criminal Law.....	6
Drugs (including alcohol and nicotine).....	13
Other Health Risks.....	23
Sexual Behavior and Abuse	25
School	29
Employment.....	30
Marriage.....	30
Parental Responsibilities.....	31
Licensing Requirements.....	32
For More Information	33
How Illinois Laws are Enacted.....	34
Notes	35

BICYCLING

What are the laws about bicycling?

One of the most important is that a bicycle rider is treated as operating a vehicle, not as a pedestrian.¹ Thus on a bicycle you must ride on the RIGHT side of any two-way street or road.² Riding on the left is not only illegal, but also dangerous.



Why?

If you ride on the left side, you are riding against the traffic in your lane. Drivers have much less time to see you, and any crash would be much harder. To see why, suppose you are riding at 15 miles per hour in the right lane and a car is coming up behind you at 25 m.p.h., a common speed on city streets. The car is going only 10 m.p.h. faster than you, and the driver will have several seconds to see and avoid you.

But if you rode on the left side, at the same speeds the car would be approaching you at 40 m.p.h.—four times as fast. The driver might have only a moment to see you if other vehicles blocked the view, and any crash probably would kill you or leave you seriously injured.

What else?

The law requires bicyclists, like drivers, to stop at red lights³ and give signals before turning.⁴ Giving a signal is especially important before you change lanes. A car may be just behind you in the other lane and about to move forward as you start to change lanes.

It is illegal to carry on a bicycle more people than it was designed for (except for adults using child packs).⁵ It is also illegal to carry anything that prevents you from being able to use both hands to control the bike.⁶

You must be at least 16 to use a bicycle that has a gasoline or electric motor to assist the rider. Such motor-assisted bicycles are prohibited on sidewalks. A gasoline-powered bicycle may not be operated faster than 20 m.p.h. on streets.⁷

How about night riding?

If you ride at night, the law requires your bicycle to have a headlight on the front and at least a reflector on the back. A red lamp may be used on the back along with the reflector.⁸

However, it is much harder for drivers to see a bicycle at night than it is for you to see their cars. Automobile lights are much brighter than bicycle lights or reflectors; and the glare from other vehicles' headlights and brake lights makes seeing your lights and reflectors harder still. Some cars have tinted (or dirty) glass, further reducing drivers' night vision. And even if drivers do see you, it is hard for them to judge your distance from them. Thus, riding at night is dangerous—especially if done on streets. If you must do it, reflective tape or other markings on your bicycle and/or clothing will make you more visible to drivers.

Is it legal to ride on sidewalks?

There is no statewide law against riding on sidewalks on a bicycle that is not equipped with an engine or motor. However, riding on sidewalks is banned by local ordinance in some places—including Chicago's business district and, for persons 12 or older, everywhere in Chicago except marked bike routes.⁹ Remember that sidewalks are primarily for pedestrians. But if riding on them is allowed where you are, and they are not crowded, they are safer than streets for riding at night. Even on a sidewalk, you must have a headlight and back reflector if riding at night. The light is important so pedestrians can see you coming.

Also, day or night, the law requires you to yield the right of way to pedestrians and give them a warning sound (such as a bell) before passing.¹⁰ But a sudden loud warning could make a pedestrian jump into your path. So when approaching a pedestrian, it is best to slow down, give a steady warning sound, and pass as far to the side as possible.

Where can I get more information?

A booklet from the Illinois Secretary of State called "Bicycle Rules of the Road" has laws and suggestions for safe bicycling. Copies are available at places like libraries, schools, and fairs; or you can download it from the Secretary of State's website.¹¹ Two older Illinois Department of Transportation booklets (now available only in electronic form) provide valuable information on safe bicycling. "Kids on Bikes in Illinois" is for riders up to about age 12; "Safe Bicycling in Illinois" is for teenage and adult riders. Each can be downloaded.¹²

The Illinois Department of Transportation also offers county maps showing which roadways are recommended for bike riding.¹³

To protect against concussions and other serious head injuries, always wear a helmet when bicycling. Remember that smart riders use helmets, and helmet users stay smart!

HITCHHIKING

Is hitchhiking legal?

Illinois law prohibits hitchhiking on controlled-access highways such as Interstate and toll highways.¹⁴ The law also prohibits standing on the *pavement* of any street, road, or highway to hitch rides, since you could be hit or make drivers swerve to avoid you.¹⁵

More important, some drivers consider hitchhikers fair game for robbery, sexual attack, or even murder. They may disable the inside handle on the passenger's door so a victim can't jump out.

Some drivers also carry knives or guns, making escape impossible. Don't let yourself become their next victim.

While on the subject of hitchhiking: If you are driving, the best advice about hitchhikers is not to pick them up unless you know them well. Hitchhikers can be dangerous to drivers, as well as the other way around.

DRIVING

How soon can I drive?

You can apply for a regular adult driver's license at age 18.¹⁶ Limited licensing is allowed earlier. A system called "Graduated Licensing" has stages that new drivers must pass to receive licenses. The stages go from getting an instruction permit after turning 15, to full licensing a few years later.¹⁷



What is an instruction permit?

A permit lets you drive a car while a licensed driver sits beside you. You can get an instruction permit if you are at least 15; have the consent of at least one parent; are taking an approved driver education course; and have passed vision and knowledge tests.¹⁸ The permit allows you to drive only when accompanied by your instructor, or accompanied in the front seat by a parent or other adult with responsibility for you who is licensed, has at least 1 year's driving experience, and is at least 21.¹⁹ An instruction permit can also be issued to a person who is at least 15½ and in school, but unable to take a driver's education course before turning 16. (For you to get a permit

for that reason, the school must send in forms to start the process for obtaining a permit, and you must meet requirements that include passing vision and written exams at a Secretary of State licensing facility.)²⁰

A permit may also be issued to a person who is 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ but has not taken an approved driver education course.²¹ An instruction permit and any type of driver's license issued to a person who is under 18 is not valid between 11 p.m. Friday and 6 a.m. Saturday; between 11 p.m. Saturday and 6 a.m. Sunday; or between 10 p.m. on Sunday to Thursday and 6 a.m. the next day (with several exceptions, such as when accompanied by a parent or guardian, when traveling between states, or when going to or returning home from a job or a school or civic activity).²² A person under 18 who is certified as chronically or habitually truant from school cannot get an instruction permit.²³

You may apply for an instruction permit at the local driver licensing facility (locations are available on the Secretary of State's website²⁴ and in local phone directories—typically under “Illinois,” subheading “Secretary of State”). The facility, or a driver education teacher, should have copies of the booklet called “Illinois Rules of the Road” on the laws applying to driving and parking cars.

Anyone who is found guilty, in juvenile or adult court, of any of a long list of crimes involving motor vehicles, which include “joyriding” and unauthorized possession of a vehicle or its parts, cannot get a driver's license until at least age 18.²⁵

How do I get a “graduated” license?

If you are at least 16; have had a valid instruction permit for at least 9 months; have passed an approved driver education course; have or are working toward a high school diploma or GED and are not a chronic or habitual truant; have at least 50 hours of driving practice (including at least 10 hours at night); and have a parent's consent, you can get a “graduated” driver's license.²⁶ For the first 12 months that you use such a license or until you turn 18 (whichever comes first), you may not have more than one passenger under age 20 except a family member.²⁷ Until you are 18, the car may have only one passenger in the front seat, and no more in the back seat than its available seat belts.²⁸ If you violate any of those restrictions—or commit any other traffic violations—in the first 12 months of using the graduated license or during the 6 months before your 18th birthday, the restrictions will continue to apply until 6 months after your latest violation.²⁹

What is the law on cellphones and texting while driving?

Anyone under 19, while driving with an instruction permit or graduated license, may not use a cellphone except to make an emergency call to a police or fire department, medical provider, or other emergency services provider. If a person over 18 with a graduated license committed a traffic offense in the 6 months before turning 18, the ban on cellphone use while driving continues until 6 months after the last such violation.³⁰

At any age, it is normally illegal while driving to use a cell phone or other electronic communication device for any purpose, including to talk; to read, write, or send a written (including text or email) message; or to stream or watch video content. Three main exceptions apply to the general public:

- (1) The device is used in a hands-free or voice-activated mode, or by pressing only one button to make or end a call.
- (2) The vehicle is blocked from moving by traffic and its transmission is in neutral or park; or it is parked on the shoulder.
- (3) The driver is reporting an emergency or continuing to communicate with emergency personnel about the emergency.³¹

What are the restrictions on vehicle equipment?

Vehicles used on Illinois roadways may not have window tinting or objects that significantly restrict the driver's front view, other than tinting in the top 6 inches of a windshield.³² The law allows limited tinting or other treatment of windows that are rearward from the driver's seat.³³ A driver who has a disease making protection from the sun necessary can be exempted after getting certification from a physician and while using special license plates or stickers.³⁴

Secret compartments in vehicles, if used with intent to hide a firearm or illegal drug, are illegal. Using such a compartment can bring up to 3 years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000, and the vehicle may be subject to being forfeited to the local or state government.³⁵

Operating a device intended to interfere with police radar or laser speed detectors is illegal. Violation can bring a fine of at least \$50 for a first offense and \$100 for any later offense.³⁶

Use of "vanity" lights, such as neon underbody lights, or off-road driving lamps appears to be prohibited while driving on any roadway.³⁷

MOTORCYCLING

May I operate a motorcycle with a driver's license?

If you are under 18, before you can operate a motorcycle you must meet all requirements for a driver's license; complete a motorcycle training course approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation; and pass the Secretary of State's motorcycle driver's exam.³⁸

Information on free motorcycle safety courses is available on the website of the Illinois Department of Transportation's Cycle Rider Safety Training Program.³⁹ Motorcycle licenses can be obtained at driver's licensing facilities.

GENERAL CRIMINAL LAW

Do adult criminal laws apply to me?

Yes. The same acts are illegal if done by a minor as if they were done by an adult—although the method of imposing punishment may be different. Most criminal acts by persons under 18 are prosecuted in juvenile court⁴⁰ as described under the next few questions. But a person under 18 can be tried in an adult criminal court in these kinds of situations:



- (1) The crime charged is a traffic, boating, fish and game, or municipal or county ordinance violation. Traffic violations for these purposes include reckless homicide and driving under the influence as well as lesser traffic offenses.⁴¹
- (2) The person was at least 16 and is charged with first-degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, or aggravated battery by discharging a firearm and causing injury to another person.⁴²
- (3) The person was at least 15 and is charged with a forcible felony that, if it was committed, (a) was a repeat forcible felony by that person and (b) was in furtherance of gang activity. If those facts are alleged, there is a presumption that the trial should be held in adult criminal court.⁴³

There is also a hybrid kind of trial called an “extended jurisdiction juvenile prosecution.” It is used if a minor was at least 13 at the time of an alleged

offense and is charged with a felony, and the judge finds probable cause to believe that the allegations are true. (The judge can instead keep the case in juvenile court, based on clear and convincing evidence that criminal prosecution is not appropriate.) Proceedings in an extended jurisdiction juvenile prosecution are similar to those of a criminal trial (including the right to a jury), but with less strict rules of evidence.⁴⁴

What is the juvenile court?

It is a branch of the trial court that deals with persons under 18 who are charged with a crime; persons under 18 who are alleged to be abused or neglected; and persons under 21 who are alleged to be addicts. In some situations, a juvenile court can keep control over persons up to age 21.

