

## CHAPTER 946

## CRIMES AGAINST GOVERNMENT AND ITS ADMINISTRATION

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## TREASON AND DISLOYAL ACTS.

**946.01 Treason. (1)** Any person owing allegiance to this state who does any of the following is guilty of a Class A felony:

- (a) Levies war against this state; or
- (b) Adheres to the enemies of this state, giving them aid and comfort.

**(2)** No person may be convicted of treason except on the testimony of 2 witnesses to the same overt act, or on his confession in open court.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.02 Sabotage. (1)** Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class C felony:

- (a) Intentionally damages, interferes with, or tampers with any property with reasonable grounds to believe that his act will hinder, delay, or interfere with the prosecution of war or other military action or the preparation for defense, war, or other military action by the United States or its allies; or
- (b) Intentionally makes a defective article or on inspection omits to note any defect in an article with reasonable grounds to believe that such article is intended to be used in the prosecution of war or other military action or the preparation for defense, war, or other military action by the United States or its allies.

**(2)** Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair, curtail, or destroy the rights of employes and their representatives to self-organization, to form, join or assist labor organization, to strike, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, or to engage in lawful concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection under any state or federal statutes regulating labor relations.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.03 Sedition. (1)** Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class C felony:

(a) Attempts the overthrow of the government of the United States or this state by the use or threat of physical violence; or

(b) Is a party to a conspiracy with or a solicitation of another to overthrow the government of the United States or this state by the use or threat of physical violence; or

(c) Advocates or teaches the duty, necessity, desirability or propriety of overthrowing the government of the United States or this state by the use or threat of physical violence with intent that such government be overthrown; or

(d) Organizes or assists in the organization of an assembly with knowledge that the purpose of the assembly is to advocate or teach the duty, necessity, desirability or propriety of overthrowing the government of the United States or this state by the use or threat of physical violence with intent that such government be overthrown.

**(2)** Whoever permits any premises under his or her care, control or supervision to be used by an assembly with knowledge that the purpose of the assembly is to advocate or teach the duty, necessity, desirability or propriety of overthrowing the government of the United States or this state by the use or threat of physical violence with intent that such government be overthrown or, after learning that the premises are being so used, permits such use to be continued is guilty of a Class E felony.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.05 Flag desecration. (1)** Whoever intentionally and publicly mutilates, defiles, or casts contempt upon the flag is guilty of a Class E felony.

**(2)** In this section "flag" means anything which is or purports to be the Stars and Stripes, the United States shield, the United States coat of arms, the Wisconsin state flag, or a copy, picture, or representation of any of them.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.06 Improper use of the flag. (1)** Whoever intentionally does any of the following is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor:

(a) Places on or attaches to the flag any word, mark, design, or advertisement not properly a part of such flag; or

(b) Exposes to public view a flag upon which has been placed or attached a word, mark, design, or advertisement not properly a part of such flag; or

(c) Manufactures or exposes to public view an article of merchandise or a wrapper or receptacle for merchandise upon which the flag is depicted; or

(d) Uses the flag for commercial advertising purposes.

(2) This section does not apply to flags depicted on written or printed documents or periodicals or on stationery, ornaments, pictures, or jewelry, provided there are no unauthorized words or designs on such flag and provided the flag is not connected with any advertisement.

(3) In this section "flag" has the meaning designated in s. 946.05.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

See note to Art. I, sec. 3, citing *Spence v. State of Washington*, 418 US 405.

### BRIBERY AND OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT.

**946.10 Bribery of public officers and employees.** Whoever does either of the following is guilty of a Class D felony:

(1) Whoever, with intent to influence the conduct of any public officer or public employe in relation to any matter which by law is pending or might come before him in his capacity as such officer or employe or with intent to induce him to do or omit to do any act in violation of his lawful duty transfers or promises to him or on his behalf any property or any personal advantage which he is not authorized to receive; or

(2) Any public officer or public employe who directly or indirectly accepts or offers to accept any property or any personal advantage, which he is not authorized to receive, pursuant to an understanding that he will act in a certain manner in relation to any matter which by law is pending or might come before him in his capacity as such officer or employe or that he will do or omit to do any act in violation of his lawful duty.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

Circumstantial evidence supported inference that defendant intended to influence public official's actions. *State v. Rosenfeld*, 93 W (2d) 325, 286 NW (2d) 596 (1980).

**946.11 Special privileges from public utilities. (1)** Whoever does the following is guilty of a Class E felony:

(a) Whoever offers or gives for any purpose to any public officer or to any person at the request or for the advantage of such officer any free pass or frank, or any privilege withheld from any person, for the traveling accommodation or transportation of any person or property or for the transmission of any message or communication; or

(b) Any public officer who asks for or accepts from any person or uses in any manner or for any purpose any free pass or frank, or any privilege withheld from any person for the traveling accommodation or transportation of any person or property or for the transmission of any message or communication; or

(c) Any public utility or agent or officer thereof who offers or gives for any purpose to any public officer or to any person at the request or for the advantage of such officer, any frank or any privilege withheld from any person for any product or service produced, transmitted, delivered, furnished or rendered or to be produced, transmitted, delivered, furnished or rendered by any public utility, or any free product or service whatsoever; or

(d) Any public officer who asks for or accepts or uses in any manner or for any purpose any frank or privilege withheld from any person for any product or service produced, transmitted, delivered, furnished or rendered by any public utility.

(2) In this section:

(a) "Free pass" means any form of ticket or mileage entitling the holder to travel over any part of a railroad or other public transportation system and issued to the holder as a gift or in consideration or partial consideration of any service performed or to be performed by such holder, except that it does not include such ticket or mileage when issued to an employe of the railroad or public transportation system pursuant to a contract of employment and not in excess of the transportation rights of other employes of the same class and seniority, nor does it include free transportation to police officers or fire fighters when on duty;

(b) "Privilege" has the meaning designated under s. 11.40;

(c) "Public utility" has the meaning designated in s. 196.01.

