



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 39
[2009 Senate Bill 167]

**Youth Firearm Possession and
Mentored Youth Hunting**

This Act allows the possession of a firearm by a person under 12 years of age for target practice if the person is accompanied by his or her parent or guardian or by an adult who is designated by the parent or guardian.

The Act also creates a hunting mentorship program under which a person age 10 or older can hunt without first completing a hunter education course if the person is licensed and accompanied by a qualified mentor who stays within arms reach of the person when hunting. Qualified mentors must be at least 18 years old, must be a parent or guardian or authorized by a parent or guardian (unless mentee is over 18 years old), must have completed hunter education if the requirement applies to them, and must be licensed. Mentors may only mentor one person at a time and the mentor and the mentee may only have a total of one firearm, crossbow, or bow in their possession or control while hunting.

The Act also allows a young person to possess a firearm in certain situations in which the young person is under the supervision of an adult designated by a parent or guardian and allows the use of a crossbow for hunting by persons 12 years of age or older on family land if no license is required to hunt the species being hunted, among other conditions.

Effective Date: September 1, 2009.

Prepared by: Larry Konopacki, Staff Attorney

August 21, 2009

LAK:ksm

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.