What happens if I have to go to juvenile court?

If you must go to juvenile court because you are accused of committing a crime (that is, charged with being a “delinquent minor”), it is a serious event that can affect you for years to come. Your parent(s) or legal guardian should go with you. The law allows you to be represented by a lawyer at such a hearing. If your parent(s) or guardian cannot pay for a lawyer, the public defender or another lawyer can be appointed for you.⁴⁵

Juvenile court hearings for minors charged with crimes are now described as “trials” and resemble adult criminal trials—with pleas, hearing of evidence, and the same standard of proof as in adult trials.⁴⁶

What can the juvenile judge do to me?

If the evidence shows that you committed a crime, the judge can order any one or more of many kinds of actions, including:

- sending you to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice for confinement in a youth correctional center, or putting you in a so-called “boot camp” for juveniles—in each case for as long as you could have been sentenced to prison if an adult, up to age 21.
- putting you in a juvenile detention center (a facility, usually at the county level, for detaining juveniles separately from adults).
- sending you to a treatment facility for drug addiction.
- requiring psychological or psychiatric treatment if you committed animal cruelty, or sex offender evaluation and treatment if you committed a sex crime.

- putting you in the custody or guardianship of someone other than your parents, including a probation officer.⁴⁷

Some of these orders can last until you reach age 21.

In addition to those immediate consequences, a person who is found in juvenile court to have committed a serious felony, and before being out of confinement for 10 years commits *any* felony as an adult, can be sentenced to a term for the second crime approximately twice as long as the maximum term otherwise applicable.⁴⁸

If you are found to be a “minor requiring authoritative intervention” (basically a persistent runaway) or an addicted minor, the court may send you to the Department of Children and Family Services, put you under supervision of a relative or probation officer, or make other orders.⁴⁹ Although a juvenile judge does not *have* to do any of these things to you, the judge has authority to do them if you come within these categories in the Act.

Can I appeal the judge’s decision?

Yes. There is a right of appeal to the next higher court (the Illinois Appellate Court) in juvenile as in other cases.⁵⁰ But an appeal is expensive—typically costing thousands of dollars in legal fees alone. Also, the Appellate Court will not reverse a decision by a juvenile judge merely because the Appellate Court judges might have decided the case differently. To win an appeal, you must show that the juvenile judge’s decision was legally wrong.

What are some of the criminal laws I should know about?

You no doubt know about the most serious crimes, such as murder, arson, robbery, and burglary. Some less well-known crimes that you should also know about are listed below, with their maximum penalties.⁵¹

- Theft of property other than a firearm (without breaking into a residence or taking something from anyone’s immediate possession): If the property is worth up to \$500, for a first offense 364 days and/or a \$2,500 fine; for a second theft or related offense, or a theft in a school or place of worship, or of government property, 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine. If the property is worth over \$500 but not over \$10,000, 5 years and/or a \$25,000 fine (if committed in a school or place of worship, or involving theft of public property, 7 years and/or a \$25,000 fine). Penalties for theft of property worth more than \$10,000 are higher.⁵²
- Intentionally damaging property without the owner’s consent: 364 days in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine. If the damage is to property of a

school; place of worship; memorial to police, firefighters, or veterans; or to farm equipment or immovable items of agricultural production, or to a domestic animal, or if the damage exceeds \$500: 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine. If the damage is to property of a school; place of worship; or memorial to police, firefighters, or veterans; or to farm equipment or immovable items of agricultural production, and is between \$501 and \$10,000: 5 years and/or a \$25,000 fine. If damage exceeding \$10,000 is done, the fine is to equal the amount of the damage.⁵³

- Opening a fire hydrant without authority, or tampering with a hydrant or with firefighting equipment: 6 months and/or a \$1,500 fine.⁵⁴
- Criminal defacement of property using paint, ink, an etching tool, or a similar device: 364 days in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine if it is a first offense *and* the damage does not exceed \$500. If it is a repeat offense; the damage exceeds \$500; *or* the damage is to a school; place of worship; or memorial to police, firefighters, or veterans: 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine. If the damage is to one of those kinds of property *and* exceeds \$500, 5 years and/or a \$25,000 fine. In addition to any other sentence, a violator must pay for the damage and perform 30 to 120 hours of community service.⁵⁵
- Carrying, for illegal use, a dangerous weapon other than a firearm: 364 days and/or a \$2,500 fine. Carrying a concealed weapon such as a handgun, or transporting in a vehicle a firearm that is accessible to occupants: 364 days and/or a \$2,500 fine. (You must be at least 21 to get a permit to carry a concealed firearm.⁵⁶) Taking a firearm into a public gathering where admission is charged (such as a stadium or theater), or a place where alcohol is served: 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine. A repeat offense of illegally having a firearm in a vehicle, or taking it into a place just described, is punishable by up to 5 years and/or a \$25,000 fine. Taking a firearm into a place used for worship with intent to use it unlawfully: 7 years and a \$25,000 fine.⁵⁷
- Making an object fall from an overpass and hit a moving vehicle: 7 years and/or a \$25,000 fine; if anyone is killed, 15 years and/or a \$25,000 fine.⁵⁸
- Entering a computer system or network without the owner's consent; falsifying email information or routing information to send unsolicited bulk messages ("spam"); or distributing software to falsify routing information: 6 months and/or a \$1,500 fine. Obtaining data or use of a computer system or network without the owner's consent: 364 days and/or a \$2,500 fine if a first offense, or 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine for a repeat offense. Altering, damaging, or destroying a computer system or

network (or inserting a program to do so) without the owner's consent: 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine for a first offense.⁵⁹ (These acts are also likely to violate federal laws.)

- Accessing a computer system or program in a scheme to defraud: 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine. Obtaining, destroying, or altering data or a computer system with intent to defraud: 5 years and/or a \$25,000 fine. Accessing a computer system or data and obtaining money or control over money, property, or services with intent to defraud: 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine if the value is up to \$1,000; 5 years and/or a \$25,000 fine if the value is at least \$1,001 but less than \$50,000; and 7 years and/or a \$25,000 fine if the value is at least \$50,000. Property acquired by such acts may also be subject to forfeiture to the state.⁶⁰ (These acts are also likely to violate federal laws.)
- Using encryption to commit any crime; help someone else commit a crime; conceal a crime; or conceal a criminal's identity: 364 days and/or a \$2,500 fine—or if done for purposes of committing a more serious crime, the highest penalty that could be imposed for committing that crime.⁶¹
- Tampering with or illegally obtaining communications services (such as cable TV signals): 364 days and/or a \$2,500 fine; 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine if it is a repeat offense or 10 to 50 unlawful communication or access devices are involved; or 5 years and/or a \$25,000 fine if over 50 such devices are involved. The violator must also pay restitution to the communications provider, and unauthorized devices can be seized.⁶²
- Breaking into or damaging a coin-operated machine: If done to operate or use the machine, 6 months and a \$1,500 fine; if done with intent to commit a theft, 364 days and/or a \$2,500 fine; if previously convicted of a theft, robbery, burglary, or home invasion, 3 years and/or \$25,000.⁶³
- Library theft: A fine up to \$500 and a requirement to reimburse the library for replacement costs; if the value of things taken is over \$300, 5 years and/or a fine up to \$25,000.⁶⁴
- Entering or staying on the land of a person who has given notice, either by clearly visible sign or orally just before or during the trespass, that entry is forbidden: up to 6 months and/or a \$1,500 fine; if committed in a motor vehicle (including an off-road vehicle, motorcycle, mo-ped, or similar device) on agricultural land, 364 days and/or a \$2,500 fine.⁶⁵
- Throwing litter on land without permission from the landowner: 6 months and/or a \$1,500 fine for a first offense; 364 days and/or a

\$2,500 fine for a second offense; 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine for any further offense. Violators may also be required to dispose of the litter, and if the littering was of a public highway, to provide litter control for 30 days on a designated part of the highway. Littering from a vehicle also brings a mandatory fine of at least \$50.⁶⁶

- Knowingly aiming an operating laser (including a laser gunsight) at a police officer, or into the cockpit of an aircraft that is taking off, in flight, or landing: 364 days and/or a \$2,500 fine.⁶⁷
- Use, by a person who is at least 16, of a telephone or other electronic communication method to harass anyone under age 13, or such use by a person who is at least 18 to harass a person under 18: 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine.⁶⁸
- Cyberstalking (sending electronic communications or making an Internet site or page containing statements that threaten a person with bodily harm, sexual assault, confinement, or restraint; or secretly placing spyware or electronic monitoring software on another's electronic device to harass another person, and making a threat or putting the person or a family member in fear of harm): 3 years and/or a \$25,000 fine for a first offense; 5 years and/or a \$25,000 fine for a repeat offense.⁶⁹
- Claiming to be at least 18 for the purpose of viewing material that is deemed harmful to minors: 6 months and/or a \$1,500 fine.⁷⁰ (Such materials may include violent or sexually explicit videogames, as defined in the law,⁷¹ which are required to be labeled on the front with a solid white "18" outlined in black.⁷²)
- Tampering with and knowingly damaging any security, fire, or life-safety system (such as any part of a burglar alarm, fire or smoke alarm, security camera, or associated equipment): 3 years and/or a fine up to \$25,000.⁷³
- Street racing: mandatory driver's license revocation, 364 days in jail, and a minimum fine of \$250 for a first offense; 3 years and a minimum fine of \$500 for any later offense. If anyone suffers great bodily harm as a result, 1 to 12 years and/or a fine up to \$25,000 may be imposed.⁷⁴

Many other crimes are listed in Illinois and federal laws. Any intentional or reckless action that causes harm to other persons or their property is likely to be a crime. Your local police department probably can tell you if something not listed here is prohibited.

Weapons such as guns and knives are now a serious problem in many schools. Illinois law authorizes school authorities to inspect school property

(including lockers, desks, and parking lots)—and personal effects found in those places—for illegal drugs, weapons, and other contraband.⁷⁵ Taking a dangerous weapon onto school grounds is a felony.⁷⁶ Shooting a firearm into an occupied school building or at a school bus is a Class X felony, punishable by 6 to 30 years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000.⁷⁷

Can I get in trouble for helping someone else break a law?

Yes. Inducing or helping someone else to commit a crime is punishable as if you had committed the crime yourself.⁷⁸

What are the consequences of joining a gang?

We all want others to accept us and include us in their activities. This need can be met in many ways, such as joining scouting or other youth organizations, and participating in school sports, musical, drama, and other activities. An extremely dangerous way to meet this need is to join a street gang. Illinois law defines such a gang basically as a group of people with a leadership structure who show a pattern of committing crimes.⁷⁹ Some Illinois laws against gang crime can be violated by a single action, such as painting gang symbols on public or private property.⁸⁰ Under those laws, gang members may:

- (1) be sentenced to longer terms for a crime if it was related to gang activity;⁸¹
- (2) be required to perform community service work as part of their sentences for crimes related to gangs;⁸²
- (3) have their names and records put into a statewide police database listing gang members;⁸³
- (4) be sued by local governments for damage caused by their gang activities, and have any real estate they own, if used for gang activities, seized by a local government;⁸⁴ and
- (5) lose, or be denied, driver's licenses or permits due to crime related to gang activity and involving a motor vehicle.⁸⁵

Using or threatening force to coerce a minor to join a street gang is a felony punishable by 4-15 years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000.⁸⁶

In a study of street gangs done for the National Institute of Justice, researchers found that the average time from joining a gang until first arrest was only 6 months.⁸⁷

What does Illinois law say about hazing?

