

# Wisconsin State Ratings Report

Human Rights for Kids (HRFK) annual state ratings process tracks the presence or absence of 12 categories of state statutes that are critical to protecting the human rights of children in the criminal justice system. It is important to note that these 12 categories are not exhaustive of all the important legislation needed to safeguard children's human rights. Furthermore, the ratings do not assess the effectiveness or implementation of these laws in the state. The purpose of the annual state ratings process is to document policies enacted by state legislatures, motivate legislators and policy advocates, and bring attention to the need to prioritize children in criminal justice reform and human rights advocacy. For each category, we track whether a state has a statute consistent with the described policy.

TOTAL POINTS:	3 out of 12
TIER RATING:	4

# 1. Due Process Protections at Point of Entry for Kids

No Credit: 0/1

There are no statutory protections in place requiring children to consult with their parents, legal guardians, or legal counsel prior to waiving their Miranda Rights or being subject to a custodial interrogation for proceedings in either juvenile or adult court.

# 2. Set a Minimum Age of at Least 10 for Juvenile Court

Full Credit: 1/1

Pursuant to §938.12, only children 10 years of age or older may be adjudicated delinquent in juvenile court.

### §938.12 Jurisdiction over juveniles alleged to be delinquent.

(1) IN GENERAL. The court has exclusive jurisdiction, except as provided in ss. 938.17, 938.18, and 938.183, over any juvenile 10 years of age or older who is alleged to be delinquent.

# 3. Set a Maximum Age of at Least 17 for Juvenile Court

No Credit: 0/1

Pursuant to §938.12, the jurisdiction of juvenile court only extends to children under 17 years of age. Therefore, Wisconsisn receives no credit.

### §938.12 Jurisdiction over juveniles alleged to be delinquent.

(2) SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLDS. If a petition alleging that a juvenile is delinquent is filed before the juvenile is 17 years of age, but the juvenile becomes 17 years of age before admitting the facts of the petition at the plea hearing or if the juvenile denies the facts, before an adjudication, the court retains jurisdiction over the case.

# 4. Ban Prosecuting Kids Under 14 as Adults <u>AND</u> Require a Child Status Hearings for All Kids 14+ Before Proceedings in Adult Court

No Credit: 0/1

Pursuant to §938.183, cases involving children 10 years of age or older who have committed certain offenses must be initiated in adult court. Since children less than 14 years of age may be prosecuted as adults, and a child status hearing is not always required for children 14 and older before proceeding against a child in adult court, Wisconsin receives no credit.

# § 938.18 Jurisdiction for criminal proceedings for juveniles 14 or older; waiver hearing.

(1) Waiver of Juvenile court jurisdiction; conditions for. Subject to s. 938.183, a petition requesting the court to waive its jurisdiction under this chapter may be filed if the juvenile meets any of the following conditions:

- (a) The juvenile is alleged to have violated s. 940.03, 940.06, 940.225
- (1) or (2), 940.305, 940.31, 943.10 (2), 943.32 (2), 943.87 or 961.41 (1) on or after the juvenile's 14th birthday.
- (b) The juvenile is alleged to have committed a violation on or after the juvenile's 14th birthday at the request of or for the benefit of a criminal gang, as defined in s. 939.22 (9), that would constitute a felony under chs. 939 to 948 or 961 if committed by an adult.
- (c) The juvenile is alleged to have violated any state criminal law on or after the juvenile's 15th birthday.
- (2) Petition. The petition for waiver of jurisdiction may be filed by the district attorney or the juvenile or may be initiated by the court and shall contain a brief statement of the facts supporting the request for waiver. The petition for waiver of jurisdiction shall be accompanied by or filed after the filing of a petition alleging delinquency and shall be filed prior to the plea hearing, except that if the juvenile denies the facts of the petition and becomes 17 years of age before an adjudication, the petition for waiver of jurisdiction may be filed at any time prior to the adjudication. If the court initiates the petition for waiver of jurisdiction, the judge shall disqualify himself or herself from any future proceedings on the case.

