CHAPTER 343
OPERATORS’ LICENSES

SUBCHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

343.01 Words and phrases defined. (1) Words and phrases defined in s. 340.01 are used in the same sense in this chapter unless a different definition is specifically provided.

(2) In this chapter and ch. 344 the following words and phrases have the designated meanings:

(cb) “Motorized construction equipment” means motor–driven construction equipment designed principally for off–road use, including a motorscraper, backhoe, motor grader, compactor, excavator, tractor, trencher and bulldozer.

(cg) “Moving violation” means a violation of ch. 110, of ch. 194 or of chs. 341 to 349 and 351, or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with one or more provisions of ch. 110, of ch. 194 or of chs. 341 to 349 and 351, or the laws of another jurisdiction for which being on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle or driving or operating a motor vehicle is an element of the offense.

(cr) “Occupational license” means an operator’s license, issued in accordance with s. 343.10, which confers only limited authority to operate a motor vehicle and imposes specified restrictions.

(d) “Photograph” means an unretouched image recorded by a camera and reproduced on a photosensitive surface, or a digitized image.

(dg) “Organ procurement organization” means an organization that has status as a designated organ procurement organization under the requirements of 42 CFR 485.303.

(f) “Representative vehicle” means a motor vehicle of the same vehicle class and type that an applicant or permittee for an operator’s license operates or intends to operate.

(g) “Resident” means an adult whose one home and customary and principal residence, to which the person has the intention of

Cross Reference: See also chs. Trans 102 and 112, Wis. adm. code.

SUBCHAPTER II
ISSUANCE, EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL OF LICENSES

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returning whenever he or she is absent, is in this state. A child under 18 years of age may qualify as a resident if the child lives in this state and at least one of the child’s parents, or the child’s guardian, is a resident of this state or the child meets any of the following requirements:

1. Is attending and residing at a full−time boarding school or similar live−in facility located in this state.
2. Is a foreign−exchange student from outside the United States residing with and in the care of a host family.
3. Is residing with and in the care of a relative or other adult acting in the place of a parent, with the consent of the child’s parents or legal guardian.
4. Is on active duty with the U.S. armed forces.

(i) “Tank vehicle” means any commercial motor vehicle that is designed to transport a liquid or gaseous materials within a tank that is either permanently or temporarily attached to the commercial motor vehicle or the chassis. In this paragraph, “tank” does not include a portable tank, as defined in 49 CFR 171.8, having a rated capacity under 1,000 gallons. In this paragraph, “liquid” has the meaning given in 49 CFR 171.8.

343.02 Administration of driver license law. (1) The department shall administer and enforce this chapter and may promulgate for that purpose such rules as the secretary considers necessary. Rules promulgated under this chapter may not conflict with and shall be at least as stringent as standards set by the federal commercial motor vehicle safety act, 49 USC 31301 to 31317 and the regulations adopted under that act.

(2) The state of Wisconsin assents to the provisions of the federal law and regulations specified in sub. (1). The state of Wisconsin declares its purpose and intent to make provisions to implement and enforce that law and those regulations so as to ensure receipt by this state of any federal highway aids that have been or may be allotted to the state under 23 USC 104 (b) (1), (2), (5) and (6), including all increased and advanced appropriations.

343.025 Medicare acceptance of assignment; information required. (1) Beginning in 1991, the department shall annually submit a report to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) concerning the numbers of individuals, by counties in this state, to whom the department distributed explanatory materials under ss. 343.14 (8), 343.20 (2m) and 343.50 (4).

343.027 Confidentiality of signatures. Any signature collected under this chapter may be maintained by the department and shall be kept confidential. The department may release a signature or a facsimile of a signature only to the person to whom the signature relates.

343.03 Classified driver license system. (1) Compliance with federal standards. (a) The department shall institute a classified driver license system meeting all federal standards under 49 USC 31301 to 31317 and 49 CFR 383.

(b) The department shall issue operator’s licenses in conformity with the classified driver license system to each licensee upon renewal, reinstatement or initial application.

(2) Authorizations to drive specific vehicle groups. The department shall clearly indicate on each operator’s license the class of vehicles that the licensee is authorized to operate. Additional authorization for the licensee to operate a vehicle type described in s. 343.04 (2) shall be shown by an endorsement, clearly indicated on the operator’s license. If the authorizations are restricted in any way, the restrictions shall be clearly indicated on the document.

(3) License variants. Except for restricted licenses under s. 343.08 or temporary licenses, each operator’s license issued by the department shall be in one of the following categories with a descriptive legend displayed on the top front side of the license document:

(a) Regular license. The standard license legend is “regular” or a readily recognizable abbreviation thereof. The regular license, without any express endorsements or restrictions as provided in this chapter, authorizes the licensee to operate only “class D” vehicles as described in s. 343.04 (1) (d), except as otherwise provided in this subsection. The license may be endorsed to permit operation of Type 1 motorcycles or school buses. A regular license may be subject to restrictions, including the attachment of a special restrictions card as provided in s. 343.17 (4).

(b) Commercial driver license. A license authorizing the operation of “Class A”, “Class B” or “Class C” vehicles, including a license issued under s. 343.065, shall be labeled “Commercial Driver License” or “CDL”. A commercial driver license may be endorsed to permit the operation of any other class or type of vehicle described in s. 343.04. A commercial driver license may be subject to restrictions, including the attachment of a special restrictions card as provided in s. 343.17 (4).

(c) Motorcycle only license. Except as provided in par. (f), a license authorizing only the operation of “Class M” vehicles shall be labeled “Motorcycle Only”. A motorcycle only license may not be endorsed to permit the operation of any other class or type of vehicle. The license may be subject to restrictions, including the attachment of a special restrictions card as provided in s. 343.17 (4).