Hazing is a crime in Illinois. It is defined basically as requiring any person in an educational institution to do any act to be inducted or admitted into any organization or society connected with that educational institution, if the act is not authorized by the institution and results in bodily harm to anyone.⁸⁸ Hazing is normally a Class A misdemeanor (punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a fine up to \$2,500). But if great bodily harm or death results, it is a Class 4 felony⁸⁹ (punishable by up to 3 years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000).

DRUGS (INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND NICOTINE)

Why is nicotine included in this section?

Because it is a drug, and is now known to be highly addictive. Researchers as early as the mid-1980s began to suspect that nicotine is as addictive as so-called “hard drugs.” A 1987 article on research into this topic reported:

Interdisciplinary research in pharmacology, psychology, physiology and neurobiology is just beginning to shed light on the incredible hold that tobacco has on people. Scientists have found, for instance, that nicotine is as addictive as heroin, cocaine or amphetamines, and for most people more addictive than alcohol. Its hooks go deep⁹⁰

Later research showed that nicotine activates brain pathways that regulate feelings of pleasure. It acts on the brain quickly; but the pleasurable feelings that it causes also decline quickly, causing smokers to keep smoking to maintain the feelings of pleasure and avoid withdrawal symptoms.⁹¹ The American Psychiatric Association’s *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, 5th edition (DSM-5) says the symptoms of nicotine withdrawal include irritability, anger, impatience, restlessness, difficulty concentrating, insomnia, increased appetite, anxiety, and depressed mood.⁹² In a 4-year study of over 1,200 teenagers, published in 2007 in the *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, researchers found that some teenagers showed signs of nicotine addiction after smoking only *one* cigarette.⁹³

In 2004 the *British Medical Journal* published a study of over 34,000 subjects covering more than 50 years. It found that at least half, and for some groups as many as two-thirds (depending on the decade when they were

born), of those who began smoking cigarettes, and kept doing so, were killed by smoking.⁹⁴

The message of this and much other research on tobacco is this:

Each cigarette you smoke is like digging yourself deeper into a hole. It gets you more addicted, making it less likely that you can ever climb out.

Some young people use e-cigarettes, which deliver nicotine without tobacco. At the time this booklet was written, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had reported hundreds of illnesses (some of them fatal) linked to e-cigarette use. Even if the causes of such illnesses can be found and controlled, it remains true that e-cigarettes put the addictive drug nicotine into your body and tend to make, or keep, you addicted.⁹⁵ As stated above, nicotine addiction is a very difficult trap to escape from.

What are the laws on tobacco?

To protect young people from starting down the road to heart disease, cancer, emphysema, and many other deadly effects of tobacco, Illinois prohibits anyone from selling or giving tobacco to, or buying it for, a person under 21. These prohibitions apply to e-cigarettes, smoking and chewing tobacco, and other materials used for smoking.⁹⁶ A person under 21 who uses a false ID to get any such product can be sentenced to up to 364 days in jail and/or a fine up to \$2,500.⁹⁷

The Smoke Free Illinois Act prohibits smoking in almost all public places and workplaces, and within 15 feet of their outside entrances.⁹⁸ Smoking is also banned in public and private college dormitories.⁹⁹ Tobacco use is prohibited on all school property while it is used for school purposes (including athletic events),¹⁰⁰ and on all public college and university campuses.¹⁰¹

Smoking in an area where it is prohibited is punishable by a penalty of \$100 for a first offense and \$250 for a repeat offense.¹⁰² Persons affected by illegal smoking can sue to stop violations.¹⁰³ Cities and counties are allowed to enact ordinances stricter than the state law.¹⁰⁴ So if you start smoking, you may have to break the law to keep doing so.

What about alcohol?

Illinois¹⁰⁵ and all other states prohibit sale of alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21. It is also a crime for a person under 21 to use false evidence of age, such as a fraudulent ID card, to buy an alcoholic drink,¹⁰⁶ for a person under 21 to obtain, possess, or consume an alcoholic beverage,¹⁰⁷ or for anyone to buy an alcoholic beverage to give to a person under 21.¹⁰⁸ (The last

two prohibitions have exceptions for beverage use in a religious ceremony.) The Secretary of State can revoke the driver's license of anyone violating those prohibitions while in a motor vehicle.¹⁰⁹ Any delivery of alcoholic beverages to a residence in Illinois must be signed for by a person who is at least 21.¹¹⁰

Why can't I drink if I'm responsible about it?

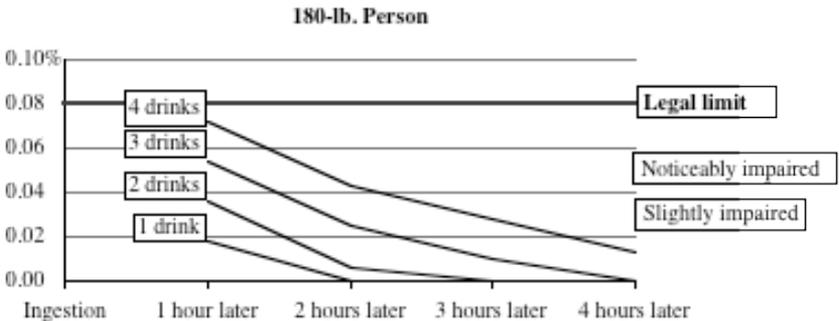
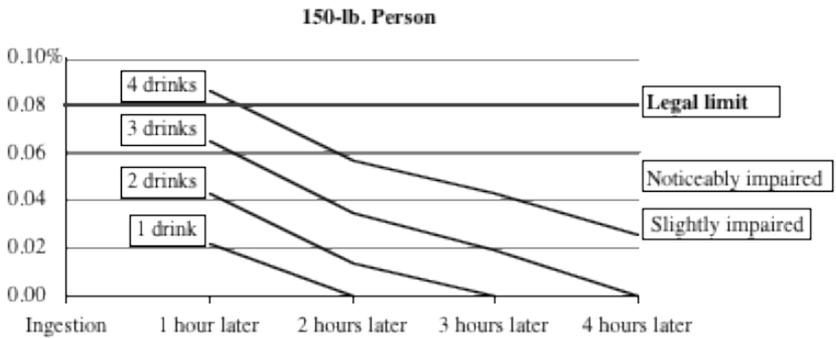
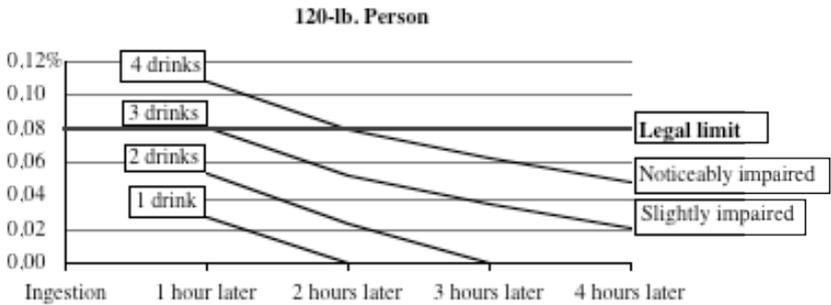
Unfortunately, it is impossible to tell beforehand who will be responsible with alcohol and who won't. Thousands of deaths are caused on U.S. highways each year by adult drinkers who would be kept off the roads if police could catch them. Alcohol abuse is a very serious problem among young people. The Illinois State Police reports that although only about 10% of licensed drivers are under 21, they are involved in 17% of fatal crashes involving alcohol.¹¹¹ So the state is trying to fight the problem when it begins.

The graphs on the next page, and the table on p. 17, show estimated effects of drinking various amounts of alcohol on persons of three body weights, at several times (beginning 1 hour after the last drink). The graphs are based on average drinks—typically a 12-ounce can of beer, a small serving of wine, or about 1 ounce of liquor. Many hand-poured drinks contain more than 1 ounce of alcohol. A person who gets more alcohol per drink; drinks faster; weighs less; or has impaired liver function will be affected more than these estimates indicate.

Remember also that the graphs show estimated blood alcohol levels starting 1 hour after the last drink—by which time the liver has changed some of the alcohol into other substances. Your level may be higher shortly after you take one or more drinks. Also, most research on the effects of alcohol on driving and other activities has used male subjects. There is growing evidence that drinking the same amount of alcohol typically causes a higher blood alcohol level in a woman than in a man, even of the same weight.¹¹² Thus women especially should keep in mind that they may exceed the legal limit with fewer drinks than the graphs show.

Finally, do not assume that you can legally (and safely) drive after drinking, even if your blood alcohol level is below the legal limit. By the time your blood alcohol level reaches that limit (0.08%), your risk of having a traffic accident will be **four** times as high as normal. You can be convicted of driving under the influence even with a blood alcohol level below 0.08%, if the evidence shows that your driving was impaired by alcohol and/or other drugs.¹¹³

Estimated Blood Alcohol Levels 1 to 4 Hours After Taking 1 to 4 Drinks



Typical Effects of Blood Alcohol Levels on Driving Ability

- .02% Mild elation.
- .03% Judgment and reactions slightly impaired.
- .05% Inhibitions begin disappearing; judgment becomes noticeably impaired.
- .08% Abilities to steer, brake, control speed, and judge distance are impaired. Risk of accident is 4 times normal. **Driving with blood alcohol at or above this level is always illegal.**
- .10% Judgment seriously affected; coordination impaired.
- .15% Aggressive tendencies, slurred speech, and loss of self-control. Chance of accident is 25 times normal.

Sources: *The American Medical Association Family Medical Guide* (Random House, Inc., 1982), p. 36 (© 1982 Dorling Kindersley Limited; reprinted by permission); Illinois Department of Transportation, "Blood Alcohol Content Estimator" (February 1998).

What exactly is the law on carrying alcohol in a car?

It is illegal for either a driver or passenger to have any alcoholic beverage in the passenger area of a car or truck while it is on the road, unless it is "in the original container and with the seal unbroken" (with two exceptions for containers that were sealed at restaurants or wineries).¹¹⁴ Violation, in addition to criminal penalties, can result in losing your driver's license if you are under 21.¹¹⁵ This law is intended to prevent drinking while driving, and applies to persons of any age. Thus even for adults, the only legal place for an opened container of alcohol in a vehicle would be its trunk (if it has one).

What are the penalties for drunk or drugged driving?

Driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or any other drug(s) or intoxicating compound(s) that endanger safe driving results in mandatory revocation of your driver's license, plus up to 364 days in jail and a fine up to \$2,500.¹¹⁶ (There is also a mandatory \$1,381 assessment to be divided among state and local agencies for law enforcement, court and emergency services, and driver education.¹¹⁷)

If you are under 21 and have alcohol in your blood at a level under 0.08%, your license will be suspended for 3 months.¹¹⁸ But if you have a blood alcohol level of at least 0.08% (0.05% if other evidence of impairment exists¹¹⁹), or have any trace of other drugs in your system, you cannot get

another license for 1 year. (After 1 year, if you meet conditions set by the Secretary of State, you can get a restricted driving permit lasting 1 year that generally allows you to drive only between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. Then, 2 years after the revocation, you can apply for—but are not guaranteed to get—a driver’s license.¹²⁰) There are stiffer penalties if your blood alcohol level is still higher, or you are transporting a child under age 16.¹²¹

Those are the penalties for a *first* offense. For a second offense within 20 years, the same criminal penalties apply, plus a mandatory minimum of either 5 days in jail or 240 hours of community service and a \$1,381 assessment; you will lose your license; you cannot apply for another license for 5 years; and if you are allowed to have a restricted driving permit, your vehicle must be equipped for those 5 years with an ignition interlock to test your breath for alcohol each time you try to drive.¹²² For a third offense in your lifetime, you can be imprisoned up to 7 years and fined up to \$25,000; your license will be revoked; and you cannot apply for another license for 10 years.¹²³ For a fourth offense, you can be imprisoned up to 7 years (probation is not allowed) and fined up to \$25,000; and you may **NEVER AGAIN** be able to get a driver’s license.¹²⁴

Anyone found guilty, in either juvenile or adult court, of illegally possessing marijuana or other drug while driving a motor vehicle cannot get a driver’s license, or will lose an existing license, for 1 year (or if under 17, until age 18).¹²⁵ Anyone convicted of using an intoxicating compound while driving will lose an existing license or permit for 1 year.¹²⁶ (“Intoxicating compounds” include substances that can be inhaled or otherwise used to get a “high” feeling.¹²⁷)

In addition to the criminal penalties described above, the law requires automatic pretrial license suspensions in some situations. Your license will be automatically suspended for 6 months if, while driving, you are found to have in your blood at least 5 nanograms per milliliter of THC (the main psychoactive substance in marijuana) or **ANY** amount of another drug or intoxicating compound due to illegal use. Your license will be suspended for 3 months if, while driving before age 21, you are found to have any amount of alcohol in your blood, unless it was taken in a religious ceremony or as part of a proper dose of medicine.¹²⁸

By driving on any street, road, or highway, you give consent for testing of your breath, blood, or urine if police believe you are driving under the influence of alcohol, another drug, and/or another intoxicating compound.¹²⁹ If you refuse to be tested, your driver’s license will automatically be suspended for 1 year the first time,¹³⁰ and 3 years for a repeat refusal.¹³¹ If you cause an accident while driving under the influence, and emergency vehicles respond, you will be liable for costs of the response up to \$1,000.¹³² And you

will be both morally and criminally responsible if you injure or kill anyone. (Killing a person by drunk or drugged driving brings a mandatory prison term of 3-14 years plus other penalties¹³³.)

What is the current Illinois law on marijuana use?

The Illinois General Assembly in 2019 chose to regulate nonmedical use of marijuana by persons who are 21 or older, rather than continuing to prohibit their use of it. Persons who are at least 21 can buy and possess *limited* amounts of marijuana, from licensed locations, under restrictions stated in the law. Use of marijuana in any form by persons under age 21, unless permitted under the state's law on medical marijuana, remains illegal. The law also calls for the public to be given health warnings about the dangers of using products that contain marijuana.¹³⁴

The table below shows the maximum penalties for possessing marijuana or any substance containing THC (its main active ingredient) if you are under age 21.

Maximum Penalties for Illegal Possession of Marijuana

<i>Amount in grams*</i>	<i>Jail or prison</i>	<i>Fine†</i>
Up to 10	-	\$ 200
11 to 30	6 months	1,500
31 to 100	364 days ^Δ	2,500 ^Δ
101 to 500	3 years ^Δ	25,000
501 to 2,000	5 years	25,000
2,001 to 5,000	7 years	25,000
Over 5,000	15 years	25,000

* There are about 28 grams in an ounce.

† Plus an assessment of \$905 for a misdemeanor or \$2,215 for a felony.

Δ Penalties are higher for repeat offenses.

Sources: 720 ILCS 550/4; penalties by class of crime are stated in 730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-30 to 5/5-4.5-60; assessments are listed in 705 ILCS 135/15-15 and 135/15-35.

Growing or delivery of marijuana, except as authorized by law, brings more severe penalties.¹³⁵

Another important fact to remember: Even after you turn 21, you can be convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) if you drive with enough marijuana in your body to be impaired. Use of marijuana while driving, or by a passenger in a vehicle—or even possessing it in a vehicle, except in a tightly sealed, child-resistant, inaccessible container—continues to be punishable by driver’s license revocation, up to 364 days in jail, and a substantial fine.¹³⁶

What are the effects of taking other drugs?

Virtually all illegal drugs have serious risks to young people. Effects of using them may range from temporary loss of judgment and control, to serious and sometimes permanent disability. Adolescent brains are still “under construction,” so drug use during those years can have lifelong harmful effects.

New drugs are constantly being developed and used, both in legitimate medical practice and for illegal purposes. It takes years or decades for medical researchers to study their effects in detail. In the meantime, persons using them without medical supervision are being guinea pigs in dangerous ‘experiments.’ The following are brief summaries of research available on some drugs or other substances commonly abused at the time this booklet was written. There is no reason to think that a new abused substance will be any less dangerous.

MDMA (Ecstasy or Molly) and similar “club drugs” are in the amphetamine family. They can act as both stimulants and hallucinogens. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) reports that people using these drugs can experience psychiatric problems including aggression, depression, anxiety, paranoia, and disturbed sleep. These drugs can also cause nausea, chills, muscle cramps, blurred vision, and—in extreme cases—liver, kidney, or heart failure. Tablets containing MDMA are often mixed with other drugs, such as methamphetamines, dextromethorphan (described later), ephedrine, and cocaine, which can increase the risks of taking them.¹³⁷

Methamphetamine (“meth” or “speed”) is a highly addictive stimulant that can have devastating effects. Taking a small amount of it can result in insomnia, loss of appetite, and higher heart rate and blood pressure. Continued use changes the way the brain functions, causing paranoia, hallucinations, mood disturbances, memory loss, sleep disturbances, and violent behavior. Longer-term effects also include extreme weight loss, severe dental problems (“meth mouth”), and intense itching that can lead to skin sores. The drug also alters judgment, often leading users to engage in unsafe behavior—such as sharing needles to use drugs, which can transmit HIV or hepatitis.¹³⁸

The high human cost of methamphetamine abuse has led Illinois to enact laws addressing it separately from other drugs. In addition to penalties for possession (see table on next page), there are serious penalties for being involved in making it. Participating in making methamphetamine is punishable by as much as 60 years in prison and a fine of \$400,000 or the drug's street value, depending on the amount involved.¹³⁹ Persons convicted have their names entered into a State Police database available to the public.¹⁴⁰ It is illegal to possess any substance needed to make methamphetamine (such as ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or anhydrous ammonia) with intent to make the drug. Violation can bring up to 50 years in prison and a \$300,000 fine.¹⁴¹ Also, no one under 18 may buy a product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine; and providing false identification to do so is punishable by 3 years in prison and/or a fine up to \$25,000 for a first offense.¹⁴² The harmful effects of methamphetamine, as well as the heavy penalties for using or making it, provide strong reasons to steer clear of it.

“Bath Salts” are synthetic products usually sold in small packages and mislabeled as “plant food” or “jewelry cleaner” under a variety of names. They are typically swallowed, inhaled, or injected. They are chemically similar to Ecstasy, cocaine, and methamphetamine, and cause heart problems and symptoms such as paranoia, hallucinations, and panic attacks. Some users also experience “excited delirium,” which involves psychotic and violent behavior.¹⁴³

Spice (K2) is a mix of herbs and chemicals that affects brain cell receptors somewhat like marijuana, but may have stronger and more unpredictable effects. Some “spice” products are sold as incense. The drug is often smoked like marijuana or prepared as an herbal tea for drinking. NIDA reports that the drug's effects have not been well-studied, but it has been linked to heart problems (including heart attacks). Users have also reported feeling extreme anxiety, paranoia, confusion, hallucinations, violent behavior, and suicidal thoughts.¹⁴⁴

Prescription Drugs, taken under a doctor's direction, are legal and usually safe, but can be very dangerous if taken by someone for whom they were not prescribed, or in a way that is not prescribed. NIDA reports that prescription drugs are the third most abused drug (after alcohol and marijuana) for Americans age 14 and older. Pain relievers (OxyContin and Vicodin), central nervous system depressants (Xanax and Valium), and stimulants (Concerta and Adderall) are the most commonly abused prescription drugs.¹⁴⁵ Some medications available without a prescription, such as cough suppressants, are also sometimes abused by taking large doses, making them dangerous.¹⁴⁶ In Illinois, possession of dextromethorphan, except by prescription or as an over-the-counter medicine, is punishable by up to 3 years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000; its distribution is punishable by up to 7 years in prison and the same maximum fine.¹⁴⁷

Inhaling (“huffing”) means intentionally breathing vapors or gases from any of various products to get a quick “high.” In addition to being a crime in Illinois,¹⁴⁸ it is also very dangerous. Initial effects are similar to those of drinking large amounts of alcohol, including slurred speech, lack of coordination, euphoria, and dizziness. Depending on the type of chemicals inhaled, long-term huffing can cause serious damage to the brain, heart, liver, kidneys, bone marrow, nerve fibers, and muscles. But some huffers never get a chance to become long-term users. High concentrations of inhalants can cause death after a single use from suffocation, heart attacks (called “sudden sniffing death”), and seizures.¹⁴⁹ “Huffing” is a dumb thing to do.

What are the penalties for illegal drug possession?

The table below gives examples of maximum penalties for possessing, without making or selling, some major illegal drugs. (Making, distributing, or selling them is always a more serious crime.) Each column heading shows the number of years in prison that can be imposed for possessing the amounts listed in that column. In addition to the examples of prison sentences shown below, a violator can be assessed \$2,215 to support law enforcement and other local services.¹⁵⁰ State law authorizes similar penalties for other illegal drugs that pose high risks to users and to people affected by them.

Examples of Prison Sentences for Possessing Major Drugs (amounts listed are grams, except for LSD pieces)

	3 years	15 years	30 years	40 years	50 years
Amphetamines	up to 199	200+			
Barbiturates	up to 199	200+			
Cocaine	up to 14	15-99*	100-399*	400-899*	900+*
Heroin	up to 14	15-99*	100-399*	400-899*	900+*
LSD					
grams	up to 14	15-99*	100-399*	400-899*	900+*
pieces	up to 14	15-199*	200-599	600-1499	1500+
Methamphetamine	†	15-99	100-399*	400-899*	900+*
Methaqualone	up to 29	30+			
Morphine	up to 14	15-99*	100-399*	400-899*	900+*
Peyote	up to 199	200+			
PCP	up to 29	30+			

- * A violator may also be fined the full street value of these drugs. Possessors of at least 100 grams of methamphetamine may be fined \$100,000 to \$300,000 depending on amount possessed.
- † Possession of up to 5 grams of methamphetamine is punishable by up to 5 years in prison, and possession of 5 to 14 grams by up to 7 years.

Sources: 720 ILCS 570/402 and 646/60, and 705 ILCS 135/15-70, items (6) and (7).

The superintendent or person responsible for a public or private school must immediately report to local police any verified incident involving illegal drugs in a school building, property used by schools, or school buses.¹⁵¹

Beside legal risks, there is absolutely no way to know what drug (or mixture of drugs) you will get if you buy something that is not legally regulated and labeled. Amateur chemists make methamphetamines, hallucinogens, or other drugs in crude “labs” where anything could happen. In some cases, a single dose of an illegal drug—especially a hallucinogen—can cause lifelong mental problems. Illegal drugs occasionally even kill users due to being accidentally—or intentionally—mixed with drugs or substances not disclosed to buyers.