  (2m) Agency report. The court may designate an agency, as defined in s. 938.38 (1) (a), to submit a report analyzing the criteria specified in sub. (5). The agency shall file the report with the court and the court shall cause copies of the report to be given to the juvenile, any parent, guardian or legal custodian of the juvenile and
- file the report with the court and the court shall cause copies of the report to be given to the juvenile, any parent, guardian or legal custodian of the juvenile and counsel at least 3 days before the hearing. The court may rely on facts stated in the report in making its findings with respect to the criteria under sub. (5).
- (3) RIGHTS OF JUVENILE. All of the following apply at a waiver hearing under this section:
- (a) The juvenile shall be represented by counsel. Written notice of the time, place, and purpose of the hearing shall be given to the juvenile, any parent, guardian, or legal custodian, and counsel at least 3 days prior to the hearing. The notice shall contain a statement of the requirements of s. 938.29 (2) with regard to substitution of the judge. If parents entitled to notice have the same address, notice to one constitutes notice to the other. Counsel for the juvenile shall have access to the social records and other reports under s. 938.293.
- (b) The juvenile has the right to present testimony on his or her own behalf including expert testimony and has the right to cross-examine witnesses.
- (c) The juvenile does not have the right to a jury.
- (4) Prosecutive merit; contested or uncontested petition.
- (a) The court shall determine whether the matter has prosecutive merit before proceeding to determine if it should waive jurisdiction. If the court determines that the matter does not have prosecutive merit, the court shall deny the petition for waiver.
- (b) If a petition for waiver of jurisdiction is contested, the district attorney shall present relevant testimony and the court, after taking that testimony and

considering other relevant evidence, shall base its decision whether to waive jurisdiction on the criteria specified in sub. (5).

- (c) If a petition for waiver of jurisdiction is uncontested, the court shall inquire into the capacity of the juvenile to knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily decide not to contest the waiver of jurisdiction. If the court is satisfied that the decision not to contest the waiver of jurisdiction is knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily made, no testimony need be taken and the court, after considering the petition for waiver of jurisdiction and other relevant evidence in the record before the court, shall base its decision whether to waive jurisdiction on the criteria specified in sub. (5).
- (5) CRITERIA FOR WAIVER. If prosecutive merit is found, the court shall base its decision whether to waive jurisdiction on the following criteria:
- (a) The personality of the juvenile, including whether the juvenile has a mental illness or developmental disability, the juvenile's physical and mental maturity, and the juvenile's pattern of living, prior treatment history, and apparent potential for responding to future treatment.
- (am) The prior record of the juvenile, including whether the court has previously waived its jurisdiction over the juvenile, whether the juvenile has been previously convicted following a waiver of the court's jurisdiction or has been previously found delinquent, whether such conviction or delinquency involved the infliction of serious bodily injury, the juvenile's motives and attitudes, and the juvenile's prior offenses.
- (b) The type and seriousness of the offense, including whether it was against persons or property and the extent to which it was committed in a violent, aggressive, premeditated or willful manner.
- (c) The adequacy and suitability of facilities, services and procedures available for treatment of the juvenile and protection of the public within the juvenile justice system, and, where applicable, the mental health system and the suitability of the juvenile for placement in the serious juvenile offender program under s. 938.538 or the adult intensive sanctions program under s. 301.048.
- (d) The desirability of trial and disposition of the entire offense in one court if the juvenile was allegedly associated in the offense with persons who will be charged with a crime in the court of criminal jurisdiction.
- (6) Decision on waiver. After considering the criteria under sub. (5), the court shall state its finding with respect to the criteria on the record, and, if the court determines on the record that there is clear and convincing evidence that it is contrary to the best interests of the juvenile or of the public to hear the case, the court shall enter an order waiving jurisdiction and referring the matter to the district attorney for appropriate proceedings in the court of criminal jurisdiction. After the order, the court of criminal jurisdiction has exclusive jurisdiction.
- (7) JUVENILE WHO ABSCONDS. If the juvenile absconds and does not appear at the waiver hearing, the court may proceed with the waiver hearing as provided in subs. (4) to (6) in the juvenile's absence. If the waiver is granted, the juvenile may contest that waiver when the juvenile is apprehended by showing the court of criminal jurisdiction good cause for his or her failure to appear. If the court of criminal jurisdiction finds good cause for the juvenile's failure to appear, that court

- shall transfer jurisdiction to the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 48 for the purpose of holding the waiver hearing.
- (8) Transfer to adult facility; Bail. When waiver is granted, the juvenile, if held in secure custody, shall be transferred to an appropriate officer or adult facility and shall be eligible for bail in accordance with chs. 968 and 969.
- (9) Criminal Charge. If waiver is granted, sub. (1) does not restrict the authority of the district attorney to charge the offense he or she deems is appropriate and does not restrict the authority of any court or jury to convict the juvenile in regard to any offense.