(d) Special restricted license. A license issued under s. 343.135 shall be labeled “Special Restricted License” or a readily recognizable abbreviation thereof. The license may authorize the operation of only “class D” vehicles and may not be endorsed to permit operation of the vehicle types described in s. 343.04 (2). The license may be subject to restrictions in addition to those provided in s. 343.135, including the attachment of a special restrictions card as provided in s. 343.17 (4).

(e) Occupational license. A license issued under s. 343.10 authorizing the operation of motor vehicles other than “Class A”, “Class B” or “Class C” vehicles shall be labeled “Occupational License”. Licenses issued under s. 343.10 authorizing the operation of “Class A”, “Class B” or “Class C” vehicles shall be labeled “CDL—Occupational”. An occupational license may authorize the operation of “class D” or “Class M” vehicles, or both, but may not be endorsed to permit operation of the vehicle types described in s. 343.04 (2). The license may be subject to restrictions in addition to those provided in s. 343.10, including the attachment of a special restrictions card as provided in s. 343.17 (4).

(f) Probationary license. If s. 343.085 applies, the license shall be labeled “Probationary” or a readily recognizable abbreviation thereof instead of as provided in par. (a) or (c). This paragraph does not apply to a license authorizing the operation of commercial motor vehicles.

4 Elimination of multiple licenses. The department shall not knowingly issue more than one license to a person.

5 Inquiries before issuance. Before issuing a license under this chapter, the department shall obtain driver record information from the national driver registry and commercial driver license information system to determine whether the applicant holds a commercial driver license, or a license that is revoked, suspended or canceled, or is otherwise disqualified. If the applicant is currently licensed in another state, the department shall obtain information on the applicant’s license status with the state of licensure before issuing a license.
343.04 Vehicle classifications. (1) VEHICLE CLASSES. For purposes of this chapter, motor vehicles are divided into the following classes:

(a) Class A. A “Class A” motor vehicle is any combination of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating, actual gross weight or registered weight of over 26,000 pounds, if the aggregate total gross vehicle weight rating, actual gross weight or registered weight of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.

(b) Class B. A “Class B” motor vehicle is any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating, actual gross weight or registered weight of over 26,000 pounds, and any such vehicle towing a vehicle or vehicles with an aggregate total gross vehicle weight rating, actual gross weight or registered weight of 10,000 pounds or less.

(c) Class C. A “Class C” motor vehicle is any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating, actual gross weight and registered weight of 26,000 pounds or less, including any such vehicle towing a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating, actual gross weight and registered weight of less than 10,000 pounds, if any of the following applies:
   1. The vehicle is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
   2. The vehicle is transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding.
   (d) Class D. A “Class D” vehicle is any motor vehicle not included in par. (a), (b), (c) or (e).
   (e) Class M. A “Class M” vehicle is any Type 1 motorcycle.

(2) VEHICLE TYPES. For purposes of this chapter, certain vehicles intended to carry school children or other passengers, or having special operating characteristics, are divided into the following vehicle types specified in pars. (a) to (f):

(a) Hazardous materials transporter. Hazardous materials transporter vehicles are vehicles transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding.

(b) Air brakes equipped. Air brakes equipped vehicles are commercial motor vehicles equipped with a braking system operating fully or partly on the air brake principle.

(c) Tanks. Tanks are commercial motor vehicles which are tank vehicles.

(d) Passenger carrying. Passenger-carrying vehicles are motor vehicles designed to carry, or actually carrying, 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

(e) School buses. All school buses, including those which are commercial motor vehicles.

(f) Vehicles towing double or triple trailers. Vehicles towing double or triple trailers are commercial motor vehicles with double or triple trailers.

son possesses a valid operator’s license issued to the person by the department which is not revoked, suspended, canceled or expired.

(b) No person may operate a Type 1 motorcycle unless the person possesses a valid operator’s license specifically authorizing the operation of Type 1 motorcycles.

(c) No person may operate a moped or motor bicycle unless the person possesses a valid operator’s license or a special restricted operator’s license issued under s. 343.135 or a restricted license issued under s. 343.08. A license under this paragraph does not authorize operation of a moped or motor bicycle if the license is revoked, suspended, canceled or expired.

(4) EXEMPTIONS. (a) The following are exempt from the licensing requirements of this chapter:

1. A person in the armed services while operating a motor vehicle owned by or leased to the federal government.

2. A person while temporarily operating or moving a farm tractor or implement of husbandry on a highway between fields or between a farm and a field.

3m. A person while operating motorized construction equipment. This subdivision does not apply to a truck or a construction vehicle designed for use on a roadway or to any vehicle exceeding a speed of 35 miles per hour.

(b) The following are exempt from the licensing requirements of sub. (3):

1. A nonresident who is at least 16 years of age and who has in his or her immediate possession a valid operator’s license issued to the person in the person’s home jurisdiction.

2. Any nonresident of the United States who holds a valid operator’s license issued by a country which is a signatory to the 1949 Geneva convention on road traffic.

3. Any nonresident of the United States who holds an international driving permit or a valid operator’s license issued by a country which is a signatory to the 1943 regulation of international American automotive traffic or the 1949 Geneva convention on road traffic.

(c) An exemption under par. (b) 2. or 3. applies only for a period of one year after a nonresident’s arrival in the United States.

(5) PENALTIES. (a) Any person who violates sub. (1) or (2) shall be:

1. Fined not less than $200 nor more than $600 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both for the first such violation.

2. Fined not less than $300 nor more than $1,000 or imprisoned for not less than 5 days nor more than 6 months for the 2nd offense occurring within 3 years.

3. Fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $2,000 and imprisoned for not less than 10 days nor more than 6 months for the 3rd or subsequent offense occurring within 3 years.

(b) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2. and sub. (6), any person who violates sub. (3) (a) may be required to forfeit not more than $200 for the first offense, may be fined not more than $300 and imprisoned for not more than 30 days for the 2nd offense occurring within 3 years, and may be fined not more than $500 and imprisoned for not more than 6 months for the 3rd or subsequent offense occurring within 3 years. A violation of a local ordinance in conformity with this section or a violation of a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with this section shall count as a previous offense.