OTHER HEALTH RISKS

What does Illinois law say about tanning, tattooing, and body piercing?

Public health authorities report that skin cancer rates continue to rise in the U.S. and worldwide.¹⁵² Skin cancer is now the most common cancer in the U.S.¹⁵³ More exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun in recent decades without adequate protection is partly to blame; but indoor tanning is also a major cause. Tanning is the body’s response to injury to skin cells. UV radiation can cause skin cancers such as melanoma (the deadliest type of skin cancer), basal cell carcinoma, and squamous cell carcinoma. It can also cause cataracts and cancers of the eye.¹⁵⁴

Illinois law prohibits commercial tanning places from allowing anyone under 18 to use their tanning equipment.¹⁵⁵ (That does **not** mean that tanning is safe for older persons—only that the state leaves that choice to those who are legally adults.) So-called “spray-on tanning” is not restricted by this law.

Tattooing penetrates or breaches the skin, making infections and other complications a risk. Dirty needles can pass infections, such as hepatitis and

methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), from one person to another. Some ink pigments can cause allergic reactions including redness, swelling, pain, and pus-like drainage. In addition, unwanted overgrowths of scar tissue can form when getting or removing a tattoo.¹⁵⁶

Body piercing at sites other than earlobes has grown in popularity. Complications can include infections, disfigurement, and rejection of a foreign object by the immune system.¹⁵⁷

The Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishment Registration Act¹⁵⁸ imposes requirements on businesses that engage in these practices. If you decide to visit one of them, be sure to look for its certificate of registration, which the Act requires to be “conspicuously displayed within the sight of clients upon entering” the business.¹⁵⁹ But keep in mind that people sometimes get infections if their skin is broken—even in hospitals, where strict medical precautions are usually taken. Thus, there is no guarantee that such a procedure will be completely safe.

What are the rules on drug testing of athletes?

Schools can require testing of student athletes for drugs. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1995¹⁶⁰ and 2002¹⁶¹ cases upheld such school policies, primarily on the grounds that (1) participation in extracurricular sports is voluntary and (2) the privacy interests of students are outweighed by the need to keep illegal drugs out of school sports.

Anabolic steroids (synthetic substances related to male hormones) are sometimes abused by adolescents—mostly athletes hoping to improve their performance. These steroids have many adverse effects. Some make users unattractive; others threaten their health. In males, steroids can lead to male pattern baldness, acne, infertility, increased risk of prostate cancer, and increased breast size. In females they can cause reduced breast size, partial baldness, increased body hair, coarsening of skin, acne, deepening of the voice, and menstrual cycle changes. Because they disrupt hormone production, they can also cause growth to end prematurely in teens. Psychological effects of steroids can include extreme mood swings, aggressive behavior (“roid rage”), paranoia, delusions, and feelings of invincibility. Their use can also lead to heart, liver, and kidney damage—even heart attacks or strokes in young users.¹⁶²

Illinois law prohibits possession of anabolic steroids without a prescription. Violation is punishable by a fine up to \$1,500 and up to 30 days in jail (6 months for a repeat offense within 2 years).¹⁶³ It is also illegal for anyone to sell or give to a person under age 18 a dietary supplement that contains ephedrine, or that contains any drug that can be used to make anabolic steroids.¹⁶⁴ If you are an athlete, it is never a good idea to introduce illegal drugs into your body.

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND ABUSE

What does “sexual abuse” mean?

This term refers primarily to adults engaging in any sexual behavior with children. This is a very harmful kind of child abuse, because it can cause victims to suffer from guilt and difficulty in social or marital adjustment for many years—even decades. The offender may be a stranger, or may be an acquaintance, uncle, stepparent, or other relative.

Sexual abuse is a serious crime.¹⁶⁵ The state of Illinois is committed to stopping it whenever and wherever it occurs in the state. The state has a toll-free child abuse hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to take reports of child abuse, including sexual abuse: 1-800-25ABUSE (in numbers, 1-800-252-2873). If you or anyone you know is a victim of sexual abuse, you should call this number and give the names and address(es) of the persons involved. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is required to start investigating immediately if necessary, and in any case within 24 hours, including interviewing the child for details.¹⁶⁶ DCFS investigators have authority to remove a child to a safe place if they believe the child’s life or health is in danger.¹⁶⁷

Can I get in trouble with the law for sexual behavior?

Yes. You will be criminally liable for sexual conduct (including sexual touching) in any of several kinds of situations including those described below, regardless of your or the other person’s gender:

- (1) You are under 17 and the other person is between 9 and 16; or you are less than 5 years older than the other person, who is aged 13 to 16. This is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in jail and/or a fine up to \$2,500.¹⁶⁸
- (2) You are at least 17 and the other person is under 13; or you are under 17 and the other person is under 9. This is a Class 2 felony, punishable by 3 to 7 years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000.¹⁶⁹
- (3) You are at least 17 and the other person is under 13, and the conduct involves any contact between sex organs, or intrusion of any part of either person’s body or any object into any part of the other person’s body in the pelvic area. This is a Class X felony, punishable by 6 to 60 years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000.¹⁷⁰

- (4) The conditions described in (3) apply and you use any drug to commit the act. This is a Class X felony with a minimum term of 50 years in prison.¹⁷¹

Keep this in mind: **The other person's consent does not make these acts legal.** These prohibitions are designed to protect young people from sexual activity before they are old enough to understand its effects fully. Of course, any sexual act done by force or threat of force is a very serious felony—Class 1 (4 to 15 years and up to a \$25,000 fine),¹⁷² or if done with a firearm, a Class X felony to which 15 to 25 years must be added to the Class X term.¹⁷³

Are there any other legal consequences of sexual activity?

Yes. If you become a parent, you can be required to support your child until at least age 18 (19 if the child is still in high school).¹⁷⁴ In that case, part of every paycheck you earn for 18 or more years can be taken by court order to pay support.¹⁷⁵ Also, your driver's license or permit may be denied or revoked if you are 90 days or more delinquent in paying child support.¹⁷⁶ DNA testing is now required in Illinois paternity cases,¹⁷⁷ and is highly accurate in determining who is the father. Mothers are required to support their children just like fathers.¹⁷⁸

There can also be legal liability for sexual transmission of disease. But this is one subject on which the legal risks may not be as serious as the health risks.

What health risks are involved in sexual activity?

Sexual activity with numerous persons has a high risk of infecting you with a virus that could stay with you for the rest of your life—and shorten your life. Three such viruses are of major concern today:

- HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. HIV attacks the body's immune system, weakening its ability to fight other infections. There is no cure for HIV and AIDS. Modern drug therapies can control the disease.¹⁷⁹ However, they are expensive; can have serious side effects; and may eventually fail if the virus mutates into resistant versions.
- Hepatitis C virus, which causes gradual liver damage and sometimes requires a liver transplant. It may be sexually transmitted in some situations—although sharing of injection needles, and unhygienic tattooing and body piercing, are more common infection routes.¹⁸⁰

- Herpes simplex 2 virus, which becomes active repeatedly throughout an infected person's lifetime, and can have effects as serious as sterility.¹⁸¹

If you contract any of these viruses and later get married, you will need to take careful precautions to avoid transmitting it to your spouse and to any children you may have. Even with such precautions, there will always be a risk of transmitting HIV or herpes simplex 2 to your spouse.

The most common sexually transmitted disease is genital human papilloma-virus (HPV). It is so common that nearly all persons who are active with multiple partners get it sooner or later. Most people with HPV infection have no symptoms. But it can cause genital warts and cancers—including potentially fatal cervical cancer. A vaccine has been developed to protect both men and women against the disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all boys and girls get the vaccine at age 11 or 12.¹⁸²

Other major threats are bacterial infections, including these:

- Chlamydia, which is another of the most common sexually transmitted diseases today. If it is not properly treated, it can cause painful reproductive disorders, some of which may be permanent. Persons infected with untreated chlamydia also appear to be at higher risk of being infected with HIV if exposed to it.¹⁸³
- Gonorrhea, which may not show immediate symptoms. However, if left untreated, it can spread to female and male reproductive systems (sometimes causing infertility or painful pelvic inflammation) or to the blood, which can be life-threatening.¹⁸⁴
- Syphilis, which manifests as a chancre (sore) found where it entered the body, and progresses to skin rashes and sores around the mouth and genitals. It has several stages, including a latent stage with no symptoms that can last for decades. If left untreated, it can spread to numerous bodily systems with potentially fatal consequences.¹⁸⁵

Unlike the viruses mentioned earlier, these bacterial infections can generally be treated with antibiotics, although that may not reverse damage already done. Persons with any of these infections are also at a higher risk of contracting HIV if exposed to it.¹⁸⁶

The following was the latest information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the prevalence of these diseases when this booklet was revised:

- By the end of 2019, an estimated 1,189,700 Americans aged 13 or older were living with HIV infection, including about 158,500 whose infections had not been diagnosed.¹⁸⁷ In the U.S. and dependent areas such as Puerto Rico, there were 15,807 reported deaths in 2016 of persons diagnosed with HIV, including 12,549 who had been diagnosed with stage 3 HIV (AIDS).¹⁸⁸ Preliminary numbers showed 38,739 new HIV diagnoses in 2017, of which 21% (8,164) were in persons aged 13 to 24.¹⁸⁹
- About 11.9% of Americans aged 14 to 49 are infected with herpes simplex 2 virus. Many persons who are infected have no symptoms or mild ones that go unnoticed. As a result, about 87.4% of infected persons are unaware of their condition.¹⁹⁰
- An estimated 2.4 million Americans had chronic hepatitis C infections by 2016. Many people got hepatitis C from transfusions before testing of blood donors for the virus began in 1992, and may not know that they have it. It is now most often spread by intravenous drug use or other skin piercing by objects exposed to infected blood; it can occasionally be spread by risky sexual behavior. About 75-85% of infected persons will develop chronic infection, which may not have obvious symptoms for decades. Many with chronic infections will develop chronic liver disease, which can have mild to severe effects including liver cancer, liver failure, and death. In 2016, 18,153 deaths related to hepatitis C were reported to the CDC, but that probably does not include all deaths from illness related to hepatitis C.¹⁹¹
- About 43 million Americans have HPV, and about 13 million more are infected each year.¹⁹²
- Chlamydia is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted disease. About 4 million people were infected with chlamydia in 2018. Chlamydia is most common among young people, and the CDC estimates that about 1 in 20 sexually active females aged 14 to 24 are infected.¹⁹³
- The CDC estimated that approximately 1.6 million new infections of gonorrhea occurred in the U.S. in 2018, with more than half of those occurring among young people aged 15 to 24.¹⁹⁴
- Rates of syphilis have been rising in recent years. In 2019, 129,813 new diagnoses of syphilis were reported to the CDC.¹⁹⁵

Some other sexually transmitted diseases are becoming harder to treat, as the bacteria or other organisms that cause them become resistant to antibiotics. Those diseases also can sometimes cause irreversible harm.

Ask yourself whether any benefits of promiscuity are worth taking such serious risks.

SCHOOL

How long must I go to school?

Everyone aged 7 to 17 must attend school, with some exceptions.¹⁹⁶ Students who repeatedly fail to attend can be dealt with by truant officers, and if necessary, by the courts.