(3) This section does not apply to notaries public and regular employes or pensioners of a railroad or other public utility who hold public offices for which the annual compensation is not more than \$300 to whom no passes or privileges are extended beyond those which are extended to other regular employes or pensioners of such corporation.

**History:** 1975 c. 93; 1977 c. 173; 1985 a. 135.

**946.12 Misconduct in public office.** Any public officer or public employe who does any of the following is guilty of a Class E felony:

(1) Intentionally fails or refuses to perform a known mandatory, nondiscretionary, ministerial duty of his office or employment within the time or in the manner required by law; or

(2) In his capacity as such officer or employe, does an act which he knows is in excess of his lawful authority or which he knows he is forbidden by law to do in his official capacity; or

(3) Whether by act of commission or omission, in his capacity as such officer or employe exercises a discretionary power in a manner inconsistent with the duties of his office or employment or the rights of others and with intent to obtain a dishonest advantage for himself or another; or

(4) In his capacity as such officer or employe, makes an entry in an account or record book or return, certificate, report or statement which in a material respect he intentionally falsifies; or

(5) Under color of his office or employment, intentionally solicits or accepts for the performance of any service or duty anything of value which he knows is greater or less than is fixed by law.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

Sub. (5) prohibits misconduct in public office with constitutional specificity. *Ryan v. State*, 79 W (2d) 83, 255 NW (2d) 910.

Sub. (3) applies to corrupt act under color of office and under de facto powers conferred by practice and usage. Person not a public officer may be charged with party to the crime of official misconduct. *State v. Tronca*, 84 W (2d) 68, 267 NW (2d) 216 (1978).

On-duty prison guard did not violate (2) by fornicating with prisoner in cell. *State v. Schmit*, 115 W (2d) 657, 340 NW (2d) 752 (Ct. App. 1983).

**946.13 Private interest in public contract prohibited. (1)** Any public officer or public employe who does any of the following is guilty of a Class E felony:

(a) In his private capacity, negotiates or bids for or enters into a contract in which he has a private pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, if at the same time he is authorized or required by law to participate in his capacity as such officer or employe in the making of that contract or to perform in

regard to that contract some official function requiring the exercise of discretion on his part; or

(b) In his capacity as such officer or employe, participates in the making of a contract in which he has a private pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, or performs in regard to that contract some function requiring the exercise of discretion on his part.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the following:

(a) Contracts in which any single public officer or employe is privately interested which do not involve receipts and disbursements by the state or its political subdivision aggregating more than \$5,000 in any year.

(b) Contracts involving the deposit of public funds in public depositories; or

(c) Contracts involving loans made pursuant to s. 67.12; or

(d) Contracts for the publication of legal notices required to be published, provided such notices are published at a rate not higher than that prescribed by law; or

(e) Contracts for the issuance to a public officer or employe of tax titles, tax sale certificates, or instruments representing an interest in, or secured by, any fund consisting in whole or in part of taxes in the process of collection, provided such titles, certificates, or instruments are issued in payment of salary or other obligations due such officer or employe; or

(f) Contracts for the sale of bonds or securities issued by a political subdivision of the state; provided such bonds or securities are sold at a bona fide public sale to the highest bidder and the public officer or employe acquiring the private interest has no duty to vote upon the issuance of the bonds or securities.

(3) A contract entered into in violation of this section is void and the state or the political subdivision in whose behalf the contract was made incurs no liability thereon.

(4) In this section "contract" includes a conveyance.

(5) Subsection (1) (b) shall not apply to a public officer or public employe by reason of his holding not more than 2% of the outstanding capital stock of a corporate body involved in such contract.

(6) Subsection (3) shall not apply to contracts creating a public debt, as defined in s. 18.01 (4), if the requirements of s. 18.14 (1) have been met. No evidence of indebtedness, as defined in s. 18.01 (3), shall be invalidated on account of a violation of this section by a public officer or public employe, but such officer or employe and the surety on his official bond shall be liable to the state for any loss to it occasioned by such violation.

(7) Subsection (1) shall not apply to any public officer or public employe, who receives compensation for his services as such officer or employe, exclusive of advances or reimbursements for expenses, of less than \$10,000 per year, merely by reason of his being a director, officer, employe, agent or attorney of or for a state or national bank, savings bank or trust company, or any holding company thereof. This subsection shall not apply to any such person whose compensation by such financial institution is directly dependent upon procuring public business. Compensation determined by longevity, general quality of work or the overall performance and condition of such financial institution shall not be deemed compensation directly dependent upon procuring public business.

(8) Subsection (1) shall not apply to contracts or transactions made or consummated or bonds issued under s. 66.521.

(9) Subsection (1) does not apply to the member of a local committee appointed under s. 144.445 (7) (a) acting as a

member of that committee in negotiation, arbitration or ratification of agreements under s. 144.445.

**History:** 1971 c. 40 s. 93; 1973 c. 12 s. 37; 1973 c. 50, 265; 1977 c. 166, 173; 1983 a. 282.

Conviction of a county board member of violation of (1) by accepting a job as airport manager at a time when he was a member of the county board, which was a cosponsor and co-owner of the airport, is reversed under evidence that he was appointed pursuant to advice and approval of the county corporation counsel. *State v. Davis*, 63 W (2d) 75, 216 NW (2d) 31.

County board member employed by engineering and survey firm may have possible conflict of interest in public contracts. 60 Atty. Gen. 98.

A member of the Wisconsin board of vocational, technical and adult education may not bid on and contract for the construction of a building project for a vocational-technical district which would entail expenditures exceeding \$2,000 in any year, where availability of federal funds for use on such project is subject to his approval as a member of such board. 60 Atty. Gen. 310.

Discussion of conflicts arising from election of a school principal to the office of alderman. 60 Atty. Gen. 367.