2. A person whose operator’s license has expired not more than 3 months before a violation of sub. (3) (a) may be required to forfeit not more than $100 for the first offense.

(c) Any person who violates sub. (3) (b) or (c) may be required to forfeit not more than $100.

(6) OTHER OFFENSES, PENALTIES. Section 343.44 and the penalties thereunder shall apply in lieu of this section to any person operating a motor vehicle upon a highway in this state with an operator’s license which is revoked or suspended.


Cross-reference: See s. 343.37 for limitations on nonresident operators.

The guidelines for operating a commercial vehicle under this section constitute a fundamental public policy to promote highway safety. The discharge of an at−will employee for refusing to violate this section was a wrongful discharge. Kemptner v. Automated Finishing, Inc. 211 Wis. 2d 100, 564 N.W.2d 692 (1997).

A person has a privilege, but not a right, to drive a motor vehicle upon a public highway. To exercise that privilege, the person must satisfy the licensing requirements of the state. County of Fond du Lac v. Kevin C. Derksen, 2002 WI App 166, 647 N.W.2d 922.

Three−wheeled trucks and automobiles, golf carts, and other special purpose vehicles such as street sweepers, industrial fork−lifts, and motorized wheelchairs are not motorcycles, and operators are not required to have special driver licenses. 58 Atty. Gen. 17.

A driver license authorizing motor−driven cycle operation is not required for the operation of a motor−driven cycle on private property. 64 Atty. Gen. 79.

343.055 Commercial driver license waivers. (1) OPERATORS WAIVED. (a) General. Except as provided in subs. (3) and (4) and notwithstanding s. 343.05 (2), operators of certain commercial motor vehicles specified in pars. (b) to (d) on any rule of the department promulgated under sub. (5) are not required to hold commercial driver licenses, if the operator holds a valid operator’s license not limited to “Class M” vehicles.

(b) Fire fighters. The operator of the commercial motor vehicle including, without limitation, fire trucks, hook and ladder trucks and foam or water transporters, is a person employed by a volunteer or paid fire organization and the person is operating emergency or fire fighting equipment necessary to the preservation of life or property or the execution of emergency management functions and equipped with a siren and warning lamps as provided in ss. 347.25 (1) and 347.38 (4) and the operation is in the routine performance of other duties of the fire organization or in response to an emergency call under s. 346.03 or during the return from a fire or other emergency response.

(c) Farmers. The operator of the commercial motor vehicle is a farmer who is using the commercial motor vehicle within 150 miles of the operator’s farm to transport agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies including transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding or a combination thereof to or from a farm and the commercial motor vehicle is operated and controlled by a farmer and not used in the operations of a common motor carrier or contract motor carrier, as defined in s. 340.11 (3) (a) and (2). In this paragraph, “controlled” means leased or owned; and “farmer” and “leased” have the meanings given in s. 340.01 (18) (b).

(d) Recreational vehicle operators. The operator of the commercial motor vehicle is a person operating a motor home, or a vehicle towing a 5th−wheel mobile home or single−unit recreational vehicle and the vehicle or combination, including both units of a combination towing vehicle and the 5th−wheel mobile home or recreational vehicle, is both operated and controlled by the person and is transporting only members of the person’s family, guests or their personal property. This paragraph does not apply to any transportation for hire or the transportation of any property connected to a commercial activity. In this paragraph, “controlled” means leased or owned.

(h) Rescue squad members. The operator of the commercial motor vehicle is a member of a legally organized rescue squad. This paragraph applies only to the operation of authorized emergency vehicles.

(2) DISQUALIFICATIONS NOT APPLICABLE. Notwithstanding s. 343.44, a person disqualified under s. 343.315 may operate a commercial motor vehicle as described in this section if the person holds a valid operator’s license issued to the person authorizing the operation of “Class D” vehicles.

(3) VEHICLES TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, CARRYING PASSENGERS OR TOWING DOUBLE OR TRIPLE TRAILERS NOT WAIVED. Nothing in this section authorizes the operation of a com-
bination vehicle with double or triple trailers, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding except as provided in sub. (1) (c), or a vehicle carrying or designed to transport the driver and 15 or more persons, by a person who does not hold a valid operator’s license properly endorsed to permit such operation.

(4) Effect of waivers. The waivers under this section shall apply to the extent permitted under federal law and shall exempt a person only from the requirement in s. 343.05 (2) to hold a commercial driver license to operate a commercial motor vehicle upon a highway in this state. A commercial motor vehicle operated under this waiver remains a commercial motor vehicle.

(5) Rules. As soon as possible after the federal commercial motor vehicle safety act, 49 USC 31301 to 31317, or the regulations adopted under that act permit any commercial driver license waiver, the department shall promulgate rules governing eligibility for the waiver. This subsection applies to waivers not permitted by federal law on May 12, 1992.


343.06 Persons not to be licensed. (1) The department shall not issue a license:

(a) To any person whose operator’s license or nonresident’s operating privilege was withheld, suspended, revoked or canceled under the provisions of the law in effect prior to September 1, 1941, unless such person complies with the requirements of this chapter relative to obtaining a license or restoration of operating privileges after suspension, revocation or cancellation.

(b) To any person whose operating privilege has been suspended or revoked or is subject to immediate mandatory suspension or revocation under this chapter, except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter.