Of course, this is merely the minimum legal education requirement. The realities of work and life in a complex society require more education or vocational training for most people.

What powers do teachers and principals have?

This is a complex question, about which courts often have to make decisions. School personnel have a legal duty to maintain reasonable order in schools and at all activities connected with schools, including athletic and extracurricular programs.¹⁹⁷ This includes taking measures to protect students and employees against physical attack, drug distribution, and other harm. Because a school combines many people in a single building, who constantly mingle with one another, there is much more need for protection against contraband and health or security dangers than there is outside. For these reasons, Illinois law authorizes public school authorities to inspect school property, including lockers, desks, and parking lots—and personal effects found in any of those places—for illegal drugs, weapons, and similar contraband.¹⁹⁸

However, the actions of school personnel must be reasonable, and courts can hold them liable if they go too far. The courts usually try to balance the need for order and safety in schools against the expectations of students for privacy and reasonable freedom to control their own lives (with guidance from parents). Few specific principles on the subject can be stated absolutely.

EMPLOYMENT

When will I be old enough to get a job?

For ordinary kinds of employment the minimum legal age is 16. This Illinois law applies to places such as restaurants, stores, offices, and factories.¹⁹⁹ But federal law effectively excludes persons under 18 from kinds of work the U.S. Secretary of Labor has determined to be dangerous or unhealthful for them, which applies to many kinds of factory and other work involving dangerous equipment or substances.²⁰⁰

If you are between 14 and 16 and want to work in a nondangerous job, you may be able to do so by getting an “employment certificate” from your regional or district superintendent of schools. Such a certificate will be issued if the superintendent’s staff determine that the kind of work involved will not harm your health and will be done outside of school hours or during school vacations.²⁰¹

There are some exceptions to the work restrictions described above. Persons 10 or older may do agricultural work outside school hours and during school vacations.²⁰² Those 13 or older may work as caddies at golf courses.²⁰³ And those 14 or 15 may be allowed to work in federally funded work training programs supervised by the State Board of Education.²⁰⁴

Working during your teen years may help prepare you for adult duties. On the other hand, many teens who work during the school year find it hard to do their schoolwork as well as they should. The money you earn now will likely be spent soon; but knowledge and mental skills developed through study will last your whole life.

MARRIAGE

At what age can I get married?

Anyone may get married at age 18. A person may get married at 16 or 17 with either the consent of both parents, or a court order.²⁰⁵ The court will give such an order only if convinced that the person under 18 “is capable of assuming the responsibilities of marriage and the marriage will serve his [or her] best interest.”²⁰⁶

Just because the law will allow marriage at an early age doesn’t mean it is usually a good idea. Many people who marry in their teens later feel

“trapped.” Divorce rates from teenage marriages are high; both partners can be burdened with supporting children, and find their own educations interrupted (or ended). With average life expectancy around 80 years, it may not be a good idea to pick a lifetime partner during your first 20.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

What responsibilities does the law impose on parents?

Parents are required to support their children until at least age 18 (19 if the children are still in high school).²⁰⁷

This requirement applies regardless of whether the parents were married when the child was born, and regardless of whether they become, or stay, married afterward.²⁰⁸ Being a minor does not relieve a parent of the obligation to support a child.²⁰⁹ If the father of a child born to an unmarried woman is not known, the mother (or the Illinois Department of Public Aid if it provides aid to the child) can bring a paternity suit to prove who is the father and require him to provide support. (See the discussion of this subject on page 31.)



Parents also have a duty to provide necessary care, guidance, and education for their children. Of course, different parents raise children in quite different ways. But if parents' care falls below a minimum level considered essential by the law, the child(ren) can be taken away as neglected or abused under the Juvenile Court Act.²¹⁰

Note: As an alternative to abandoning a newborn, state law allows a parent of a child up to 30 days old to give away all parental rights by surrendering the child to personnel at a hospital, emergency medical facility, fire station, or police station.²¹¹

Finally, parents can be required to pay any expenses, up to \$20,000 per victim for a first offense and \$30,000 if there is a pattern of criminal behavior, of any person or organization whose property is intentionally damaged by their child.²¹² This law is intended to encourage parents to exercise enough supervision so their children will not commit vandalism or other harm to persons or property.

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

What activities require licenses?

Major activities (in addition to driving or operating a motorcycle, addressed earlier in this booklet) for which you may need a license, or must be above or below some age, are listed below.

Boating. No person under 10 may operate a motorboat. A person who is 10 or 11 may operate a motorboat with over 10 horsepower if accompanied by and under the direct control of a parent, guardian, or parental designee who is at least 18 and has a valid Boating Safety Certificate.²¹³ (These provisions apply equally to a personal watercraft—a powered vessel on top of which a user typically sits or kneels, such as a Jet Ski®.²¹⁴ It is illegal for a rental business to rent such watercraft to anyone younger than 16.²¹⁵) A person who is at least 12 but under 18, and has taken a course and earned a Boating Safety Certificate, need not be accompanied while operating a motorboat with over 10 horsepower.²¹⁶ A person born after 1997 and at least 18 years old must have a Boating Safety Certificate to operate a motorboat with over 10 horsepower.²¹⁷

Firearms. A person of any age must have a Firearm Owner's Identification Card to buy a firearm or ammunition.²¹⁸ To obtain a "FOID" card, a person must not (among other things) have been convicted of any felony; have been convicted in the past 5 years of a violent misdemeanor using a firearm; have been convicted of a domestic battery committed after 2012; be addicted to narcotics; be an illegal alien; or have been a patient in a mental health facility in the last 5 years (unless later certified as not dangerous by a physician or mental health professional). An applicant under 21 must also have the written consent of a parent or legal guardian who is eligible for a FOID card, or be on active military duty, and must never have been convicted of a misdemeanor (other than a traffic offense) or adjudicated delinquent.²¹⁹ Each person applying to buy a firearm from a licensed firearms dealer, or a gun show promoter or vendor, must be approved by the State Police to receive the weapon.²²⁰ No one under 18 may buy or possess a concealable firearm (handgun).²²¹ A person must be at least 21 to be apply for a permit to carry a concealed firearm.²²²

Fishing and hunting. Persons under 16 need not have fishing licenses to fish with "sport fishing" devices such as a pole and line.²²³ Illinois residents 16 or older may buy "sport fishing" licenses at many stores for \$14.50 plus a 50¢ fee.²²⁴ Other kinds of licenses are sold for various kinds of fishing.

A hunting license is required before starting to hunt any protected species. Anyone born after 1979, and not yet licensed, can get a license to hunt only those species, with a certificate of competency earned by taking a course on weapons and hunting safety.²²⁵ The charge for a license for an Illinois resident is \$12 plus a habitat fee of \$5.²²⁶ Persons hunting various types of animals must also buy permits or stamps for those types. Any person may get an Apprentice Hunter License for a \$7 license fee to allow hunting while supervised for 1 year. A person with such a license may hunt while supervised by a licensed hunter who is 21 or older.²²⁷

Another type of license, called a Youth Hunting and Trapping License, can be issued for a \$7 fee to a person up to age 18. It authorizes hunting and/or trapping under the close supervision of an adult who is at least 21 and has an Illinois hunting or trapping license.²²⁸

Snowmobiles. No person under 10 may operate a snowmobile. A person who is 10 or 11 may operate one only if accompanied on it by a parent, guardian, or parental designee who is at least 18. With a certificate from the Department of Natural Resources authorizing snowmobile operation, an operator aged 12 to 16 need not be so accompanied, unless traveling on a public roadway.²²⁹

Information on courses and licenses to boat, fish, hunt, and operate snowmobiles is available on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' website (www.dnr.illinois.gov).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you need details on laws described in this booklet, you may be able to look them up at a library or online. They are available in books in many public libraries, and on the General Assembly's website (www.ilga.gov). The notes beginning on page 35 cite all laws mentioned in this booklet.

Although reading laws can be helpful, keep in mind a couple of cautions. The first is that any law may have been amended since the version you are reading was issued or last updated. The second is that in some situations other laws may affect the same activity. For these reasons, you may want to ask someone familiar with the area of law in which you are interested. Your school counselor, a police officer, or a state legislator's office may be able to help.

HOW ILLINOIS LAWS ARE ENACTED

When your legislators go to Springfield, they have many ideas for changing Illinois laws or enacting new ones. Each idea must be proposed in a “bill” to be introduced in either the Senate or House of Representatives.

The Illinois Constitution requires that a bill have three “readings” by number and title in each legislative house before it can become law. This helps legislators learn about it before it is voted on. After First Reading, a bill is assigned to a committee dealing with its subject. The committee may amend the bill then. If the committee reports it favorably to the full house, it gets a Second Reading, when further amendment is allowed with some restrictions. On Third Reading the bill is either approved or disapproved by that house.

If the bill is passed by the house where it was introduced, it goes to the other house. There it goes through the same process, including a committee hearing and possible amendments. If the second house passes it in the same version as the first, it goes to the Governor. (If the two houses pass it in different versions, they must work out the differences before the bill can go to the Governor.)

The Illinois Constitution gives the Governor four possible responses to a bill: approval; total veto; amendatory veto; or item or reduction veto. A total veto disapproves a bill in its entirety. An amendatory veto approves of the general intent of a bill but recommends specific changes that the Governor thinks would improve it. Item and reduction vetoes propose to cut amounts the legislature has voted to appropriate for state spending.

If the Governor puts any kind of veto on a bill, it is returned to the house where it began. Legislators in the two houses may vote to accept the Governor’s action, or vote to restore the bill to its original form. Doing the latter, called “overriding” a veto, requires a three-fifths majority in each house.

If the Governor approves a bill, or the legislature overrides the Governor’s veto of it, it becomes a law. The Secretary of State then gives it a Public Act number and prints it in the Laws of Illinois, and legal publishers add it in printed and online versions of the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

Notes

The citations below to “ILCS” refer to the Illinois Compiled Statutes, the state’s official code of laws. It is available in book form in many libraries, and at www.ilga.gov. As an example of a citation, “125 ILCS 20/5” would mean chapter 125 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, act 20, section 5. There is also one citation below to the U.S. Code (the federal code of laws), available in some libraries and Internet sites (including <http://uscode.house.gov>). If you use a printed version of statutes, be sure to check its latest “supplement” (which may be in one or more separate booklets, or a “pocket part” in the back of a bound volume) for changes since the main volume was issued.

