

## URGENT NEED TO REMOVE YOUNG CHILDREN FROM DETENTION

Feb. 2024

In 2023, there were 16 juvenile detention centers, holding children age 10-18 BEFORE trial. Two centers have now shut down – one following a shooting of a child, and the other based on inadequate conditions:

**Sangamon County** - The juvenile detention center in Springfield (Sangamon) was closed following a child being shot and killed by police after obtaining access to a weapon in the detention center. <https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/local/2023/10/03/springfield-police-chief-details-moments-of-juvenile-detention-facility-shooting/71046287007/>

**Franklin County** – The juvenile detention center in Franklin County was closed due to inability to meet minimum standards of care and faces a class action lawsuit by the ACLU. <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/cases/maurer-v-franklin> The county still owes \$1 million in federal bonds taken out in the late '90's to construct the facility. <https://www.propublica.org/article/illinois-judge-closes-franklin-county-juvenile-detention-center-failed-to-meet-state-standards>

The remaining 14 juvenile detention centers were all inspected in 2023 by staff from the IL Dept of Juvenile Justice. **Only 4 of the 14 facilities were found compliant with minimal standards for safety for children** (Vermilion, Kane, Lake and Peoria). The remaining ten facilities did not comply with minimal standards (St Clair, Madison, Champaign, Will, Adams, McLean, Winnebago, LaSalle, Cook and Knox) <https://idjj.illinois.gov/facilities/county-detention-centers.html>

See media coverage of inspection results:

<https://www.injusticewatch.org/juvenile-courts/2023/illinois-juvenile-detention-center-audits-noncompliant/>

<https://www.propublica.org/article/illinois-kids-in-custody-go-without-basic-services-face-excessive-punishments>

And excessive use of solitary was the conclusion in two recent reports documenting troubling conditions in the Cook County juvenile detention center

### **COOK COUNTY JUVENILE TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER**

**2019 - Advisory Board report finds excessive reliance on solitary -**

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/22186973-cook-county-jtdc-advisory-board-2019-annual-report?responsive=1&title=1>

**March, 2023 - Equip for Equality report finds youth with disabilities subjected to excessive physical restraints and seclusion.** [https://www.equipforequality.org/files/jtdc\\_report.pdf](https://www.equipforequality.org/files/jtdc_report.pdf)

As a result, last year the Legislature took action **to end solitary confinement** of youth in Public Act 103-0178, effective 1/1/2024. The Legislature also **expanded the role of the IDJJ Ombudsperson** to include oversight of complaints from youth in juvenile detention in Public Act 103-0397, effect. 1/1/2025.

However, the Senate still has to finish approving the agreed to reform to end detention of young children – and the need is urgent given the troubling conditions of detention across IL.

**PLEASE PASS H.B. 2347**