

# ENSURE REAL ACCOUNTABILITY

**Let's punish people for their actual involvement in a crime.**

**Currently, accountability theory in Illinois:**

- **Criminalizes survivors of gender-based violence** and holds them responsible for the actions of their abusive partners, even when they face threats.
- **Disproportionately affects young people** because they are more likely to act in groups and are more susceptible to peer pressure.
- **Ensnare people with intellectual disabilities** who are at a higher risk of being taken advantage of.

**Problem**

Under Illinois' accountability theory, you can be charged with and convicted of a crime you did not plan, agree to, participate in, or intend to commit, even if:

- You weren't present.
- You didn't know the crime would happen.
- The primary person responsible was acquitted or never charged.

**Example**



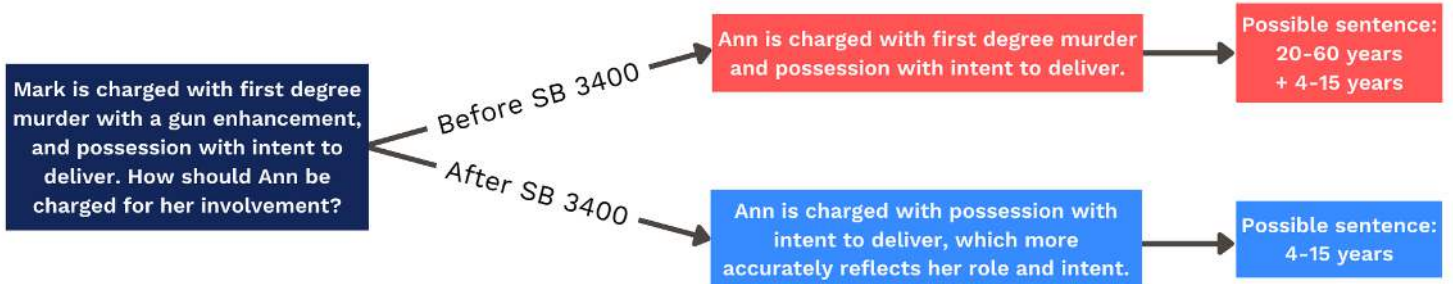
Mark and Ann are in a relationship. Mark abuses Ann. Mark sells drugs out of their apartment; Ann assists him.



A person arrives at their home to buy 2 grams of cocaine. Mark tells Ann to escort the buyer inside and stand in the hallway as lookout.



Ann remains outside. While she is in the hallway, shots ring out from the apartment and the buyer is killed.



**Solution**

SB 3400 would ensure people convicted under accountability are charged and sentenced based on their actual involvement in the crime. This bill:

1. Requires specific intent so a person is held **responsible for their intended actions**.
2. Ensures that the possible punishment matches the person's actual involvement.