BICYCLING, HITCHHIKING, DRIVING, MOTORCYCLING

1. 625 ILCS 5/11-1502.
2. 625 ILCS 5/11-1505.
3. 625 ILCS 5/11-1502 and 5/11-306.
4. 625 ILCS 5/11-1511.
5. 625 ILCS 5/11-1503(b).
6. 625 ILCS 5/11-1506.
7. 625 ILCS 5/11-1516 and 5/11-1517.
8. 625 ILCS 5/11-1507(a).
9. Chicago Municipal Code, sec. 9-52-020.
10. 625 ILCS 5/11-1512.
11. To download the booklet as a PDF file, go to https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/traffic_safety/bikeped-safety.html and click the “Bicycle Rules of the Road” link.
12. Those booklets had the following Internet addresses in early 2022: “Kids on Bikes in Illinois”: <https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.14/iv7.741.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/KidsOnBikesInIllinois.pdf> “Safe Bicycling in Illinois”: <http://www.wordspacepress.com/SBIL.pdf>. Links to these documents, and other information on bicycle safety, are available on the Illinois Secretary of State website listed under Quick Links at https://ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/traffic_safety/bikepedsafety.html
13. Maps of major bicycling routes in each county can be downloaded from <https://idot.illinois.gov/travel-information/recreation/trails-paths-streets/index> by clicking on “Illinois Bike Maps by County” and choosing a county. A map of major Illinois bike trails is also available at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/publications/documents/00000642.pdf>

14. Use of these highways by persons on foot has been prohibited under 625 ILCS 5/11-711(b).
15. 625 ILCS 5/11-1006 and 5/1-179.
16. 625 ILCS 5/6-103, subd. 1.
17. 625 ILCS 5/6-107 to 6-107.3.
18. 625 ILCS 5/6-103, subd. 1; 5/6-107(b); and 5/6-107.1.
19. 625 ILCS 5/6-107.1(a)(1).
20. 625 ILCS 5/6-103, subd. 1; 92 Ill. Adm. Code subsec. 1030.65(i).
21. 625 ILCS 5/6-103, subd. 1.
22. 625 ILCS 5/6-107.1(b) and 5/6-110(a-1) and (a-2).
23. 625 ILCS 5/6-107.1(b-1).
24. To find driver licensing facilities near you, go to www.ilsos.gov/facilityfinder/facility and enter the name of your city or your ZIP Code.
25. 625 ILCS 5/6-107(c), referring to crimes listed in 625 ILCS 5/6-205 among other crimes.
26. 625 ILCS 5/6-107(b) and (b-1).
27. 625 ILCS 5/6-107(g) and (h).
28. 625 ILCS 5/6-107(e).
29. 625 ILCS 5/6-107(g) and 5/6-110(a-3).
30. 625 ILCS 5/12-610.1(a) to (d).
31. 625 ILCS 5/12-610.2.
32. 625 ILCS 5/12-503(a) and (c).
33. 625 ILCS 5/12-503(a-5), (b), and (b-5).
34. 625 ILCS 5/12-503(g).
35. 625 ILCS 5/12-612; 720 ILCS 5/36-1 and 5/36-2.
36. 625 ILCS 5/12-613.
37. 625 ILCS 5/12-201 to 5/12-212 (especially 5/12-212(c)).
38. 625 ILCS 5/6-103, subd. 2.
39. Go to www.startseeingmotorcycles.org and click on “free rider courses” to get information on these courses.

GENERAL CRIMINAL LAW

40. See 705 ILCS 405/5-120.
41. See 705 ILCS 405/5-125.
42. 705 ILCS 405/5-130(1)(a), referring to 720 ILCS 5/12-3.05(e)(1) to (4).
43. 705 ILCS 405/5-805.
44. 705 ILCS 405/5-810(1) to (4).
45. 705 ILCS 405/1-5(1).
46. See 705 ILCS 405/5-601 ff., especially 405/5-605.
47. 705 ILCS 405/5-701, 405/5-710, and 405/5-715.
48. 730 ILCS 5/5-5-3.2(b)(7).
49. 705 ILCS 405/3-24 and 405/4-21.

50. Ill. Const., Art. 6, sec. 6; Ill. Sup. Ct. Rules 301 and 660.
51. Penalties for each class of crime are set out in 730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-20 to 730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-85.
52. 720 ILCS 5/16-1.
53. 720 ILCS 5/21-1(a)(1) and (4), and (d)(1) and (2).
54. 720 ILCS 5/21-1(a)(8) and (9), and (d)(1)(A).
55. 720 ILCS 5/21-1.3.
56. 430 ILCS 66/25(1).
57. 720 ILCS 5/24-1(a)(2), (2.5), (4), and (8), and (b).
58. 720 ILCS 5/12-5.02.
59. 720 ILCS 5/17-51.
60. 720 ILCS 5/17-50.
61. 720 ILCS 5/17-52.5.
62. 720 ILCS 5/16-18.
63. 720 ILCS 5/16-5.
64. 720 ILCS 5/16-3(c) and (d).
65. 720 ILCS 5/21-3.
66. 415 ILCS 105/4 and 105/8.
67. 720 ILCS 5/26-7.
68. 720 ILCS 5/26.5-2(a)(5), 5/26.5-3(a)(4), and 5/26.5-5(b)(6) and (7).
69. 720 ILCS 5/12-7.5.
70. 720 ILCS 5/11-21(f).
71. 720 ILCS 5/12A-10(e) and 5/12B-10(e).
72. 720 ILCS 5/12A-25 and 5/12B-25.
73. 720 ILCS 5/17-11.5.
74. 625 ILCS 5/11-506.
75. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(e).
76. 720 ILCS 5/24-1(a)(10) and (c)(1.5).
77. 720 ILCS 5/24-1.2(a)(1) and (b).
78. 720 ILCS 5/5-1 and 5/5-2.
79. See 740 ILCS 147/10, definition of “Streetgang” and related terms.
80. 740 ILCS 147/10, definition of “Course or pattern of criminal activity.”
81. 730 ILCS 5/5-5-3.2(a)(15) and (b)(8).
82. 705 ILCS 405/5-710(10).
83. 20 ILCS 2640/10 and 705 ILCS 405/1-7(A)(1).
84. 740 ILCS 147/15 to 147/45.
85. 625 ILCS 5/6-103, subd. 18 and 5/6-205(b), subd. 3; 705 ILCS 405/5-710(11).
86. 720 ILCS 5/12-6.4.
87. Professor C. Ronald Huff, Ohio State University, “The Criminal Behavior of Gang Members” (final report to National Institute of Justice under grant 91-IJ-CXK013), Tables 33 and 38.
88. 720 ILCS 5/12C-50(a).
89. 720 ILCS 5/12C-50(b).

90. Blakeslee, "Nicotine: Harder to Kick Than Heroin," *N.Y. Times Magazine*, March 29, 1987, p. 22.
91. "Is Nicotine Addictive?" (updated April 2021), downloaded from National Institute on Drug Abuse Internet site.
92. American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual* (5th ed. 2013), p. 575.
93. DiFranza et al., "Symptoms of Tobacco Dependence After Brief Intermittent Use," *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, vol. 161, p. 704 (2007).
94. Doll et al., "Mortality in relation to smoking: 50 years' observations on male British doctors," *British Medical Journal*, June 22, 2004.
95. See "What are electronic cigarettes?" (updated Jan. 2020), downloaded from National Institute on Drug Abuse Internet site.
96. 720 ILCS 675/1.
97. 720 ILCS 675/1(a-6) and 675/2(b).
98. 410 ILCS 82/15.
99. 410 ILCS 82/25.
100. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b and 5/34-18.11.
101. 110 ILCS 64/15.
102. 410 ILCS 82/45(b).
103. 410 ILCS 82/50.
104. 410 ILCS 82/65.
105. 235 ILCS 5/6-16(a), first paragraph, item (i).
106. 235 ILCS 5/6-16(a), next-to-last paragraph.
107. 235 ILCS 5/6-20(a).
108. 235 ILCS 5/6-16(a), first paragraph, item (iii).
109. 625 ILCS 5/6-206(a), subd. 38.
110. 235 ILCS 5/6-16(a), first paragraph, item (ii).
111. See "Teenage Drinking and Driving," downloaded April 25, 2019 from Illinois State Police Internet site.
112. See, for example, Schenker and Speeg, "The Risk of Alcohol Intake in Men and Women: All May Not Be Equal" (editorial), *New England Journal of Medicine*, Jan. 11, 1990, p. 127; and U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, "Alcohol Alert" (July 2004, downloaded from NIAAA Internet site).
113. 625 ILCS 5/11-501(a)(2) to (5).
114. 625 ILCS 5/11-502(a) and (b). ("Highway" is defined in 625 ILCS 5/1-126.) The two exceptions are stated in 235 ILCS 5/6-6.5 and 5/6-33.
115. 625 ILCS 5/11-502(f) and 6-206(a), subd. 33.
116. 625 ILCS 5/11-501(c)(1); 5/6-205(a), subd. 2; and 5/6-208.
117. 705 ILCS 135/15-30.
118. 625 ILCS 5/11-501.1(c), second paragraph; 5/6-208.2(a), subd. 2; and 5/11-501.8(c).

119. 625 ILCS 5/11-501.2(b), subd. 2.
120. 625 ILCS 5/6-205(d)(1).
121. 625 ILCS 5/11-501(c)(3) and (4). Even higher penalties apply if a crash injures the child (625 ILCS 5/11-501(d)(1)(J), (2)(A), and (2)(H)).
122. 625 ILCS 5/11-501(c)(2); 5/11-501.01(e); 5/6-208(b), subd. 2.(A); and 705 ILCS 135/15-30.
123. 625 ILCS 5/11-501(d)(1)(A) and (2)(B), and 5/6-208(b), subd. 3.
124. 625 ILCS 5/11-501(d)(2)(A) and (C), and 5/6-208(b), subd. 4.
125. 625 ILCS 5/6-103, subd. 12; 5/6-107(c); 5/6-108(b); and 5/6-201(a), subd. 7.
126. 625 ILCS 5/6-201(a), subd. 7.
127. See 720 ILCS 690/1 (referred to in the provision cited above on intoxicating compounds).
128. 625 ILCS 5/11-501.1(c) to (e); 5/11-501.2(a), subd. 6; 5/11-501.8; 5/6-208.1(a), subd. 2; and 5/6-208.2(a), subd. 2.
129. 625 ILCS 5/11-501.1(a). See also 625 ILCS 5/1-126.
130. 625 ILCS 11-501.1(d) and (e), and 5/6-208.1(a), subd. 1.
131. 625 ILCS 11-501.1(d) and (e), and 5/6-208.1(a), subd. 3.
132. 705 ILCS 135/15-70, item (14).
133. See 625 ILCS 5/11-501(d)(1)(F) and (2)(G).
134. P.A. 101-27 (2019).
135. See 720 ILCS 550/5 and 550/5.2.
136. 625 ILCS 5/11-501(c)(1); 5/6-205(a), subd. 2; 5/6-208; and 5/11-502.15.
137. NIDA, “Drug Facts: MDMA (Ecstasy or Molly)” (<https://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/mdma-ecstasy-or-molly>) (updated Dec. 2021). See also NIDA, “Drug Facts: MDMA (Ecstasy/Molly)” (www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/mdma-ecstasy-molly) (updated June 2020).
138. NIDA, “Drug Facts: Methamphetamine” (<http://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/methamphetamine-meth>) (updated Dec. 2021). See also NIDA, “Drug Facts: Methamphetamine” (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/methamphetamine>) (updated May 2019).
139. 720 ILCS 646/15.
140. 730 ILCS 180/10.
141. 720 ILCS 646/20, 646/25, and 646/30.
142. 720 ILCS 648/10, definition of “targeted methamphetamine precursor”; 720 ILCS 648/20(a); 720 ILCS 648/25(e)(1); and 720 ILCS 648/40(e).
143. NIDA, “Drug Facts: Bath Salts” (<http://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/bath-salts>) (updated July 2021). See also NIDA, “Drug Facts: Synthetic Cathinones (‘Bath Salts’)” (www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cathinones-bath-salts) (updated July 2020).

