



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

2005 Wisconsin Act 244
[2005 Assembly Bill 971]

**Distribution of Report on Criminal
Defendant's Examination by a
Physician or Psychologist**

Current law provides that if the mental responsibility of a defendant is relevant in a criminal action, the court may appoint a physician or psychologist to examine the defendant and testify at trial. The defense or prosecution may also arrange for a physician or psychologist to examine the defendant.

2005 Wisconsin Act 244 provides that a physician or psychologist selected by the defense or prosecution may not testify at trial unless the examiner's report is provided to opposing counsel at least **15 days** before trial. Under *prior law*, the report was required to be provided to opposing counsel at least **three days** before trial.

Effective Date: Act 244 took effect on April 13, 2006.

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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/>.