Appointment of counsel for indigent involves a public contract. 62 Atty. Gen. 118.

County supervisor who is pharmacist probably does not violate this section in furnishing prescription services to medicaid patients where state is solely liable for payment. 64 Atty. Gen. 108.

**946.14 Purchasing claims at less than full value.** Any public officer or public employe who in a private capacity directly or indirectly intentionally purchases for less than full value or discounts any claim held by another against the state or a political subdivision thereof or against any public fund is guilty of a Class E felony.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

**946.15 Public construction contracts at less than full rate.**

(1) Any employer, or any agent or employe of an employer, who induces any person employed pursuant to a public contract as defined in s. 66.29 (1) (c) or employed on a project on which a prevailing wage rate has been established by the department of industry, labor and human relations under s. 66.293 (3) to give up, waive or return any part of the compensation to which that person is entitled under his or her contract of employment or under the prevailing wage determination made by the department is guilty of a Class E felony.

(2) Any person employed pursuant to a public contract as defined in s. 66.29 (1) (c) or employed on a project on which a prevailing wage has been established by the department of industry, labor and human relations under s. 66.293 (3) who gives up, waives or returns to the employer or agent of the employer any part of the compensation to which the employe is entitled under his or her contract of employment or under the prevailing wage determination made by the department is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

**History:** 1979 c. 269.

**946.16 Judicial officer collecting claims.** Any judicial officer who causes to be brought in a court over which the officer presides any action or proceeding upon a claim placed with the officer as agent or attorney for collection is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

**946.17 Corrupt means to influence legislation; disclosure of interest.**

Any person who gives or agrees or offers to give any thing of value to any person, for the service of such person or of any other person in procuring the passage or defeat of any measure before the legislature or before either house or any committee thereof, upon the contingency or condition of the passage or defeat of the measure, or who receives, or agrees to receive any thing of value for such service, upon any such contingency or condition, or who, having a pecuniary or other interest, or acting as the agent or attorney of any person in procuring or attempting to procure the passage or defeat of any measure before the legislature or before either house or any committee thereof, attempts in any manner to influence any member of the legislature for or

against the measure, without first making known to the member the real and true interest he or she has in the measure, either personally or as such agent or attorney, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

History: 1977 c. 278 s. 1.

**946.18 Misconduct sections apply to all public officers.** Sections 946.10 to 946.17 apply to public officers, whether legally constituted or exercising powers as if legally constituted.

History: 1977 c. 278; 1979 c. 110.

#### PERJURY AND FALSE SWEARING.

**946.31 Perjury. (1)** Whoever under oath or affirmation orally makes a false material statement which the person does not believe to be true, in any matter, cause, action or proceeding, before any of the following, whether legally constituted or exercising powers as if legally constituted, is guilty of a Class D felony:

- (a) A court;
  - (b) A magistrate;
  - (c) A judge, referee or court commissioner;
  - (d) An administrative agency or arbitrator authorized by statute to determine issues of fact;
  - (e) A notary public while taking testimony for use in an action or proceeding pending in court;
  - (f) An officer authorized to conduct inquests of the dead;
  - (g) A grand jury;
  - (h) A legislative body or committee.
- (2) It is not a defense to a prosecution under this section that the perjured testimony was corrected or retracted.

History: 1977 c. 173; 1979 c. 110.

Arbitrator selected from list provided by WERC is authorized by 111.10 to arbitrate as provided in ch. 298 and so is "authorized by statute" within meaning of 946.31 (1)(d). *Layton School of Art & Design v. WERC*, 82 W (2d) 324, 262 NW (2d) 218.

**946.32 False swearing. (1)** Whoever does either of the following is guilty of a Class D felony:

(a) Under oath or affirmation makes or subscribes a false statement which he does not believe is true, when such oath or affirmation is authorized or required by law or is required by any public officer or governmental agency as a prerequisite to such officer or agency taking some official action.

(b) Makes or subscribes 2 inconsistent statements under oath or affirmation in regard to any matter respecting which an oath or affirmation is, in each case, authorized or required by law or required by any public officer or governmental agency as a prerequisite to such officer or agency taking some official action, under circumstances which demonstrate that the witness or subscriber knew at least one of the statements to be false when made. The period of limitations within which prosecution may be commenced runs from the time of the first statement.

(2) Whoever under oath or affirmation makes or subscribes a false statement which the person does not believe is true is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

History: 1977 c. 173.

This section also applies to oral statement. Mere fact that statement is permitted by law does not mean it is "authorized by law" within meaning of (1) (a). *State v. Devitt*, 82 W (2d) 262, 262 NW (2d) 73.

#### INTERFERENCE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT.

**946.40 Refusing to aid officer. (1)** Whoever, without reasonable excuse, refuses or fails, upon command, to aid any person known by the person to be a peace officer is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

(2) This section does not apply if under the circumstances the officer was not authorized to command such assistance.

History: 1977 c. 173.

See note to 343.305, citing 68 Atty. Gen. 209.

In certain circumstances peace officer may command medical staff at hospital or clinic to gather evidence from sexual assault victim. 72 Atty. Gen. 107.

**946.41 Resisting or obstructing officer. (1)** Whoever knowingly resists or obstructs an officer while such officer is doing any act in an official capacity and with lawful authority, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) In this section:

(a) "Obstructs" includes without limitation knowingly giving false information to the officer with intent to mislead him in the performance of his duty including the service of any summons or civil process.

(b) "Officer" means a peace officer or other public officer or public employe having the authority by virtue of his office or employment to take another into custody.

(3) Whoever by violating this section hinders, delays or prevents an officer from properly serving or executing any summons or civil process, is civilly liable to the person injured for any actual loss caused thereby and to the officer or his superior for any damages adjudged against either of them by reason thereof.

History: 1977 c. 173; 1983 a. 189.

Constable was acting in official capacity under 60.54 (6) when investigating disturbance. *State v. Christensen*, 100 W (2d) 507, 302 NW (2d) 448 (1981).