(c) To any person under age 18 unless the person is enrolled in a school program or high school equivalency program and is not a habitual truant as defined in s. 118.16 (1) (a), has graduated from high school or been granted a declaration of high school graduation equivalency or is enrolled in a home-based private educational program, as defined in s. 115.001 (3g), and has satisfactorily completed a course in driver education in public schools approved by the department of public instruction, or in technical colleges approved by the technical college system board, or in nonpublic and private schools which meet the minimum standards set by the department of public instruction, or has satisfactorily completed a substantially equivalent course in driver training approved by the department and given by a school licensed by the department under s. 343.61, or has satisfactorily completed a substantially equivalent course in driver education or training approved by another state and has attained the age of 16, except as provided in s. 343.07 (1). The department shall not issue a license to any person under the age of 18 authorizing the operation of “Class M” vehicles unless the person has successfully completed a basic rider course approved by the department. The department may, by rule, exempt certain persons from the basic rider course requirement of this paragraph. Applicants for a license under s. 343.08 or 343.135 are exempt from the driver education, basic rider or driver training course requirement. The secretary shall prescribe rules for licensing of schools and instructors to qualify under this paragraph. The driver education course shall be made available to every eligible student in the state. Except as provided under s. 343.16 (1) (c) and (2) (em) to (e), no operator’s license may be issued unless a driver’s examination has been administered by the department. Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 129, Wis. adm. code. (cm) To operate “Class D” vehicles to any person under 18 years of age, unless the person has accumulated at least 30 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience, at least 10 hours of which were during hours of darkness. Each hour of behind-the-wheel driving experience while accompanied by a qualified instructor, as defined in s. 343.07 (5), shall be considered to be 2 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience, except that no more than 5 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience while accompanied by a qualified instructor may be counted in this manner. This paragraph does not apply to applicants for a restricted license under s. 343.08 or a special restricted operator’s license under s. 343.135. The department may promulgate rules that waive the requirement of accumulating at least 30 hours of behind-the-wheel experience for qualified applicants who are licensed by another jurisdiction to operate “Class D” vehicles.

(d) To any person whose dependence on alcohol has attained such a degree that it interferes with his or her physical or mental health or social or economic functioning, or who is addicted to the use of controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, except that the secretary may issue a license if the person submits to an examination, evaluation or treatment in a treatment facility meeting the standards prescribed in s. 51.45 (8) (a), as directed by the secretary, in accordance with s. 343.16 (5).

(e) To any person who is unable to exercise reasonable control over a motor vehicle, as defined by the department by rule.

(f) To any person who is required by this chapter to take an examination, unless such person takes and successfully passes such examination. Deaf persons otherwise qualified under this chapter to receive a license shall be issued such license in the discretion of the secretary.

(g) To any person who is required under the motor vehicle financial responsibility laws of this state to furnish proof of financial responsibility, and who has not furnished such proof in the manner prescribed by statute and any lawful rules of the department pertaining thereto.

(h) To any person when the secretary has good cause to believe that the operation of a motor vehicle on the highways by such person will be inimical to the public safety or welfare.

(i) To any person who has been convicted of any offense specified under ss. 940.225, 948.02, 948.025 and 948.07 or adjudged delinquent under ch. 938 for a like or similar offense, when the sentencing court makes a finding that issuance of a license will be inimical to the public safety and welfare. The prohibition against issuance of a license to the offenders shall apply immediately upon receipt of a record of the conviction and the court finding by the secretary, for a period of one year or until discharge from any jail or prison sentence or any period of probation, extended supervision or parole with respect to the offenses specified, whichever date is the later. Receipt by the offender of a certificate of discharge from the department of corrections or other responsible supervising agency, after one year has elapsed since the prohibition began, entitles the holder to apply for an operator’s license. The applicant may be required to present the certificate of discharge to the secretary if the latter deems it necessary.

(j) To any person applying for his or her first license or identification card or for a reinstated license in this state unless the person has submitted satisfactory proof of his or her name and date of birth.

(k) To any person who is not a resident.

(2) The department shall not issue a commercial driver license, including a renewal, occupational, or reinstated license, to any person during any period of disqualification under s. 343.315 or 49 CFR 383.51 or the law of another jurisdiction in substantial conformity therewith, as the result of one or more disqualifying offenses committed on or after July 1, 1987. Any person who is known to the department to be subject to disqualification as described in s. 343.44 (1) (d) shall be disqualified by the department as provided in s. 343.315.

(3) The department shall not issue a commercial driver license valid for use in interstate commerce to any person who is less than 21 years of age or who does not meet the physical qualifications for drivers contained in 49 CFR 391 or rules of the department concerning qualifications of drivers in interstate commerce.

History: 1971 c. 40 s. 93; 1971 c. 154 s. 79 (3); 1971 c. 219; 1975 c. 184 s. 13; 1975 c. 421; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a), (c); 1977 c. 41, 238, 273, 360, 447.
(1m) **Commercial motor vehicle and school bus instruction permits; issuance, restrictions.** Upon application therefor by a person at least 18 years of age who holds a valid operator’s license issued under this chapter and who, except for lack of training in the operation of a commercial motor vehicle or school bus, is qualified to obtain authorization for the operation of such vehicle including having passed the applicable knowledge tests, the department may issue an instruction permit for commercial motor vehicle or school bus operation. A permit limited to commercial motor vehicle instructional operation entitles the permittee to operate only a commercial motor vehicle upon the highways. A permit limited to school bus instructional operation entitles the permittee to operate only a school bus upon the highways. Both permits are subject to the following restrictions:

(a) Except as provided in par. (am), the permittee may not operate a commercial motor vehicle or school bus unless accompanied by a qualified instructor or a licensed person 21 years of age or older with a valid license authorizing the person to operate such vehicle, except that passengers are allowed in the vehicle, except when the accompanying operator is a qualified instructor up to 3 other permittees also being trained may occupy seats in the vehicle. The permittee may operate a commercial motor vehicle carrying property under this paragraph.

(b) The permittee may operate a commercial motor vehicle when accompanied by an authorized license examiner for the purpose of examining the permittee’s ability to operate a motor vehicle.

(c) The permittee may operate a motor vehicle when accompanied by an authorized license examiner for the purpose of examining the permittee’s ability to operate a motor vehicle.

(e) The permittee may operate a motor vehicle when accompanied by an authorized license examiner for the purpose of examining the permittee’s ability to operate a motor vehicle.
to qualify for the operation of a Type 1 motorcycle, the department may issue an instruction permit for the operation of “Class M” vehicles.

