



**I.J.O.A. & I.D.O.A.
2026 Annual State Conference
June 3-5, 2026**

**Bloomington-Normal
Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
201 Broadway, Normal, IL 61761
(309) 862-9000**



About our Conference

Conference Fee: Up to May 5th, 2026 - \$275 for first attendee
\$250 for each additional attendee from the same department

After May 5th, 2026 \$300 each registrant
(conference fees include conference materials and lunch on Wednesday and Thursday)

<https://iljoa.com/2026-conference-registration>

Room Rates: Mention the IJOA Conference for the single/double rate of \$149.00 plus tax, which includes hotel parking and a grab & go style breakfast.
The deadline to reserve a room at this special rate is May 15th, 2026.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1749155486845&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Registration and payments can be made on the ILJOA.com website or Checks Payable to:
Illinois Juvenile Officers Association
Mail to: 1 S. Virginia Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014



Questions??? Contact IJOA at
IllinoisJOA@gmail.com



Schedule

Tuesday, June 4, 2026

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm:
Early Registration

Wednesday, June 5, 2026

8:00 am - 9:00 am: Registration

9:00 am - 9:15 am: Welcome

9:15 am - 11:15 am: Dr. Aram Perry,
Shannon Huston and
Tamela Wiltfang

11:30 am - 12:00 pm: Awards

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Legal Update by
Mary Boland

3:15 pm - 5:00 pm: Safe Schools &
Immigration Legal Update by Amanda
Garcia and Maggie Rivera

5:30 pm - 9:30 pm: Social
Networking at Destihl Brewery, 1200
Greenbriar Drive, Normal, IL-
Transportation Provided

Thursday, June 4, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Open-Source
Investigations by Michele Stuart

9:00 am - 10:30 am: First Response
Matters by Jessica Montgomery, Bri
Kness and Taylor Edmunds

10:30 am - 12:00 pm: Second
Response Matters by Jessica
Montgomery, Bri Kness and Taylor
Edmunds

12:00 am - 1:00 pm: Lunch
Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission
Updates

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm: The Intersection
between Drug Endangered Children
and Human Trafficking
by Liesly Wingert

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm: Scope of the
Youth Mental Crisis in Illinois by
NAMI Illinois

2:45 pm - 5:00 pm: NCMEC's Hositic
Approach to Missing Children-
Online Exploitation, and Survivor
Centered Prevention by
Sofia Montes

Friday, June 5, 2026

8:30 am - 9:00 am: Annual
Meeting and
Election of Officers

9:00 am - 10:15 am: Protecting
Children Online: NCMEC's Cyber
Tipline, Emerging Trends and
Takedown Tools by Sofia Montes

10:30 am - 12:00 pm: From Paper
to Practice - Running an Active
Threat Exercise in K-12: by Danielle
Stevens

Class Descriptions

Department of Children and Family Services: This session will highlight recent and upcoming DCFS practice changes, including implementation of the SAFE Model, and how these initiatives strengthen child safety and consistency in child protection work. Presenters will also review Hotline procedures and response processes, with an emphasis on law enforcement partnership. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding DCFS operations and cross-system collaboration.

Legal Update: Over the last few years, Illinois has made many changes in laws applicable to minors who are victims and those who are involved in the juvenile justice system. This presentation will address updates in law and practice for minor victims, witnesses and those who become involved in the juvenile justice system as perpetrators.

Safe Schools & Immigration Legal Update:

Open-Source Investigations: The internet empowers investigators to efficiently gather information on subjects, emphasizing that concentrating solely on individuals may not always be the most effective approach. A crucial element in research is the identification of actionable intelligence, aiding in the discovery of details such as individual identification, movements, family ties, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers. Furthermore, accurate searches on social media platforms can prove instrumental in pinpointing suspects and witnesses during investigations.

First Response Matters: Minimal Facts Interviewing for Juvenile Officers - Examines the practice of gathering only the essential information needed to ensure child safety, clarifies the role of minimal facts interviews within a multidisciplinary team (MDT) investigation, and highlights the benefits of referring children to a CAC for forensic interviewing. Participants will learn the purpose and limitations of minimal facts interviews, strategies for asking brief and non-leading questions, and common pitfalls that can inadvertently compromise a child's statement. Case examples and facilitated discussion will support officers in responding with accuracy, professionalism, and compassion. This session is designed for new juvenile officers and those with limited experience working with CACs.

Second Impact Matters: The Mental Health Effects of Responding to Child Disclosures explores the mental health impact of repeated exposure to child abuse cases, including vicarious trauma, cumulative stress, and emotional fatigue. This segment presents practical strategies for resilience and healthy coping, as well as indicators for when professional mental health support may be appropriate. This portion is appropriate for juvenile officers of all experience levels and provides actionable tools to safeguard both child welfare and officer well-being.

The Intersection between Drug Endangered Children and Human Trafficking: Drug endangered children are at risk of suffering physical, mental or emotional harm as a result of parent or caregiver substance. Children are often the first affected but the last recognized which puts them at risk for negative long-term challenges. In addition, drug endangered children are often the same children who are at risk for Familial Human Trafficking (FHT). Identifying these children as early as possible is critical in order to break the generational cycle of substance misuse.

Scope of the Youth Mental Health Crisis in Illinois: Research shows that 65–70% of youth involved in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health condition. This session explores how stigma reduction, early understanding of mental health needs, and supportive, public-health-oriented responses can help keep young people out of the justice system. Participants will learn about peer- and family-led, non-coercive models and reentry strategies that center lived experience, dignity, and community-driven support.

NCMEC's Holistic Approach to Missing Children - Online Exploitation, and Survivor-Centered Prevention

Protecting Children Online: NCMEC's Cyber Tipline, Emerging Trends and Takedown Tools:

From Paper to Practice - Running an Active Threat Exercise in K-12: Move beyond the binder and into action. This interactive session equips participants to design and run meaningful Active Threat Exercises that test readiness and strengthen coordination between schools and local police and fire, building confident and effective response teams.