State must prove that accused knew officer was acting in official capacity and knew officer was acting with lawful authority when accused allegedly resisted or obstructed officer. *State v. Lossman*, 118 W (2d) 526, 348 NW (2d) 159 (1984).

Defendant's refusal to identify self did not obstruct officer. *State v. Hamilton*, 120 W (2d) 532, 356 NW (2d) 169 (1984).

**946.42 Escape. (1)** Any person in custody under any of the following circumstances who intentionally escapes from custody is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor:

(a) Pursuant to a legal arrest for a misdemeanor, statutory traffic regulation, statutory offense for which the penalty is a forfeiture or violation of a municipal ordinance.

(b) Lawfully charged with or convicted of a misdemeanor, statutory traffic regulation, statutory offense for which the penalty is a forfeiture or violation of a municipal ordinance.

(c) Pursuant to a civil arrest or body execution.

(d) Lawfully taken into custody under s. 48.19 for a violation of any of the following:

1. A criminal law that is a misdemeanor.
2. A statutory traffic regulation.
3. A statutory provision for which the penalty is a forfeiture.
4. A municipal ordinance.

(e) Lawfully alleged or adjudged under ch. 48 to be delinquent on the basis of a violation of a criminal law that is a misdemeanor.

(f) Lawfully alleged or adjudged under ch. 48 to have violated any of the following:

1. A statutory traffic regulation.
2. A statutory provision for which the penalty is a forfeiture.
3. A municipal ordinance.

(1m) Any person in custody under the circumstances described in sub. (1) who intentionally escapes from custody and leaves the state to avoid apprehension is guilty of a Class E felony. Leaving the state and failing to return is prima facie evidence of intent to avoid apprehension.

(2) Any person in custody under any of the following circumstances who intentionally escapes from custody is guilty of a Class E felony:

- (a) Pursuant to a legal arrest for a felony.

(b) Pursuant to a legal arrest as a fugitive from justice in another state.

(c) Lawfully charged with or convicted of, but not sentenced for, a felony.

(d) Sentenced to a county jail or to less than one year in a county reforestation camp or house of correction for a felony.

(e) Lawfully taken into custody under s. 48.19 for a violation of a criminal law that is a felony.

(f) Lawfully alleged or adjudged under ch. 48 to be delinquent on the basis of a violation of a criminal law that is a felony, but not yet subject to a disposition under s. 48.34.

(3) Any person in custody under any of the following circumstances who intentionally escapes from custody is guilty of a Class D felony:

(a) Sentenced to a state prison.

(b) Sentenced for one year or more in a county reforestation camp or house of correction for a felony.

(c) Committed to the department of health and social services pursuant to ch. 975.

(d) Subject to a disposition under s. 48.34 (4m).

(4) Sentences imposed under this section shall be consecutive to any sentence previously imposed or which may be imposed for any crime or offense for which the person was in custody when he escaped.

(5) In this section:

(a) "Custody" includes without limitation actual custody of an institution, including a secured juvenile correctional facility, a secure detention facility, as defined under s. 48.02 (16), or a juvenile portion of a county jail, or of a peace officer or institution guard and constructive custody of prisoners and juveniles subject to an order under s. 48.34 (4m) temporarily outside the institution whether for the purpose of work, school, medical care, a leave granted under s. 56.068, a temporary leave or furlough granted to a juvenile or otherwise. Under s. 56.08 (6) it means, without limitation, that of the sheriff of the county to which the prisoner was transferred after conviction. It does not include the custody of a probationer or parolee by the department of health and social services or a probation or parole officer or the custody of a person who has been released to aftercare supervision under ch. 48 unless the person is in actual custody after revocation of probation, parole or aftercare supervision, or to enforce discipline or to prevent the person from absconding.

(b) "Escape" means to leave in any manner without lawful permission or authority.

(c) "Legal arrest" includes without limitation an arrest pursuant to process fair on its face notwithstanding insubstantial irregularities and also includes taking a child into custody under s. 48.19.

**History:** 1971 c. 164 s. 89; 1975 c. 39; 1977 c. 173, 312, 354, 418; 1985 a. 320.

There is no denial of equal protection in the punishment under (3) (d) of persons committed under the sex crimes law where persons civilly committed are not subject to the same statute, because although both have a need for specialized care and treatment, only defendants convicted of crimes and recommended for commitment by the H&SS department may be sentenced under the Sex Crimes Act, thus affording a rational basis for the disparate treatment. *State v. Neutz*, 69 W (2d) 292, 230 NW (2d) 806.

In the case of a probationer under the supervision of the H&SS department, the custody required by (5) (b), as a predicate to escape excludes "constructive custody," which connotes a mere power, legal or physical, of imprisoning and is limited to "actual custody," which includes imprisonment or physical detention; but a probationer may be in both constructive and actual custody, and the fact that he is in constructive custody does not preclude the possibility of an escape from actual custody. *State v. Schaller*, 70 W (2d) 107, 233 NW (2d) 416.

Defendant's escape under the work-release statute, 56.065, was an escape under 946.42 (3). *Brown v. State*, 73 W (2d) 703, 245 NW (2d) 670.

Because an individual committed under ch. 975 has not been sentenced within the meaning of (4), a sentence for an escape from commitment custody need not be served consecutive to the commitment. *State v. Hungerford*, 76 W (2d) 171, 251 NW (2d) 9.

Sub. (1) (b), not (2) (d), applies to a misdemeanant sentenced to county jail. *State v. Tollefson*, 85 W (2d) 162, 270 NW (2d) 201 (1978).

Sentence for escape conviction may be consecutive to sex crime commitment. *State v. Kruse*, 101 W (2d) 387, 305 NW (2d) 85 (1981).