(b) The permit for Type 1 motorcycle operation shall be valid for 6 months. The department shall issue no more than 3 permits for Type 1 motorcycle operation to a person unless the person has successfully completed a rider course approved by the department. The department may, by rule, exempt certain persons from the rider course requirement of this paragraph. The permit for Type 1 motorcycle operation entitles the permittee to operate a Type 1 motorcycle subject to the following restrictions:

1. No passenger may accompany the permittee except that a person with at least 2 years of licensed driving experience and whose license is endorsed for Type 1 motorcycle operation may ride as a passenger–instructor.

2. The permittee may not operate a Type 1 motorcycle during hours of darkness unless accompanied by a licensed person 25 years of age or more and meeting the requirements of subd. 1.

(c) The permit for moped and motor bicycle operation shall be valid for 6 months and entitles the permittee to operate a moped or motor bicycle subject to restrictions specified by the department by rule.

Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 129, Wis. admn. code.

(5) Definition. In this section, “qualified instructor” means a person employed by a public or private school, holding an operator’s license and meeting the teaching certification standards of the department of public instruction or the technical college system board to teach driver education, or an instructor of a school licensed under s. 343.61, or a teacher or student teacher in a driver education course for teachers conducted by an institution of higher education.

(6) Special Instructional Permits. This section does not apply to instructional permits issued under s. 343.07.


Although the liability of a passenger–teacher for the negligence of his student driver has generally been based on principles of agency, the passenger’s liability may also arise from violation of an independent duty to supervise and control the automobile based upon his agreement, as an experienced driver, to instruct and supervise an inexperienced driver. Hoefn v. Friedel, 70 Wis. 2d 1022, 215 NW.2d 918 (1975).

343.075 Instructional permits for applicants for special restricted operators’ licenses. The department may require an applicant for a special restricted operator’s license under s. 343.135 to first obtain an instructional permit if the department deems it advisable. The department shall determine the requirements for issuance of an instructional permit under this section and the restrictions, if any, on such permits.

History: 1979 c. 345.

343.08 Restricted licenses for persons under 18 years of age. (1) Upon application therefor, the department may issue a restricted license to a person who is at least 14 and less than 18 years of age if the following conditions, in addition to any others specified in this chapter, are fulfilled:

(a) The department must be satisfied that it is necessary for the applicant to operate an automobile, farm truck, dual purpose farm truck, Type 1 motorcycle powered with an engine of not more than 125 cubic centimeters displacement, Type 2 motorcycle, moped or motor bicycle owned and registered by the applicant’s parent or guardian or a farm truck leased to the applicant’s parent or guardian.

(b) The applicant, accompanied by a parent or guardian, must have appeared in person before an examining officer with a certificate of birth to show that the applicant is at least 14 years of age.

(c) The applicant must have passed an examination as specified in s. 343.16, including a test of the applicant’s ability to safely operate the type of vehicle which the applicant is making application for license to operate.

(2) (a) A restricted license issued pursuant to this section is valid only until the licensee secures an operator’s license issued pursuant to s. 343.03 or reaches 18 years of age and, except as provided in par. (b), entitles the licensee to operate an automobile, farm truck, dual purpose farm truck, Type 1 motorcycle powered with an engine of not more than 125 cubic centimeters displacement, Type 2 motorcycle, moped or motor bicycle owned and registered by the licensee’s parent or guardian or a farm truck leased to the licensee’s parent or guardian or any combination of these vehicles, depending on the restrictions placed by the department on the particular license.

(b) A license issued pursuant to this section does not authorize the licensee to operate any such vehicle during hours of darkness or to operate a vehicle for hire or in a city having a population of 500,000 or more or to operate a school bus or a commercial motor vehicle, including a farm truck or dual purpose farm truck defined as a commercial motor vehicle, or taxicab.


343.085 Probationary licenses to new drivers. (1) Except as provided in par. (b) and sub. (2), the department shall issue a probationary license to all applicants for an original license. The probationary license shall remain in effect as provided in s. 343.20 (1) (a).

(b) The department may not issue a probationary license to operate “Class D” vehicles under this section to an applicant who is under 18 years of age unless the applicant has held an instruction permit issued under s. 343.07 for not less than 6 months and, during the 6-month period immediately preceding application, has not committed a moving violation, specified by the department by rule, resulting in a conviction. The department may promulgate rules to waive the requirement of holding an instruction permit for not less than 6 months for qualified applicants who are licensed by another jurisdiction to operate “Class D” vehicles.

(2) (a) Any person moving to this state who has been licensed in another jurisdiction for at least 3 years, who presently holds a license, other than an instruction permit, from another jurisdiction which has not expired for more than 6 months and who has passed the person’s 21st birthday is exempt from this section.

(b) Applicants issued a commercial driver license are exempt from this section.

(c) Any person entitled to a regular license under an agreement entered into under s. 343.16 (1) (d) is exempt from this section.

(2m) (a) Except as provided in this subsection, during the 9–month period after issuance of a probationary license under this section, no licensee under 18 years of age may operate a “Class D” vehicle upon a highway in this state:

1. If, in addition to the licensee, the vehicle is occupied by any person other than the following:

   a. Any number of members of the licensee’s immediate family.

   b. A person who meets the requirements under s. 343.07 (1) (a).

   c. Not more than one other person not described in subd. 1. a. and b.

2. Between the hours of 12 midnight and 5 a.m., unless the licensee’s parent or guardian, or a person who meets the requirements under s. 343.07 (1) (a), occupies the seat beside the licensee, or unless the licensee is traveling between his or her place of residence, school and place of employment.

   (am) 1. Paragraph (a) does not apply to any licensee to whom all of the following apply:

   a. The licensee is operating the motor vehicle in the service of an organized program that, without compensation, transports teenagers to their homes.

   b. The licensee possesses documentation that identifies the program and the licensee and that authorizes the licensee to operate a motor vehicle in service of the program on the date and time.
of the operation. The documentation is valid only if signed by a person who is at least 25 years of age and associated with the program.