144. NIDA, “Drug Facts: Spice” (<http://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/spice>) (updated Dec. 2021). See also NIDA, “Drug Facts: Synthetic Cannabinoids (K2/Spice)” (www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drug-facts/synthetic-cannabinoids-k2spice) (updated June 2020).
145. NIDA, “Drug Facts: Prescription Drugs” (<http://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/prescription-drugs>) (updated Dec. 2021). See also NIDA, “Drug facts: Prescription Opioids” (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/prescription-opioids>) (updated June 2021); “Drug Facts: Prescription CNS Depressants” (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/prescription-cns-depressants>) (updated March 2018); and “Drug Facts: Prescription Stimulants” (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/prescription-stimulants>) (updated June 2018).
146. NIDA, “Drug Facts: Cough and Cold Medicine (DXM and Codeine Syrup)” (<https://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/cough-and-cold-medicines>) (updated Dec. 2021). See also NIDA, “Drug Facts: Over-the-Counter Medicines” (www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/over-counter-medicines) (updated Dec. 2017).
147. 720 ILCS 570/206(b)(1)(xviii) and 570/218.
148. 720 ILCS 690/1.
149. NIDA, “Drug Facts: Inhalants” (<http://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/inhalants>) (updated Dec. 2021). See also NIDA, “Drug Facts: Inhalants” (www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/inhalants) (updated April 2020).
150. 705 ILCS 135/15-15.
151. 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1B.
152. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer” (2014), downloaded from Surgeon General’s Internet site, p. 1.
153. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Basic Information About Skin Cancer” (last reviewed April 28, 2021), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
154. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “What Are the Risk Factors for Skin Cancer?” (last reviewed April 28, 2021), downloaded from CDC Internet site. See also “What Can I Do to Reduce My Risk?” (last reviewed April 28, 2021), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
155. 210 ILCS 145/25(2).
156. Food and Drug Administration, “Think Before You Ink: Are Tattoos Safe?” (last updated May 2, 2017), downloaded from FDA Internet site; Mayo Clinic, “Tattoos: Understand Risks and Precautions” (last updated Feb. 25, 2022), downloaded from Mayo Clinic Internet site.
157. Meltzer, “Complications of Body Piercing,” *American Family*

- Physician*, Nov. 15, 2005, p. 2029, downloaded from American Academy of Family Physicians Internet site.
158. 410 ILCS 54/1 ff.
 159. 410 ILCS 54/35(c).
 160. *Vernonia School Dist. 47J v. Acton*, 515 U.S. 646, 115 S. Ct. 2386 (1995).
 161. *Board of Education v. Earls*, 536 U.S. 822, 122 S. Ct. 559 (2002).
 162. NIDA, “Drug Facts: Steroids, Anabolic” (<https://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/steroids-anabolic>) (updated Dec. 2021). See also NIDA, “Drug Facts: Anabolic Steroids” (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/anabolic-steroids>) (updated Aug. 2018).
 163. 720 ILCS 570/402(d).
 164. 720 ILCS 570/219.

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND ABUSE

165. See the provisions on sexual activity with minors in 720 ILCS 5/11-1.20 to 5/11-1.60.
166. 325 ILCS 5/7.4.
167. 325 ILCS 5/5.
168. 720 ILCS 5/11-1.50(b) and (c). See also 720 ILCS 5/11-0.1 for definitions applying to these prohibitions and those cited in the next five endnotes.
169. 720 ILCS 5/11-1.60(c).
170. 720 ILCS 5/11-1.40(a)(1) and (b)(1).
171. 720 ILCS 5/11-1.40(a)(2)(D).
172. 720 ILCS 5/11-1.20(a)(1).
173. 720 ILCS 5/11-1.30(a)(8) to (10) and (d)(1).
174. 750 ILCS 16/15(a)(1) and (f), adopting the definition of “child” in 750 ILCS 5/505(a), first paragraph.
175. 750 ILCS 16/15 and 16/20.
176. 625 ILCS 5/6-103, subd. 14.5.
177. 750 ILCS 46/401.
178. 750 ILCS 16/15.
179. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “About HIV/AIDS” (updated June 2021), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
180. CDC, “What is Viral Hepatitis?” (last reviewed July 2020), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
181. CDC, “Genital Herpes—CDC Fact Sheet (Detailed)” (last reviewed July 2021), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
182. CDC, “Genital HPV Infection—Fact Sheet” (last reviewed Jan. 2022), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
183. CDC, “Chlamydia—CDC Fact Sheet (Detailed)” (last reviewed Dec. 2021), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
184. CDC, “Gonorrhea—CDC Fact Sheet (Detailed Version)” (last

- reviewed July 2021), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
185. CDC, “Syphilis—CDC Fact Sheet (Detailed)” for syphilis (last reviewed Feb. 2022), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
 186. CDC, HIV/AIDS & STDs: Detailed Fact Sheet” (last reviewed April 2021), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
 187. CDC, “Estimated HIV incidence and prevalence in the United States, 2015-2019,” vol. 26, no. 1 (HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report, May 2021), p. 7, downloaded from CDC Internet site. See also CDC, “HIV: Statistics Overview” (last reviewed Feb. 28, 2022), downloaded from CDC Internet site.
 188. CDC, “HIV Surveillance Report, 2018,” vol. 30 (Nov. 2019), pp. 85 and 89, downloaded from CDC Internet site. See also “HIV: Statistics Overview.”
 189. CDC, “HIV/AIDS: HIV and Youth” (fact sheet, updated April 2019), downloaded from CDC Internet site. See also “HIV Surveillance Report, 2017,” p. 18 and “HIV: Statistics Overview.”
 190. “Genital Herpes—CDC Fact Sheet (Detailed).”(last reviewed July 22, 2021)
 191. “What is Viral Hepatitis?”.(last reviewed July 28, 2020)
 192. “Genital HPV Infection—Fact Sheet.”(last reviewed Jan. 3, 2022)
 193. “Chlamydia—CDC Fact Sheet (Detailed).”(last reviewed Dec. 31, 2021)
 194. “Gonorrhea—CDC Fact Sheet (Detailed Version).”(last updated July 22,2021)
 195. “Syphilis—CDC Fact Sheet (Detailed)”. (last reviewed Feb. 10, 2022)

SCHOOL

196. 105 ILCS 5/26-1.
197. 105 ILCS 5/24-24.
198. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(e).

EMPLOYMENT

199. 820 ILCS 205/1.
200. 29 U.S. Code sec. 212 and subsec. 203(l); 29 Code of Federal Regulations secs. 570.51 to 570.68.
201. 820 ILCS 205/9 to 205/12.
202. 820 ILCS 205/1.
203. 820 ILCS 205/2, second paragraph.
204. 820 ILCS 205/1.

MARRIAGE

- 205. 750 ILCS 5/203.
- 206. 750 ILCS 5/208.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 207. 750 ILCS 16/15(a) and (f) (referring to the definition of “child” in 750 ILCS 5/505(a)).
- 208. 750 ILCS 46/102 and 46/202.
- 209. 750 ILCS 46/102.
- 210. 705 ILCS 405/2-27.
- 211. 325 ILCS 2/1 ff.
- 212. 740 ILCS 115/1 ff.

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

- 213. 625 ILCS 45/5-18(a) to (c).
- 214. 625 ILCS 45/1-2, definitions of “Motorboat” and “Vessel.”
- 215. 625 ILCS 45/7-10.
- 216. 625 ILCS 45/5-18(d), second sentence and (h).
- 217. 625 ILCS 45/5-18(a) and (d), second sentence.
- 218. 430 ILCS 65/2(a).
- 219. 430 ILCS 65/4 and 65/8.
- 220. 430 ILCS 65/3.1.
- 221. 720 ILCS 5/24-3(A)(a) and 5/24-3.1(a)(1).
- 222. 430 ILCS 66/25(1).
- 223. 515 ILCS 5/20-5(a).
- 224. 515 ILCS 5/20-45(a) and 5/20-120(b).
- 225. 520 ILCS 5/3.1(a) and 5/3.2, second and third paragraphs.
- 226. 520 ILCS 5/3.1(a), third paragraph and 5/3.2, fifth and ninth paragraphs.
- 227. 520 ILCS 5/3.1-5.
- 228. 520 ILCS 5/3.1-9.
- 229. 625 ILCS 40/5-3. See also the restrictions in 625 ILCS 40/5-2 on operating snowmobiles on public roadways.

COMMISSION OVERVIEW

The Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability is a bipartisan legislative support service agency responsible for advising the Illinois General Assembly on economic and fiscal policy issues and for providing objective policy research for legislators and legislative staff. The Commission's board is comprised of twelve legislators—split evenly between the House and Senate and between Democrats and Republicans. Effective December 10, 2018, pursuant to P.A. 100-1148 the former Legislative Research Unit was merged into the Commission.

The Commission has three internal units—Revenue, Pensions, and Research, each of which has a staff of analysts and researchers who analyze policy proposals, legislation, state revenues & expenditures, and benefit programs, and who provide research services to members and staff of the General Assembly. The Commission's staff fulfills the statutory obligations set forth in the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Act (25 ILCS 155/), the State Debt Impact Note Act (25 ILCS 65/), the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/), the Pension Impact Note Act (25 ILCS 55/), the State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608/), the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971 (5 ILCS 375/), the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (820 ILCS 320/), the Legislative Commission Reorganization Act of 1984 (25 ILCS 130/), and the Reports to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Act (25 ILCS 110/).

- The **Revenue Unit** issues an annual revenue estimate, reports monthly on the state's financial and economic condition, and prepares bill analyses and debt impact notes on proposed legislation having a financial impact on the State. The Unit publishes a number of statutorily mandated reports, as well as on-demand reports, including the *Monthly Briefing* newsletter and annually, the *Budget Summary*, *Capital Plan Analysis*, *Illinois Economic Forecast Report*, *Wagering in Illinois Update*, and *Liabilities of the State Employees' Group Insurance Program*, among others. The Unit's staff also fulfills the agency's obligations set forth in the State Facilities Closure Act.
- The **Pension Unit** prepares pension impact notes on proposed pension legislation and publishes several statutorily mandated reports including the *Financial Condition of the Illinois State Retirement Systems*, the *Financial Condition of Illinois Public Pension Systems* and the *Fiscal Analysis of the Downstate Police & Fire Pension Funds in Illinois*. The Unit's staff also fulfills the statutory responsibilities set forth in the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act.
- The **Research Unit** primarily performs research and provides information as may be requested by members of the General Assembly or legislative staffs. Additionally, the Unit maintains a research library and, per statute, collects information concerning state government and the general welfare of the state, examines the effects of constitutional provisions and previously enacted statutes, and considers public policy issues and questions of state-wide interest. Additionally, the Unit publishes *First Reading*, a quarterly newsletter which includes abstracts of annual reports or special studies from other state agencies, the *Illinois Tax Handbook for Legislators*, *Federal Funds to State Agencies*, various reports detailing appointments to State Boards and Commissions, the *1970 Illinois Constitution Annotated for Legislators*, the *Roster of Illinois Legislators*, and numerous special topic publications.

Useful Internet Sites and Hotline

Illinois State home page
www.illinois.gov/

General Assembly home page
www.ilga.gov

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/CGFAInterim.html>

Bicycling and Driving

Secretary of State
www.ilsos.gov

Illinois Department of Transportation
<https://idot.illinois.gov>

Health

Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

National Institutes of Health
www.nih.gov

National Institute on Drug Abuse
www.drugabuse.gov

Suicide Prevention
988

NIDA for Teens

<https://teens.drugabuse.gov>

Recreation

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.illinois.gov