**946.43 Assaults by prisoners.** Any prisoner confined to a state prison or other state, county or municipal detention facility who intentionally does any of the following is guilty of a Class C felony:

(1) Places an officer, employe, visitor or another inmate of such prison or institution in apprehension of an immediate battery likely to cause death or great bodily harm; or

(2) Confines or restrains an officer, employe, visitor or another inmate of such prison or institution without the person's consent.

**History:** 1977 c. 173, 273

**946.44 Assisting or permitting escape.** (1) Whoever does the following is guilty of a Class D felony:

(a) Any officer or employe of an institution where prisoners are detained who intentionally permits a prisoner in his custody to escape; or

(b) Whoever with intent to aid any prisoner to escape from custody introduces into the institution where he is detained or transfers to such prisoner anything adapted or useful in making an escape; or

(c) Whoever intentionally introduces into an institution where prisoners are detained or transfers to a prisoner any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded.

(2) In this section:

(a) "Custody" has the meaning designated in s. 946.42 (5) (a).

(b) "Escape" has the meaning designated in s. 946.42 (5) (b).

(c) "Institution" includes a secured juvenile correctional facility.

(d) "Prisoner" includes a person who is committed to the custody of the department of health and social services under s. 48.34 (4m).

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1985 a. 320.

**946.45 Negligently allowing escape.** (1) Any officer or employe of an institution where prisoners are detained who, through his or her neglect of duty, allows a prisoner in his or her custody to escape is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

(2) In this section:

(a) "Custody" has the meaning designated in s. 946.42 (5) (a).

(b) "Escape" has the meaning designated in s. 946.42 (5) (b).

(c) "Institution" includes a secured juvenile correctional facility.

(d) "Prisoner" includes a person who is committed to the custody of the department of health and social services under s. 48.34 (4m).

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1985 a. 320.

**946.46 Encouraging violation of probation or parole.** Whoever intentionally aids or encourages a parolee or probationer or any person committed to the department of health and social services by reason of crime or delinquency to abscond or violate a term or condition of parole or probation is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

**History:** 1971 c. 164 s. 89; 1977 c. 173.

**946.47 Harboring or aiding felons.** (1) Whoever does either of the following is guilty of a Class E felony:

(a) With intent to prevent the apprehension of a felon, harbors or aids him; or

(b) With intent to prevent the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of a felon, destroys, alters, hides, or disguises physical evidence or places false evidence.

(2) As used in this section "felon" means either of the following:

(a) A person who commits an act within the jurisdiction of this state which constitutes a felony under the law of this state; or

(b) A person who commits an act within the jurisdiction of another state which is punishable by imprisonment for one year or more in a state prison or penitentiary under the law of that state and would, if committed in this state, constitute a felony under the law of this state.

(3) This section does not apply to the felon or his spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister by consanguinity or affinity of such felon.

History: 1977 c. 173.

Person may be "felon" under (2) (a) even though not convicted of felony. State v. Jones, 98 W (2d) 679, 298 NW (2d) 100 (Ct. App. 1980).

#### 946.48 Kidnapped or missing persons; false information.

(1) Whoever sends, delivers, or causes to be transmitted to another any written or oral communication with intent to induce a false belief that the sender has knowledge of the whereabouts, physical condition, or terms imposed upon the return of a kidnapped or missing person is guilty of a Class D felony.

(2) Violation of this section may be prosecuted in either the county where the communication was sent or the county in which it was received.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.49 Ball jumping.** (1) Whoever, having been released from custody under ch. 969, intentionally fails to comply with the terms of his or her bond is:

(a) If the offense with which the person is charged is a misdemeanor, guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) If the offense with which the person is charged is a felony, guilty of a Class D felony.

(2) A witness for whom bail has been required under s. 969.01 (3) is guilty of a Class E felony for failure to appear as provided.

History: 1977 c. 173.

#### OTHER CRIMES AFFECTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT.

**946.60 Destruction of documents subject to subpoena.** (1) Whoever intentionally destroys, alters, mutilates, conceals, removes, withholds or transfers possession of a document, knowing that the document has been subpoenaed by a court or by or at the request of a district attorney or the attorney general, is guilty of a Class E felony.

(2) Whoever uses force, threat, intimidation or deception, with intent to cause or induce another person to destroy, alter, mutilate, conceal, remove, withhold or transfer possession of a subpoenaed document, knowing that the document has been subpoenaed by a court or by or at the request of a district attorney or the attorney general, is guilty of a Class E felony.

(3) It is not a defense to a prosecution under this section that:

(a) The document would have been legally privileged or inadmissible in evidence.

(b) The subpoena was directed to a person other than the defendant.

History: 1981 c. 306.

**946.61 Bribery of witnesses.** (1) Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class D felony:

(a) With intent to induce another to refrain from giving evidence or testifying in any civil or criminal matter before any court, judge, grand jury, magistrate, court commissioner,

referee or administrative agency authorized by statute to determine issues of fact, transfers to him or on his behalf, any property or any pecuniary advantage; or

(b) Accepts any property or any pecuniary advantage, knowing that such property or pecuniary advantage was transferred to him or on his behalf with intent to induce him to refrain from giving evidence or testifying in any civil or criminal matter before any court, judge, grand jury, magistrate, court commissioner, referee, or administrative agency authorized by statute to determine issues of fact.

(2) This section does not apply to a person who is charged with a crime, or any person acting in his behalf, who transfers property to which he believes the other is legally entitled.

History: 1977 c. 173; 1979 c. 175.

A conviction under this section cannot be sustained where the evidence shows the defendant only transferred property to induce false testimony. State v. Duda, 60 W (2d) 431, 210 NW (2d) 763.

**946.63 Concealing death of child.** Any woman who conceals the corpse of any issue of her body with intent to prevent a determination of whether it was born dead or alive is guilty of a Class E felony.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.64 Communicating with jurors.** Whoever, with intent to influence any person, summoned or serving as a juror, in relation to any matter which is before that person or which may be brought before that person, communicates with him or her otherwise than in the regular course of proceedings in the trial or hearing of that matter is guilty of a Class E felony.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.65 Obstructing justice.** (1) Whoever for a consideration knowingly gives false information to any officer of any court with intent to influence the officer in the performance of official functions is guilty of a Class E felony.