(c) The licensee is accompanied by another licensee, other than a teenager who is being transported, who is in the motor vehicle in the service of the program described in subd. 1. a. and who possesses the documentation described in subd. 1. b.

d. The licensee is accompanied by not more than 3 passengers in the vehicle. The licensee described in subd. 1. c. shall not be counted under this subd. 1. d.

2. Paragraph (a) does not apply to any licensee operating the motor vehicle to or from a program described in subd. 1. a., if the licensee possesses documentation described in subd. 1. b. A licensee described in this subdivision may be accompanied by any number of persons also traveling to or from a program described in subd. 1. a.

(paragraph (a)) does not apply to any licensee operating a motor vehicle for emergency purposes.

(b) 1. The department shall extend the restrictions under par. (a) for an additional 6–month period or until the licensee’s 18th birthday, whichever occurs earlier, if any of the following occurs while the licensee is subject to the restrictions under par. (a):

a. The licensee commits a moving violation specified by the department by rule, resulting in a conviction of the licensee.

b. The licensee violates par. (a).

c. A court or the department suspends or revokes the licensee’s operating privilege for any reason other than a mental or physical disability.

2. If the department extends a restriction period under subd. 1., the department shall immediately provide notice of the extension by 1st class mail to the person’s last-known residence address.

(c) A period of restriction under this subsection does not run while a person’s operating privilege is suspended or revoked.

d. The restrictions under this subsection apply until the period of restriction expires or until the licensee reaches 18 years of age, whichever occurs first.

(e) Nothing in this subsection may be construed to create a separate cause of action against the parent or guardian of a probationary licensee under this subsection or against the owner of any vehicle operated by a probationary licensee under this section.

(3) The secretary may suspend a person’s operating privilege under this section when such person has been assigned sufficient demerit points after conviction for traffic violations to require suspension under the rule adopted under sub. (5) and either holds a license issued under this section or by age comes under this section. This subsection applies only to a person holding a probationary license issued before September 1, 2000. This subsection does not apply on or after October 1, 2003.

(4) The secretary may require a person be continued on probationary status beyond the period of first issuance if such person appears by the records of the department to have repeatedly violated any of the state traffic laws or any local ordinance in conformity therewith or any law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with any of the state traffic laws. A person may not be continued on probationary status due to a suspension under s. 343.30 (6).

(5) For the purpose of determining when to suspend or to continue a person on probationary status, the secretary may determine and adopt by rule a method of weighing traffic convictions by their seriousness and may change such weighted scale from time to time as experience or the accident frequency in the state makes necessary or desirable. Such scale may be weighted differently for this license than the scale used to determine suspensions under s. 343.32. This subsection applies only to a person holding a probationary license issued before September 1, 2000. This subsection does not apply on or after October 1, 2003.

### 343.10 Occupational licenses.

(1) Application for occupational license. (a) If a person’s license or operating privilege is revoked or suspended under this chapter or s. 767.303 or 961.50 and if the person is engaged in an occupation, including homemaking or full-time or part-time study, or a trade making it essential that he or she operate a motor vehicle, the person, after payment of the fee provided in sub. (6), may file an application with the department setting forth in detail the need for operating a motor vehicle. No person may file more than one application with respect to each revocation or suspension of the person’s license or operating privilege under this chapter or s. 767.303 or 961.50, except that this limitation does not apply to an application to amend an occupational license restriction.

(b) The application shall be in a form established by the department and shall identify the specific motor vehicle that the applicant seeks authorization to operate, including the vehicle classification and any required endorsements. The application shall include an explanation of why operating the motor vehicle is essential to the person’s livelihood and identify the person’s occupation or trade. The application shall identify the applicant’s employer, and include proof of financial responsibility as specified in s. 343.38 (1) (c) covering the vehicle or vehicles that the applicant requests authorization to operate. The application shall identify the hours of operation and routes of travel being requested by the applicant in accord with the restrictions of sub. (5). The applicant shall certify whether, to the best of personal knowledge, he or she is disqualified under s. 343.315.

(d) If the applicant’s commercial driver license has been suspended or revoked for a violation of s. 346.63 (1) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (1) and the person was not operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the violation, an application seeking issuance of an occupational license authorizing operation of “Class A”, “Class B” or “Class C” vehicles may be filed with the department. The application may also seek authorization to operate “Class D” or “Class M” vehicles.

(e) If the applicant’s commercial driver license has been suspended under s. 343.32 (2), an application seeking issuance of an occupational license authorizing operation of “Class A”, “Class B” or “Class C” vehicles may be filed with the department. The application may also seek authorization to operate “Class D” or “Class M” vehicles.

(f) If the applicant’s commercial driver license has been suspended or revoked under ch. 344, an application seeking issuance of an occupational license authorizing operation of “Class A”, “Class B” or “Class C” vehicles may be filed with the department. The application may not seek authorization to operate “Class D” or “Class M” vehicles.

(2) Eligibility. (a) Except as provided in pars. (b) to (e), a person is eligible for an occupational license if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. Except for a revocation or suspension that arose out of the same incident or occurrence for which the person’s license or operating privilege is currently revoked or suspended, the person’s license or operating privilege was not revoked or suspended previously under this chapter or ch. 344 or s. 961.50 within the one-year period immediately preceding the present revocation or suspension, except as provided in s. 344.40.

2. The person files proof of financial responsibility as specified under s. 343.38 (1) (c) covering all vehicles for which the person seeks permission to operate.

3. The person surrenders his or her former operator’s license unless the license is already in the possession of the court or the department.

4. At least 15 days have elapsed since the date of revocation or suspension, or, in the case of an appeal that is subsequently dismissed or affirmed, at least 15 days have elapsed since the date of revocation or suspension following the dismissal or affirmance of
the appeal, unless another minimum waiting period or immediate eligibility is expressly provided by law.

