

CHAPTER 1133

TAMPERING WITH WITNESSES, JURORS, OR REPORTING PARTIES — PENALTIES

H.F. 2250

AN ACT relating to tampering with witnesses, jurors, or reporting parties, and providing penalties.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. [Section 720.4](#), Code 2024, is amended by striking the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

720.4 Tampering with witnesses, jurors, or reporting parties.

1. As used in [this section](#):

a. “Juror” means the same as defined in [section 607A.3, subsection 5](#).

b. “Reporting party” means a person who does either of the following:

(1) Reports or attempts to report a public offense to any fire department, law enforcement agency, emergency communications center, or other public safety entity.

(2) Assists or attempts to assist a law enforcement agency or a prosecuting agency in any criminal investigation or judicial proceeding.

c. “Tampering” includes any of the following acts committed against a witness, juror, or reporting party:

(1) Bribery or an attempt to bribe.

(2) Threats.

(3) Forcible or fraudulent detaining or restraining.

(4) Harassment as described in [section 708.7, subsection 1](#).

(5) Assault as described in [section 708.1, subsection 2](#).

(6) Any other public offense.

d. “Witness” means a person who is summoned to testify in any judicial proceeding, arbitration, or legislative hearing, or who is listed in the minutes of evidence as provided in [rule of criminal procedure 2.4](#) or [2.5](#).

2. A person shall not do any of the following:

a. With the intent to improperly influence the testimony of an individual that the person believes is or may be a witness, to prevent such individual from testifying, to encourage such individual to disobey or avoid a subpoena or other legal process, or to encourage such individual to withhold evidence, information, or documents, or in retaliation for anything lawfully done by such an individual, tamper with a witness.

b. With the intent to improperly influence the decision of any individual that the person believes is or may be a juror, to prevent such individual from serving in a judicial proceeding, or in retaliation for anything lawfully done by such individual, tamper with a juror.

c. With the intent to improperly influence the statements of an individual that the person believes is or may be a reporting party, to prevent such individual from becoming a reporting party, to encourage such individual to disobey or avoid a subpoena or other legal process, or to encourage such individual to withhold evidence, information, or documents, or in retaliation for anything lawfully done by such an individual, tamper with a reporting party.

3. A person who tampers with a witness, juror, or reporting party, as described in [subsection 2](#), commits a public offense that shall be classified and punished as an offense one degree higher than the underlying offense, not to exceed a class “C” felony, but in no case shall the public offense be classified and punished lower than an aggravated misdemeanor.

Approved May 3, 2024