

Introduction



THE ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act. Law Enforcement Agency Reporting Form

In accordance with the Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act. [725 ILCS 167/](#), the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is mandated to annually publish on its publicly available website information from Illinois law enforcement agencies on drones ownership, usage, and policies for the previous reporting period. In prior reporting cycles, agencies were asked to report activity through March 31 with an April 1 submission deadline. Feedback

indicated this timeline was difficult and resulted in incomplete reporting for the most recent period. To improve data completeness, consistency, and accuracy, ICJIA is requesting calendar-year-based reporting for the **Calendar Year 2025 (January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025)**

This approach allows agencies sufficient time to compile records, helps address data gaps from prior cycles, and supports standardized reporting across agencies.

Please fill out the form below:

Name of person
completing form

Title

Organization/agency

City

Email Address

How many drones did your agency own at any time during Calendar Year 2025 (January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025)?

How many times was a drone used by your agency during the Calendar Year 2025 (January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025)?
If used at least once, you will need to upload your flight logs.

Instructions for Saving and Uploading Files:

You may upload files up to 100MB (zip files allowed if needed). Please follow the naming format below to help us identify your submission.

Drone Flight Logs:

- Accepted formats: .xlsx, .xls, or .csv
- Include: date, time, reason, location, video recorded (Y/N), and video retention (Y/N)
- File name format:
 - **AgencyName_DronesUseCY2025**

Drone Policies:

- Preferred format: PDF
- File name format:
 - **AgencyName_DronesPolicy**

Instructions for Submitting Flight Logs - Calendar Year 2025

Pursuant to 725 ILCS 167/35, law enforcement agencies must submit information regarding each drone flight to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. To simplify this requirement, we ask that you upload your drone flight log for **Calendar Year 2025**: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. Prior to uploading your flight log, please read the following instructions.

For full statutory language and details, refer to [725 ILCS 167/35](#).

Because we are required to collect information from every law enforcement agency, we have developed a preferred format for flight log records. This includes: (1) the values that should be included in the flight log and (2) how they are recorded.

We understand that adapting your existing records to this format may require system changes. The layout we suggest is a preference intended to help us accurately and completely summarize the data in compliance with the Act. We appreciate

your efforts in aligning your records as closely as possible to this format. If it's not possible to abide precisely by the format, we understand, but simply ask that you meet it as closely as possible, then keep it under consideration. This same format will be requested in following years.

Data Dictionary - This table outlines requested fields and formats to include in your flight log, such as time, location, reason for use, and video retention status.

Field Name	Required	Description	Sample Value
Reason of Use (per 725 ILCS 167/15)	Yes	Number (1–10) representing the statutory reason justifying drone use. E.g., 1. Terrorism Threat; 2. Search Warrant; 3. Imminent Threat; etc. See Reason of Use table below.	4 or (4) Missing Person
Date of Use	Yes	Date the drone was used (Format: MM/DD/YYYY)	01/24/2024
Time of Use (Flight Start Time)	Yes	Start time the drone was used. Either time only (HH:MM:SS) or full date + time (MM/DD/YY HH:MM:SS) is acceptable. Preferred Time zone: CST . Both 24-hour format and 12-hour format are acceptable Note: If full date and time are included here and in the Flight End Time, a separate 'Date of Use' column is not required. If you cannot provide the time in CST, please indicate the time zone used	01/24/24 15:30:00 or 01/24/24 03:30:00 PM (if Date of Use is not provided in a separate column) or 03:30:00 PM
Time of Use (Flight End Time)	Yes	End time the drone was used. Either time only (HH:MM:SS) or full date + time (MM/DD/YY HH:MM:SS) is acceptable. Preferred Time zone: CST . Note: If full date and time are included here and in the Flight Start Time, a separate 'Date of Use' column is not required. If you cannot provide the time in CST, please indicate the time zone used	01/24/24 17:30:00 or 01/24/24 05:30:00 PM (if Date of Use is not provided in a separate column) or 05:30:00 PM
Duration (Minutes)	No	Duration of drone flight in minutes	120
Location	Yes	Geographic area or specific site where the drone was operated or where surveillance/data collection occurred	16800 Kedzie Ave, Hazel Crest, IL 60429, USA
Video Recorded	Yes	Was video recorded during the flight? (Y/N)	Y
Video Retained for Training	Yes	Was the video retained for training purposes? (Y/N)	N