### §938.183 Original adult court jurisdiction for criminal proceedings.

- (1) Juveniles under adult court jurisdiction. Notwithstanding ss. 938.12
- (1) and 938.18, courts of criminal jurisdiction have exclusive original jurisdiction over all of the following:
- (a) A juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent and who is alleged to have violated s. 940.20 (1) or 946.43 while placed in a juvenile correctional facility, a juvenile detention facility, or a secured residential care center for children and youth or who has been adjudicated delinquent and who is alleged to have committed a violation of s. 940.20 (2m).
- (am) A juvenile who is alleged to have attempted or committed a violation of s. 940.01 or to have committed a violation of s. 940.02 or 940.05 on or after the juvenile's 10th birthday.
- (ar) A juvenile specified in par. (a) or (am) who is alleged to have attempted or committed a violation of any state criminal law in addition to the violation alleged under par. (a) or (am) if the violation alleged under this paragraph and the violation alleged under par. (a) or (am) may be joined under s. 971.12 (1).
- (b) A juvenile who is alleged to have violated any state criminal law if the juvenile has been convicted of a previous violation following waiver of jurisdiction under s. 48.18, 1993 stats., or s. 938.18 by the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 48 or if the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 48 has waived its jurisdiction over the juvenile for a previous violation and criminal proceedings on that previous violation are still pending.
- (c) A juvenile who is alleged to have violated any state criminal law if the juvenile has been convicted of a previous violation over which the court of criminal jurisdiction had original jurisdiction under this section or if proceedings on a previous violation over which the court of criminal jurisdiction has original jurisdiction under this section are still pending.
- (1m) Criminal Penalties and Procedures. Notwithstanding subchs. IV to VI, a juvenile described in sub. (1) is subject to the procedures specified in chs. 967 to 979 and the criminal penalties for the crime that the juvenile is alleged to have committed except as follows:
- (a) If the juvenile is under 15 years of age, the juvenile may be held in secure custody only in a juvenile detention facility or in the juvenile portion of a county jail.

- (b) If a court of criminal jurisdiction transfers jurisdiction under s. 970.032 or 971.31 (13) to a court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 48, the juvenile is subject to the procedures and dispositions specified in subch. IV to VI.
- (c) If the juvenile is found to have committed a lesser offense than the offense alleged under sub. (1) (a), (am), (ar), (b) or (c) or is found to have committed the offense alleged under sub. (1) (ar), but not the offense under sub. (1) (a) or (am) to which the offense alleged under sub. (1) (ar) is joined, and if any of the following conditions applies, the court of criminal jurisdiction shall, in lieu of convicting the juvenile, adjudge the juvenile to be delinquent and impose a disposition specified in s. 938.34:
- 1. Except as provided in subd. 3., the court of criminal jurisdiction finds that the juvenile has committed a lesser offense or a joined offense that is not a violation of s. 940.20 (1) or (2m) or 946.43 under the circumstances described in sub. (1) (a), that is not an attempt to violate s. 940.01 under the circumstances described in sub. (1) (am), that is not a violation of s. 940.02 or 940.05 under the circumstances described in sub. (1) (am), and that is not an offense for which the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 48 may waive its jurisdiction over the juvenile under s. 938.18.
- 2. Except as provided in subd. 3., the court of criminal jurisdiction finds that the juvenile has committed a lesser offense or a joined offense that is a violation of s. 940.20 (1) or (2m) or 946.43 under the circumstances described in sub. (1) (a), that is an attempt to violate s. 940.01 under the circumstances described in sub. (1) (am), that is a violation of s. 940.02 or 940.05 under the circumstances described in sub. (1) (am), or that is an offense for which the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 48 may waive its jurisdiction over the juvenile under s. 938.18 and the court of criminal jurisdiction, after considering the criteria specified in s. 938.18 (5), determines that the juvenile has proved by clear and convincing evidence that it would be in the best interests of the juvenile and of the public to adjudge the juvenile to be delinquent and impose a disposition specified in s. 938.34.
- 3. For a juvenile who is alleged to have attempted or committed a violation of s. 940.01 or to have committed a violation of s. 940.02 or 940.05 on or after the juvenile's 15th birthday, the court of criminal jurisdiction finds that the juvenile has not attempted to commit a violation of s. 940.01 or committed a violation of s. 940.01, 940.02, or 940.05, and the court of criminal jurisdiction, after considering the criteria under s. 938.18 (5), determines that the juvenile has proved by clear and convincing evidence that it would be in the best interests of the juvenile and of the public to adjudge the juvenile to be delinquent and impose a disposition under s. 938.34.