(b) No occupational license may permit the operation of any motor vehicle for which the applicant did not hold valid authorization at the time of revocation or suspension of the person’s license or operating privilege.

(c) No occupational license permitting the operation of a commercial motor vehicle may be granted to a person during a period of disqualification under s. 343.315.

(d) A person whose operating privilege is revoked under ch. 351 is not eligible for an occupational license except as provided in s. 351.07.

(dm) A person whose operating privilege is suspended or revoked under s. 343.30 (1q) (d) or 343.305 (10) (d) is not eligible for an occupational license.

(e) If the court orders a person to submit to and comply with an assessment and driver safety plan and if the person has 2 or more prior convictions, suspensions or revocations, as counted under s. 343.307 (1), no occupational license may be granted until the person has completed the assessment and is complying with the driver safety plan.

(3) Determination on Application. (a) If satisfied that the person is eligible under sub. (2), the department shall consider the number and seriousness of prior traffic convictions in determining whether to issue an occupational license and what restrictions to specify. Notwithstanding s. 343.40, the denial by the department of an application for an occupational license is not subject to judicial review.

(b) The department shall inform a person whose application for an occupational license under sub. (1) is denied in whole or in part of the specific reasons for the denial and that he or she may file one petition for an occupational license under sub. (4).

(4) Petition for Occupational License. (a) A person whose application for an occupational license under sub. (1) is denied in whole or in part may file a petition with the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which the person resides for an order authorizing the issuance of an occupational license to the person. No person may file a petition under this paragraph unless he or she first pays the fee specified in s. 814.61 (14) to the clerk of the circuit court. The person’s petition shall include a copy of the person’s current operating record under s. 343.23 (2) and the reasons why the person should be granted an occupational license. The court shall consider the number and seriousness of prior traffic convictions in determining whether to grant the petition and shall state, in writing, its reasons for granting or denying the petition. No person may file more than one petition with respect to a denial of an application for an occupational license under sub. (1).

(b) If the court grants the petition, the court shall issue an order authorizing the issuance of an occupational license to the person. The order for issuance of an occupational license shall include definite restrictions as to hours of the day, type of occupation and areas or routes of travel that are permitted under the license. The occupational license may permit travel to and from church during specified hours if the travel does not exceed the restrictions as to hours of the day and hours per week in this subdivision. The occupational license may permit travel necessary to comply with a driver safety plan ordered under s. 343.30 (1q) or 343.305 if the travel does not exceed the restrictions as to hours of the day and hours per week in this subdivision. The occupational license may contain restrictions on the use of alcohol and of controlled substances and controlled substance analogs in violation of s. 961.41.

2. If the applicant has 2 or more convictions, suspensions or revocations, as counted under s. 343.307 (1), the occupational license shall prohibit the applicant from driving or operating a motor vehicle while he or she has an alcohol concentration of more than 0.0.

3. If the applicant has 2 or more prior convictions, suspensions, or revocations, as counted under s. 343.307 (1), the occupational license of the applicant shall restrict the applicant’s operation under the occupational license to vehicles that are equipped with a functioning ignition interlock device if the court has ordered under s. 343.301 (1) that each motor vehicle for which the person’s name appears on the vehicle’s certificate of title or registration be equipped with an ignition interlock device or has ordered under s. 346.65 (6) (a) 1., 1999 stats., that the motor vehicle owned by the person and used in the violation or improper refusal be equipped with an ignition interlock device. A person to whom a restriction under this subdivision applies violates that restriction if he or she requests or permits another to blow into an ignition interlock device or to start a motor vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device for the purpose of providing the person an operable motor vehicle without the necessity of first submitting a sample of his or her breath to analysis by the ignition interlock device. If the occupational license restricts the applicant’s operation to a vehicle that is equipped with an ignition interlock device, the applicant shall be liable for the reasonable costs of equipping the vehicle with the ignition interlock device.

(b) Limitations. Occupational licenses are subject to the limitations specified in ss. 343.30 (1q) (b) and (h), 343.305 (8) (d) and (10) (b) and (em), 343.31 (3m), 343.32 (1m), 767.303 and 961.50.

(6) Fee. No person may file an application for an occupational license under sub. (1) unless he or she first pays a fee of $40 to the department.

(7) Department to Issue Occupational License. (b) The department shall issue an occupational license as soon as practicable upon receipt of an application to the department under sub. (1) or an order from a court under sub. (4) or s. 351.07 for such a license, if the department determines that the applicant is eligible under sub. (2).

(c) If the person is disqualified under s. 343.315 but otherwise eligible under sub. (2), the department shall issue an occupational license authorizing operation only of vehicles other than commercial motor vehicles.

(cm) If the occupational license includes the restriction specified in sub. (5) (a) 3., the department shall not issue the occupational license until the applicant provides evidence satisfactory to the department that any motor vehicle that the applicant will be permitted to operate has been equipped with a functioning ignition interlock device.

(d) An occupational license issued by the department under this subsection shall be in the form of a photo license and any special restrictions cards under s. 343.17 (4). The license shall clearly indicate that restrictions on a special restrictions card apply and that the special restrictions card is part of the person’s license.

(e) The occupational license issued by the department shall contain the restrictions required by sub. (5). The occupational license authorizes the licensee to operate a motor vehicle only when that operation is an essential part of the licensee’s occupation or trade. If the department determines that the applicant is eligible under sub. (2), the department may impose such conditions and
limitations upon the authorization to operate commercial or noncommercial motor vehicles as in the secretary’s judgment are necessary in the interest of public safety and welfare, including reexamination of the person’s qualifications to operate a commercial or noncommercial motor vehicle or a particular type thereof. The department may limit such authorization to include, without limitation, the operation of particular vehicles, particular kinds of operation and particular traffic conditions.