(2) "Officer of any court" includes the judge, reporter, bailiff and district attorney.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.67 Compounding crime.** (1) Whoever receives any property in return for a promise, express or implied, to refrain from prosecuting a crime or to refrain from giving information bearing on the probable success of a criminal prosecution is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the act upon which the actual or supposed crime is based has caused a loss for which a civil action will lie and the person who has sustained such loss reasonably believes that he is legally entitled to the property received.

(3) No promise mentioned in this section shall justify the promisor in refusing to testify or to produce evidence against the alleged criminal when subpoenaed to do so.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.68 Simulating legal process.** (1) Whoever sends or delivers to another any document which simulates a summons, complaint, or court process with intent thereby to induce payment of a claim is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

(2) Proof that the document was mailed or was delivered to any person with intent that it be forwarded to the intended recipient is sufficient proof of sending.

(3) This section applies even though the simulating document contains a statement to the effect that it is not legal process.

(4) Violation of this section may be prosecuted in either the county where the document was sent or the county in which it was delivered.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.69 Falsely assuming to act as public officer or employe.** Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor:

(1) Assumes to act in an official capacity or to perform an official function, knowing that he is not the public officer or public employe he assumes to be; or

(2) Exercises any function of a public office, knowing that he has not qualified so to act or that his right so to act has ceased.

**History:** 1977 c. 173

Sub (1) is not unconstitutionally vague or overbroad. *State v. Wickstrom*, 118 W (2d) 339, 348 NW (2d) 183 (Ct. App. 1984).

**946.70 Impersonating peace officers.** (1) Except as provided in sub. (2), whoever impersonates a peace officer with intent to mislead others into believing that the person is actually a peace officer is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) Any person violating sub. (1) with the intent to commit or aid or abet the commission of a crime other than the crime under this section is guilty of a Class D felony.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1985 a. 97, 332.

**Cross Reference:** See 125.11 (3) for offense of impersonating an employe of the department of revenue or the department of justice

**946.71 Interference with custody of child.** Except as provided under ch. 48, whoever intentionally does any of the following is guilty of a Class E felony:

(1) Interferes with the custody of any child under the age of 18 who has been committed or whose legal custody or guardianship has been transferred under ch. 48 to the department of health and social services or to any person, county department under s. 46.215, 46.22 or 46.23 or licensed child welfare agency.

(2) Entices away or takes away any child under the age of 18 from the parent or other person having legal custody under an order or judgment in an action for divorce, legal separation, annulment, custody, paternity, guardianship or habeas corpus with intent to take the child out of the state for the purpose of depriving the parent or other person of the custody of the child without the consent of such parent or other person, unless the court which awarded custody has consented that the child be taken out of the state by the person who so takes the child. The fact that joint custody has been awarded to both parents by a court does not preclude a court from finding that one parent has committed a violation of this subsection.

(3) Entices away, takes away or withholds for more than 12 hours beyond the court-approved visitation period any child under the age of 14 from a parent or other person having legal custody under an order or judgment in an action for divorce, legal separation, annulment, custody, paternity, guardianship or habeas corpus without the consent of the legal custodian, unless a court has entered an order authorizing the taking or withholding.

(4) Entices away, takes away or withholds for more than 12 hours any child under the age of 14 from the parents, or the child's mother in the case of a nonmarital child where parents do not subsequently intermarry under s. 767.60, without the consent of the parents or the mother, unless custody has been granted by court order to the person enticing, taking or withholding the child.

**History:** 1971 c. 164 s. 89; 1977 c. 161, 173; 1977 c. 418 s. 928 (18); 1979 c. 196; 1983 a. 447; 1985 a. 176

Sub. (4) does not deny equal protection or due process to fathers of illegitimate children. *State v. Hill*, 91 W (2d) 446, 283 NW (2d) 451 (Ct. App. 1979).

"Legal custody" in 946.71 is same as defined in 48.02 (12). *State v. Britzke*, 110 W (2d) 728, 329 NW (2d) 207 (1983).

**946.715 Interference by parent with parental rights of other parent.** (1) Any parent, or any person acting pursuant

to directions from the parent, who does any of the following is guilty of a Class E felony:

(a) Intentionally conceals a minor child from the child's other parent;

(b) After being served with process in an action affecting the family but prior to the issuance of a temporary or final order determining custody rights to a minor child, takes or entices the child outside of this state for the purpose of depriving the other parent of physical custody as defined in s. 822.02 (9); or

(c) After issuance of a temporary or final order specifying joint custody rights, takes or entices a child under the age of 14 from the other parent in violation of the custody order.

(2) No person violates sub. (1) if the action:

(a) Is taken to protect the child from imminent physical harm;

(b) Is taken by a parent fleeing from imminent physical harm to himself or herself;

(c) Is consented to by the other parent; or

(d) Is otherwise authorized by law.

**History:** 1979 c. 196; 1983 a. 326; 1983 a. 447 s. 67.

This section's legislative policy evidences likelihood that Wisconsin courts would recognize tort of unlawful interference with parental custody. *Lloyd v. Loeffler*, 518 F Supp. 720 (1981).

**946.716 Unauthorized placement for adoption.** (1) Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class E felony:

(a) Places or agrees to place his or her child for adoption for anything exceeding the actual cost of the hospital and medical expenses of the mother and the child incurred in connection with the child's birth, and of the legal and other services rendered in connection with the adoption.

(b) For anything of value, solicits, negotiates or arranges the placement of a child for adoption except under s. 48.833.

(c) In order to receive a child for adoption, gives anything exceeding the actual cost of the hospital and medical expenses of the mother and the child incurred in connection with the child's birth, and of the legal and other services rendered in connection with the adoption.