# 5. Ban Mandatory Minimum Sentencing for Kids

No Credit: 0/1

There is no statutory provision allowing judges to depart from any mandatory minimum sentence once a child has been convicted in adult criminal court.

# 6. Ban Felony-Murder Rule for Kids

No Credit: 0/1

Pursuant to §940.03, a child may be convicted under the felony murder rule.

# §940.03 Felony murder.

Whoever causes the death of another human being while committing or attempting to commit a crime specified in s. 940.19, 940.195, 940.20, 940.201, 940.203, 940.225 (1) or (2) (a), 940.30, 940.31, 943.02, 943.10 (2), 943.23 (1g), or 943.32 (2) may be imprisoned for not more than 15 years in excess of the maximum term of imprisonment provided by law for that crime or attempt.

### 7. Ban Life Without Parole Sentences for Kids

No Credit: 0/1

There are no statutory provisions prohibiting life without parole sentences for children. Therefore, Wisconsin receives no credit.

# §973.014 Sentence of life imprisonment; parole eligibility determination; extended supervision eligibility determination.

- (1) Except as provided in sub. (2), when a court sentences a person to life imprisonment for a crime committed on or after July 1, 1988, but before December 31, 1999, the court shall make a parole eligibility determination regarding the person and choose one of the following options:
- (a) The person is eligible for parole under s. 304.06 (1).
- (b) The person is eligible for parole on a date set by the court. Under this paragraph, the court may set any later date than that provided in s. 304.06 (1), but may not set a date that occurs before the earliest possible parole eligibility date as calculated under s. 304.06 (1).
- (c) The person is not eligible for parole. This paragraph applies only if the court sentences a person for a crime committed on or after August 31, 1995, but before December 31, 1999.
- (1g) (a) Except as provided in sub. (2), when a court sentences a person to life imprisonment for a crime committed on or after December 31, 1999, the court shall

make an extended supervision eligibility date determination regarding the person and choose one of the following options:

- 1. The person is eligible for release to extended supervision after serving 20 years.
- 2. The person is eligible for release to extended supervision on a date set by the court. Under this subdivision, the court may set any later date than that provided in subd. 1., but may not set a date that occurs before the earliest possible date under subd. 1.
- 3. The person is not eligible for release to extended supervision.
- (b) When sentencing a person to life imprisonment under par. (a), the court shall inform the person of the provisions of s. 302.114 (3) and the procedure for petitioning under s. 302.114 (5) for release to extended supervision.
- (c) A person sentenced to life imprisonment under par. (a) is not eligible for release on parole.
- (2) When a court sentences a person to life imprisonment under s. 939.62 (2m) (c), the court shall provide that the sentence is without the possibility of parole or extended supervision.

# 8. Release Safety Valve for Kids Serving Lengthy Prison Sentences

No Credit: 0/1

There is no statutory provision allowing judges or the parole board to review the sentences of every child convicted in criminal court after a reasonable period of incarceration.

# 9. Ban Solitary Confinement for Kids

No Credit: 0/1

There are no statutory provisions banning the use of solitary confinement for children in both juvenile and adult correctional facilities.

# §302.40 Discipline; solitary confinement.

For violating the rules of the jail, an inmate may be kept in solitary confinement, under the care and advice of a physician, but not over 10 days.

#### §302.10 Solitary confinement.

For violation of the rules of the prison an inmate may be confined to a solitary cell, under the care and advice of the physician.

### 10. Ban Incarcerating Kids with Adults

No Credit: 0/1

Pursuant to §938.209, children may be incarcerated in adult facilities.

### §938.183 Original adult court jurisdiction for criminal proceedings.

(3) Placement in State Prison; parole. When a juvenile who is subject to a criminal penalty under sub. (1m) or s. 938.183 (2), 2003 stats., attains the age of 17 years, the department of corrections may place the juvenile in a state prison named in s. 302.01, except that that department may not place any person under the age of 18 years in the correctional institution authorized in s. 301.16 (1n). A juvenile who is subject to a criminal penalty under sub. (1m) or under s. 938.183 (2), 2003 stats., for an act committed before December 31, 1999, is eligible for parole under s. 304.06.

