

Who is JHA?

- JHA is the only independent citizen prison oversight organization in Illinois. JHA is a nonprofit organization and not part of, or funded by, the government.
- JHA is not a law firm, and does not litigate or provide individual legal representation.
- JHA believes that oversight is necessary to increase transparency and accountability.
- JHA believes that all people should be treated fairly and with dignity and respect; and advocates for a justice system that recognizes the fundamental human and constitutional rights of every person.

What does JHA do?

- JHA visits prisons to observe conditions of confinement and hear directly from people who are incarcerated and work there.
- JHA includes the information we learn through monitoring visits and the issues, concerns, ideas and experiences of the people who live and work inside of prisons in our system reform efforts.
- JHA works to make our system more fair, safe and humane; we advocate for a smaller, more rehabilitative system that relies on principles of proportional consequences and restorative justice.
- JHA reports findings from our visits, interviews, surveys and communications with people in prison, as well as their families and loved ones, and makes recommendations to improve conditions, policies, practices and treatment of people who are incarcerated.
- JHA informs decision makers, stakeholders and the public about the realities of prison.
- JHA provides information explaining correctional policies and practices so people can better advocate for improvement.

Write JHA to...

- **Report an issue or problem.** JHA uses the information you provide to learn about what is going on inside so that we can work to improve prisons and advance changes that will have a positive future impact. JHA does not have authority over governmental or IDOC operations.
- **Make a PREA report about sexual abuse or harassment.** JHA serves as the outside entity to receive these reports and forwards them to IDOC. We do not have the authority to investigate allegations. To make a report that you want forwarded to IDOC for investigation, write "Attention PREA" on the top of your letter inside the envelope. You can request to remain anonymous.
- **Share information** about prison policies and practices, your experiences, issues, concerns and ideas for improvement: we cannot reply individually to everyone who writes us, but your input and insight informs our work.

Remember...

- **Family and friends can contact JHA** via our website www.thejha.org or by leaving a message at 312.291.9183 x208 to inform us about what they are hearing from you in real time.
- **Write "PRIVILEGED MAIL"** on the envelope and seal the letter, if you want your letter to be confidential."