(2) This section does not apply to placements under s. 48.839, 48.98 or 48.988.

**History:** 1981 c. 81.

**946.72 Tampering with public records and notices.** (1) Whoever with intent to injure or defraud destroys, damages, removes or conceals any public record is guilty of a Class D felony.

(2) Whoever intentionally damages, alters, removes or conceals any public notice, posted as authorized by law, before the expiration of the time for which the notice was posted, is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1981 c. 335.

**946.73 Penalty for violating laws governing state or county institutions.** Whoever violates any state law or any lawful rule made pursuant to state law governing the state fairgrounds or any state or county charitable, curative, reformatory, or penal institution while within the same or the grounds thereof is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

**946.74 Aiding escape from mental institutions.** (1) Whoever intentionally does or attempts to do any of the following is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor:

(a) Aids any person committed to an institution for the care of the mentally ill, infirm or deficient to escape therefrom.

(b) Introduces into any institution for the care of the mentally ill, infirm or deficient, or transfers to any person committed to such institution, anything adapted or useful in

making an escape therefrom, with intent to aid any person to escape.

(c) Removes from any institution for the care of the mentally ill, infirm or deficient any person committed thereto.

(2) Whoever violates sub. (1) with intent to commit a crime against sexual morality with or upon the inmate of the institution is guilty of a Class D felony.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.75 Denial of right of counsel.** Whoever, while holding another person in custody and if that person requests a named attorney, denies that other person the right to consult and be advised by an attorney at law at personal expense, whether or not such person is charged with a crime, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

History: 1977 c. 173.

**946.76 Search warrant; premature disclosure.** Whoever discloses prior to its execution that a search warrant has been applied for or issued, except so far as may be necessary to its execution, is guilty of a Class E felony.

History: 1977 c. 173.

#### RACKETEERING ACTIVITY AND CONTINUING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE.

**946.80 Short title.** Sections 946.80 to 946.87 may be cited as the Wisconsin Organized Crime Control Act.

History: 1981 c. 280.

**946.81 Intent.** The legislature finds that a severe problem is posed in this state by the increasing organization among certain criminal elements and the increasing extent to which criminal activities and funds acquired as a result of criminal activity are being directed to and against the legitimate economy of the state. The legislature declares that the intent of the Wisconsin Organized Crime Control Act is to impose sanctions against this subversion of the economy by organized criminal elements and to provide compensation to private persons injured thereby. It is not the intent of the legislature that isolated incidents of misdemeanor conduct be prosecuted under this act, but only an interrelated pattern of criminal activity the motive or effect of which is to derive pecuniary gain.

History: 1981 c. 280.

**946.82 Definitions.** In ss. 946.80 to 946.87:

(1) "Commission of a crime" means being concerned in the commission of a crime under s. 939.05.

(2) "Enterprise" means any sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, business trust, union organized under the laws of this state or other legal entity or any union not organized under the laws of this state, association or group of individuals associated in fact although not a legal entity. "Enterprise" includes illicit and licit enterprises and governmental and other entities.

(3) "Pattern of racketeering activity" means engaging in at least 3 incidents of racketeering activity that have the same or similar intents, results, accomplices, victims or methods of commission or otherwise are interrelated by distinguishing characteristics, provided at least one of the incidents occurred after April 27, 1982 and that the last of the incidents occurred within 7 years after the first incident of racketeering activity. Acts occurring at the same time and place which may form the basis for crimes punishable under more than one statutory provision may count for only one incident of racketeering activity.

(4) "Racketeering activity" means any activity specified in 18 USC 1961 (1) in effect as of April 27, 1982 or the attempt,

conspiracy to commit, or commission of any of the felonies specified in: chs. 161 and 945 and ss. 49.49, 134.05, 139.44 (1), 180.88, 181.69, 184.09 (2), 185.82 (4), 215.12, 221.17, 221.31, 221.39, 221.40, 551.41, 551.42, 551.43, 551.44, 553.41 (3) and (4), 553.52 (2), 940.01, 940.19 (2) and (3), 940.20, 940.203, 940.21, 940.30, 940.305, 940.31, 940.32, 941.20 (2), 941.26, 941.28, 941.31, 941.32, 943.01 (2), 943.02, 943.03, 943.04, 943.05, 943.06, 943.10, 943.20 (3) (b) to (d), 943.23 (1), 943.24 (2), 943.25, 943.27, 943.28, 943.30, 943.32, 943.34 (2) and (3), 943.38, 943.39, 943.40, 943.41 (8) (b) and (c), 943.50 (4) (b) and (c), 943.60, 943.70, 944.32, 944.33 (2), 944.34, 945.03, 945.04, 945.05, 945.08, 946.10, 946.11, 946.12, 946.13, 946.31, 946.32 (1), 946.48, 946.49, 946.61, 946.64, 946.65, 946.72, 946.76 and 947.015.

History: 1981 c. 280; 1983 a. 438; 1985 a. 104; 1985 a. 236 s. 15.

**946.83 Prohibited activities. (1)** No person who has received any proceeds with knowledge that they were derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of racketeering activity may use or invest, whether directly or indirectly, any part of the proceeds or the proceeds derived from the investment or use thereof in the acquisition of any title to, or any right, interest, or equity in, real property or in the establishment or operation of any enterprise.

(2) No person, through a pattern of racketeering activity, may acquire or maintain, directly or indirectly, any interest in or control of any enterprise or real property.

(3) No person employed by, or associated with, any enterprise may conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity.

History: 1981 c. 280.

**946.84 Penalties. (1)** Any person convicted of engaging in racketeering activity in violation of s. 946.83 is guilty of a Class C felony.