# §938.209 Criteria for holding a juvenile in a county jail or a municipal lockup facility.

- (1) COUNTY JAIL. Subject to s. <u>938.208</u>, a county jail may be used as a juvenile detention facility if the criteria under either par. (a) or (b) are met:
- **(a)** No other juvenile detention facility approved by the department of corrections or a county is available and all of the following conditions are met:
- 1. The jail meets the standards for juvenile detention facilities established by the department of corrections.
- 2. The juvenile is held in a room separated and removed from incarcerated adults.
- **3.** The juvenile is not held in a cell designed for the administrative or disciplinary segregation of adults.
- 4. Adequate supervision is provided.
- **5.** The court reviews the status of the juvenile every 3 days.
- **(b)** The juvenile presents a substantial risk of physical harm to other persons in the juvenile detention facility, as evidenced by previous acts or attempts, which can only be avoided by transfer to the jail. The conditions of par. (a) 1. to 5. shall be met. The juvenile shall be given a hearing and may be transferred only upon a court order. **(2m)** Municipal Lockup.
- (a) A juvenile who is alleged to have committed a delinquent act may be held in a municipal lockup facility if all of the following criteria are met:
- **1.** The department of corrections has approved the municipal lockup facility as a suitable place for holding juveniles in custody.
- **2.** The juvenile is held in the municipal lockup facility for not more than 6 hours while awaiting his or her hearing under s. <u>938.21 (1) (a)</u>.
- **3.** There is sight and sound separation between the juvenile and any adult who is being held in the municipal lockup facility.
- 4. The juvenile is held for investigative purposes only.
- **(b)** The department of corrections shall promulgate rules establishing minimum requirements for the approval of a municipal lockup facility as a suitable place for

holding juveniles in custody and for the operation of such a facility. The rules shall be designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the juveniles held in those facilities.

(3) JUVENILES UNDER ADULT COURT JURISDICTION. The restrictions of this section do not apply to the use of jail for a juvenile who has been waived to adult court under s. <u>938.18</u> or who is under the jurisdiction of an adult court under s. <u>938.183</u>, unless the juvenile is under the jurisdiction of an adult court under s. <u>938.183 (1)</u> and is under 15 years of age.

# §938.21 Hearing for juvenile in custody.

(1) Hearing; when held.

(a) If a juvenile who has been taken into custody is not released under s. 938.20, a hearing to determine whether to continue to hold the juvenile in custody under the criteria of ss. 938.205 to 938.209 (1) shall be conducted by the court within 24 hours after the end of the day on which the decision to hold the juvenile was made, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. By the time of the hearing a petition under s. 938.25 or a request for a change in placement under s. 938.357, a request for a revision of the dispositional order under s. 938.363, or a request for an extension of a dispositional order under s. 938.365 shall be filed, except that no petition or request need be filed if a juvenile is taken into custody under s. 938.19 (1) (b) or (d) 2., 6., or 7. or if the juvenile is a runaway from another state, in which case a written statement of the reasons for holding a juvenile in custody shall be substituted if the petition is not filed. If no hearing has been held within 24 hours or if no petition, request, or statement has been filed at the time of the hearing, the juvenile shall be released except as provided in par. (b). The court shall grant a rehearing upon request of a parent not present at the hearing for good cause shown. (b) If no petition or request has been filed by the time of the hearing, a juvenile may be held in custody with the approval of the court for an additional 48 hours from the time of the hearing only if, as a result of the facts brought forth at the hearing, the court determines that probable cause exists to believe that the juvenile is an imminent danger to himself or herself or to others, or that probable cause exists to believe that the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the juvenile or other responsible adult is neglecting, refusing, unable, or unavailable to provide adequate supervision and care. The extension may be granted only once for any petition. If a petition or request is not filed within the 48-hour extension period under this paragraph, the court shall order the juvenile's immediate release from custody.

# 11. Ban Mandatory Post-Release Lifetime Supervision

Full Credit: 1/1

Pursuant to §302.11, formerly incarcerated children may be discharged from supervision at the discretion of the department.