Reason for Use– The reporting requirement in the Freedom from Drones Surveillance Act cites “reason for use” as a required element that must be reported. The Act also includes “exceptions” – legally permissible reasons that law enforcement agencies may use a drone (i.e., “exceptions” to the prohibition against use

of drones; 725 ILCS 167/15)

When reporting reasons for use in your flight logs, if currently possible given flight log output, please limit responses to one of the exceptions. These are listed below. If it is not currently possible, then please keep this request under consideration as the same format will be requested in following years.

You may use the short label provided below, or your own wording as long as it clearly aligns with one of the statutory reasons.

Label	Description
Terrorism Threat	To counter a high risk of terrorist attack when credible intelligence indicates a threat.
Search Warrant	With a search warrant under Section 108-3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
Imminent Threat	Where immediate action is needed to prevent imminent harm to life, escape, or destruction of evidence. 48-hour limit applies.
Missing Person Search	To locate missing persons, perform search/rescue, or aid in emergencies not tied to criminal investigations.
Crime or Crash Scene Photography	For documenting crime or crash scenes. Time-limited and geographically confined.
Disaster or Public Emergency Use	During or after a declared disaster or public health emergency to assess damage or coordinate response.
Infrastructure Inspection	To inspect critical infrastructure at the request of a local government.
Public Relations Demonstration	For public relations during events or demonstrations - no recordings allowed.
PSAP Dispatched Emergency	In response to 911 dispatch to locate victims or coordinate emergency response.
Special Event Monitoring	At permitted events with prior approval. Must comply with FAA safety regulations.

Recommended Formats

You may choose one of the following formats for each row in your flight log:

Option 1: Use of a separate "Date of Use" column

This option allows you to keep date and time fields strictly for start and end times, while listing the flight date separately.

Reason Of Use (per 725 ILCS 167/15)	Time of Use (Flight Start Time) CST	Time of Use (Flight End Time) CST	Duration(Minutes)	Location	Video Recorded	Video Retained for Training
4	1/12/2024 15:30	1/12/2024 17:30	120	600 Hart Road, Barrington, IL 60010	Y	N
2	1/13/2024 8:00	1/13/2024 10:00	120	630 W. Northwest Hwy., Barrington, IL 60010	Y	Y

Option 2: Embed Date within Time fields

This alternative allows you to include the full date and time in the start and end time fields, eliminating the need for a separate "Date of Use" column.

Reason Of Use (per 725 ILCS 167/15)	Date of Use	Time of Use (Flight Start Time) CST	Time of Use (Flight End Time) CST	Duration(Minutes)	Location	Video Recorded	Video Retained for Training
(4)Missing Person Search	1/12/2024	3:30:00 PM	5:30:00 PM	120	600 Hart Road, Barrington, IL 60010	Y	N
(2)Search Warrant	1/13/2024	8:00:00 AM	10:00:00 AM	120	630 W. Northwest Hwy., Barrington, IL 60010	Y	Y

Please upload your agency's **drone flight logs** from January 1,

2025, through December 31, 2025, using the recommended format above.

Does your agency have a written drone use policy?

Yes

No

Please upload your agency's current drone policy. Name your file using the format: AgencyName_DronesPolicy (e.g., SpringfieldPD_DronesPolicy). Preferred file format: PDF.

You indicated that your agency does not have a drone use policy. Please confirm this is correct before exiting the survey. If

you selected this by mistake, click the Back button to revise your response.

Yes, proceed to end the survey

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