(2) In lieu of a fine under sub. (1), any person convicted of engaging in conduct in violation of s. 946.83, through which he or she derived pecuniary value, or by which he or she caused personal injury or property damage or other loss, may be fined not to exceed 2 times the gross value gained or 2 times the gross loss caused, whichever is the greater, plus court costs and the costs of investigation and prosecution, reasonably incurred. In calculating the amount of fine based on personal injury, any measurement of pain and suffering shall be excluded.

(3) The court shall hold a hearing to determine the amount of the fine authorized by sub. (2).

(4) In sub. (2), "pecuniary value" means:

(a) Anything of value in the form of money, a negotiable instrument, or a commercial interest or anything else the primary significance of which is economic advantage; or

(b) Any other property or service that has a value in excess of \$100.

History: 1981 c. 280, 391.

**946.85 Continuing criminal enterprise. (1)** Any person who engages in a continuing criminal enterprise shall be imprisoned not less than 10 years nor more than 20 years, and fined not more than \$10,000 or as provided in s. 946.84 (2). If the court imposes a sentence less than the presumptive minimum sentence, it shall place its reasons for doing so on the record.

(2) In this section a person is considered to be engaged in a continuing criminal enterprise, if he or she engages in a prohibited activity under s. 946.83, and:

(a) The activity is undertaken by the person in concert with 5 or more other persons, each of whom acted with intent to



commit a crime and with respect to whom the person occupies a supervisory position; and

(b) The person obtains gross income or resources in excess of \$25,000 from the activity.

History: 1981 c. 280.

**946.86 Civil remedies. (1)** After making due provision for the rights of innocent persons, any circuit court may enjoin violations of s. 946.83 or 946.85 and may issue appropriate orders and judgments related thereto, including, but not limited to:

(a) Ordering any defendant to divest himself or herself of any interest in any enterprise which is involved in the violation of s. 946.83 or 946.85, including real property.

(b) Imposing reasonable restrictions upon the future activities or investments of any defendant related to enjoining violations of s. 946.83 or 946.85, including, but not limited to, prohibiting any defendant from engaging in the same type of endeavor as the enterprise in which he or she was engaged in violation of s. 946.83 or 946.85.

(c) Ordering the dissolution or reorganization of any related enterprise.

(d) Ordering the suspension or revocation of a license, permit or prior approval granted to any related enterprise by any agency of the state, county or municipality.

(e) Ordering the dissolution of a corporation organized under ch. 180 or 181, or the revocation of a certificate authorizing a foreign corporation to conduct business within the state, upon finding that the board of directors or a managerial agent acting on behalf of the corporation, in conducting the affairs of the corporation, has authorized or engaged in conduct in violation of s. 946.83 or 946.85 and that, for the prevention of future criminal activity, the public interest requires the action under this paragraph.

(2) (a) All property, real or personal, including money, used in the course of, intended for use in the course of, derived from, or realized through, conduct which has resulted in a conviction for violation of s. 946.83 or 946.85 is subject to civil forfeiture to the state. The state shall dispose of all forfeited property as soon as commercially feasible. If property is not exercisable or transferable for value by the state, it shall expire. All forfeitures or dispositions under this section shall be made with due provision for the rights of innocent persons. The proceeds realized from the forfeitures and dispositions shall be deposited in the school fund.

(b) Any injured person has a right or claim to forfeited property or the proceeds derived therefrom superior to any right or claim the state has under this section in the same property or proceeds. This paragraph does not grant the person priority over state claims or rights by reason of a tax lien or other basis not covered by ss. 946.80 to 946.87.

(3) The attorney general or any district attorney may institute civil proceedings under this section. Notwithstanding s. 59.456 (5), in counties having a population of 500,000 or more, the district attorney or the corporation counsel may

proceed under this section. In any action brought under this section, the circuit court shall proceed as soon as practicable to the hearing and determination. Pending final determination of any action under this section, the circuit court may at any time enter such injunctions, prohibitions or restraining orders or take such actions, including the acceptance of satisfactory performance bonds, as the court deems proper. At any time pending final determination of a forfeiture action under sub. (2), the circuit court may order the seizure of property subject to forfeiture and may make such orders as it deems necessary to preserve and protect the property.

(4) Any person who is injured by reason of any violation of s. 946.83 or 946.85 has a cause of action for 2 times the actual damages sustained and, when appropriate, punitive damages. The person shall also recover attorney fees and costs of the investigation and litigation reasonably incurred. The defendant or any injured person may demand a trial by jury in any civil action brought under this section.

(5) The burden of proof under this section is that of satisfying or convincing to a reasonable certainty by a greater weight of the credible evidence that the property is subject to forfeiture under this section.

(6) A final judgment or decree rendered in favor of the state in any criminal proceeding under ss. 946.80 to 946.87 shall stop the defendant from denying the essential allegations of the criminal offense in any subsequent civil action or proceeding.

History: 1981 c. 280.

**946.87 Enforcement and jurisdiction. (1)** A criminal or civil action or proceeding under ss. 946.80 to 946.87 may be commenced at any time within 6 years after a violation under ss. 946.80 to 946.87 terminates or the cause of action accrues. If a criminal action or proceeding under ss. 946.80 to 946.87 is brought, or intervened in, to punish, prevent or restrain any such violation, the running of the period of limitations with respect to any civil action or proceeding, including an action or proceeding under s. 946.86, which is based in whole or in part upon any matter complained of in the criminal action or proceeding shall be suspended for 2 years following the termination of the criminal action or proceeding.

(2) The application of one civil or criminal remedy under ss. 946.80 to 946.87 does not preclude the application of any other remedy, civil or criminal, under ss. 946.80 to 946.87 or any other provision of law. Civil remedies under ss. 946.80 to 946.87 are supplemental, and not mutually exclusive, except the state may not proceed under both ss. 946.84 (2) and 946.86 (4).

(3) The attorney general and the district attorneys of this state have concurrent authority to institute criminal proceedings under ss. 946.80 to 946.87, except a district attorney may institute proceedings only with the prior written approval of the attorney general.

History: 1981 c. 280.