### §302.11 Mandatory release.

- (1) The warden or superintendent shall keep a record of the conduct of each inmate, specifying each infraction of the rules. Except as provided in subs. (1g), (1m), (1q), (1z), and (7), each inmate is entitled to mandatory release on parole by the department. The mandatory release date is established at two-thirds of the sentence. Any calculations under this subsection or sub. (1q) (b) or (2) (b) resulting in fractions of a day shall be rounded in the inmate's favor to a whole day.
- (1g) (a) In this subsection, "serious felony" means any of the following:
- 1. Any felony under s. 961.41 (1), (1m) or (1x) if the felony is punishable by a maximum prison term of 30 years or more.
- 2. Any felony under s. 940.09 (1), 1999 stats., s. 943.23 (1m), 1999 stats., s. 948.35 (1) (b) or (c), 1999 stats., or s. 948.36, 1999 stats., or
- s. 940.02, 940.03, 940.05, 940.09 (1c), 940.19 (5), 940.195 (5), 940.21, 940.225
- (1) or (2), 940.305 (2), 940.31 (1) or (2) (b), 943.02, 943.10 (2), 943.23 (1g), 943.32
- (2), 946.43 (1m), 948.02 (1) or (2), 948.025, 948.03 (2) (a) or (c) or (5) (a) 1., 2., 3., or 4., 948.05, 948.06, 948.07, 948.08, or 948.30 (2).
- 3. The solicitation, conspiracy or attempt, under s. 939.30, 939.31 or 939.32, to commit a Class A felony.
- (am) The mandatory release date established in sub. (1) is a presumptive mandatory release date for an inmate who is serving a sentence for a serious felony committed on or after April 21, 1994, but before December 31, 1999.
- (b) Before an incarcerated inmate with a presumptive mandatory release date reaches the presumptive mandatory release date specified under par. (am), the parole commission shall proceed under s. 304.06 (1) to consider whether to deny presumptive mandatory release to the inmate. If the parole commission does not deny presumptive mandatory release, the inmate shall be released on parole. The parole commission may deny presumptive mandatory release to an inmate only on one or more of the following grounds:
- 1. Protection of the public.
- 2. Refusal by the inmate to participate in counseling or treatment that the social service and clinical staff of the institution determines is necessary for the inmate, including pharmacological treatment using an antiandrogen or the chemical equivalent of an antiandrogen if the inmate is a serious child sex offender as defined in s. 304.06 (1q) (a). The parole commission may not deny presumptive mandatory release to an inmate because of the inmate's refusal to participate in a rehabilitation program under s. 301.047.
- (c) If the parole commission denies presumptive mandatory release to an inmate under par. (b), the parole commission shall schedule regular reviews of the inmate's case to consider whether to parole the inmate under s. 304.06 (1).
- (d) An inmate may seek review of a decision by the parole commission relating to the denial of presumptive mandatory release only by the common law writ of certiorari.

(6) Any inmate released on parole under sub. (1) or (1g) (b) or s. 304.02 or 304.06 (1) is subject to all conditions and rules of parole until the expiration of the sentence or until he or she is discharged by the department. Except as provided in ch. 304, releases from prison shall be on the Tuesday or Wednesday preceding the release date. The department may discharge a parolee on or after his or her mandatory release date or after 2 years of supervision. Any inmate sentenced to the intensive sanctions program who is released on parole under sub. (1) or s. 304.02 or 304.06 (1) remains in the program unless discharged by the department under s. 301.048 (6) (a).

### 12. Voting Rights Restoration

Full Credit: 1/1

Pursuant to §304.078, formerly incarcerated children who have reached voting age may vote upon discharge from probation or imprisonment.

### §304.078 Restoration of civil rights of convicted persons.

- (1) In this section:
- (a) "Imprisonment" includes parole and extended supervision.
- (b) "Jailer" has the meaning given in s. 302.372 (1) (b).
- (2) Except as provided in sub. (3), every person who is convicted of a crime obtains a restoration of his or her civil rights by serving out his or her term of imprisonment or otherwise satisfying his or her sentence. The certificate of the department or other responsible supervising agency that a convicted person has served his or her sentence or otherwise satisfied the judgment against him or her is evidence of that fact and that the person is restored to his or her civil rights. The department or other agency shall list in the person's certificate rights which have been restored and which have not been restored. Persons who served out their terms of imprisonment or otherwise satisfied their sentences prior to August 14, 1947, are likewise restored to their civil rights from and after September 25, 1959.
- (3) If a person is disqualified from voting under s. 6.03 (1) (b), his or her right to vote is restored when he or she completes the term of imprisonment or probation for the crime that led to the disqualification. The department or, if the person is sentenced to a county jail or house of correction, the jailer shall inform the person in writing at the time his or her right to vote is restored under this subsection.