(f) The expiration date of the occupational license is the 2nd working day after the date of termination of the period of revocation or suspension as provided by law. The occupational license may not be revoked, suspended or canceled at any time prior to the expiration date. An occupational license is not renewable when it expires. If an occupational license expires and is not revoked, suspended or canceled, the licensee may obtain a new license upon that expiration but only if he or she complies with the conditions specified in s. 343.38. Revocation, suspension or cancellation of an occupational license has the same effect as revocation, suspension or cancellation of any other license.

(g) Notwithstanding sub. (2) (a) 4., there shall be no minimum waiting period before the issuance of an occupational license under this subsection authorizing operation of only “Class A,” “Class B” or “Class C” vehicles if the applicant’s commercial driver license has been suspended or revoked for a violation of s. 346.63 (1) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (1) and the person was not operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the violation or has been suspended or revoked under ch. 344. If the application also seeks authorization to operate “Class D” or “Class M” vehicles, the department may issue an occupational license if at least 15 days have elapsed since the date of suspension or revocation unless another minimum waiting period or eligibility at any time is provided by law.

(8) VIOLATION OF RESTRICTIONS. Any person who violates a restriction on an occupational license as to hours of the day, area, routes or purpose of travel, vehicles allowed to be operated, use of an ignition interlock device, sobriety or use of alcohol, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs shall be:

(a) Prosecuted under s. 343.44 (1) (a) if the occupational license was issued while the person’s operating privilege was suspended.

(b) Prosecuted under s. 343.44 (1) (b) if the occupational license was issued while the person’s operating privilege was revoked.

(9) NOTICE. The department shall inform a person whose operating privilege is revoked or suspended under this chapter of his or her right to apply to the department for issuance of an occupational license under this section.


Cross References: See also ch. Trans 117, Wis. adm. code.

A court cannot impose restrictions on occupational licenses other than those in sub. (1), 1987 stats. [now sub. (5) (a)]. State v. Darling. 143 Wis. 2d 839, 422 N.W.2d 886 (Cl. App. 1988).

343.11 Temporary license for persons previously licensed in another state. (1) The department shall not issue a license to a person previously licensed in another jurisdiction unless such person surrenders to the department all valid operator’s licenses possessed by the person issued by any other jurisdiction, which surrender operates as a cancellation of the surrendered licenses insofar as the person’s privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state is concerned. When such applicant surrenders the license to the department, the department shall issue a receipt therefor, which receipt shall constitute a temporary license to operate a motor vehicle for a period not to exceed 60 days if the applicant meets the standard required for eyesight and, in the opinion of the examiner, is not a dangerous hazard to the applicant and other users of the highways. Except as provided in s. 343.055, the temporary license shall not be valid authorization for the operation of commercial motor vehicles. The temporary license shall be surrendered to the examiner for cancellation by the department if the 3rd attempt at the driving test is failed and the applicant shall be required to secure a temporary instruction permit for further practice driving.

(2) Upon the expiration of 30 days following the application, the department shall return all surrendered licenses to the issuing department together with information that the licensee is now licensed in this state or has been refused a license by this state, whichever the case may be.

(3) Except as provided in sub. (1), the department may issue a receipt to any applicant for a license, which receipt shall constitute a temporary license to operate a motor vehicle while the application for license is being processed. Such temporary license shall be valid for a period not to exceed 30 days.

History: 1971 c. 204; 1975 c. 64; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a); 1977 c. 273; 1989 a. 105.

343.12 School bus operators to obtain special authorization. (1) (a) No person shall operate a school bus without having first applied for and received authorization from the department in the form of a school bus endorsement to the person’s valid operator’s license.

(b) A motor bus registered in compliance with s. 341.26 (7) and equipped as provided under ss. 347.25 (2) and 347.44 but not transporting children for any purpose is not a school bus within the meaning of this subsection while being used on a highway for purposes other than those specified in s. 340.01 (56) (a) or (am) if the flashing red warning lights are not used and all markings on the front and rear of the motor bus indicating that it is a school bus are removed or completely concealed.

(2) The department shall issue a school bus endorsement to a person only if such person meets all of the following requirements:

(a) Subject to sub. (3), is at least 18 years and not more than 70 years of age.

(b) Holds a valid operator’s license issued under this chapter.

(c) Notwithstanding ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, has not been convicted of reckless driving under s. 346.62 or a local ordinance in conformity with s. 346.62 (2) or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.62 (2), operating a motor vehicle while operating privileges are suspended or revoked under s. 343.44 (1) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 343.44 (1) with respect to operation of a motor vehicle while operating privileges are suspended or revoked, any of the offenses enumerated under s. 343.31 (1) or (2), or 2 or more offenses under s. 346.63 (7) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (7), or a conviction under the law of another jurisdiction, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s laws, or a conviction, suspension or revocation that would be counted under ss. 343.307 (2), within the 2-year period immediately preceding the date of application. Upon request of the operator or school, the department shall certify whether the operator meets this requirement.

(e) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, has not been convicted of a felony or offense against public morals in this state, including a conviction under the law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state for an offense which, if the person had been convicted of the offense under the laws of this state, would have constituted a felony or offense against public morals, or in another jurisdiction, within the past 5 years.

(f) Has sufficient use of both hands and the foot normally employed to operate the foot brake and foot accelerator correctly.

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and efficiently. Such use may be substantiated by competent medical proof submitted by the applicant.

(g) Has passed the physical examination required. Physical standards to be met may be established by the department.

(h) Prior to the initial issuance or renewal of the endorsement, takes and passes a special examination prescribed by the department and administered by the department or by a 3rd-party tester under s. 343.16 (1) (b) to determine his or her ability to safely operate a school bus. This special examination may include the examination required under sub. (3). The department may renew the endorsement without retesting the licensee, except under sub. (3).

(3) The department may issue a school bus endorsement to a person who is more than 70 years of age if the person meets the requirements specified in sub. (2) (c) to (f) and (h) before issuance of the endorsement and annually takes and passes a physical examination prior to issuance or renewal of the endorsement to determine that the person meets the physical standards established under sub. (2) (g).

(4) (a) Notwithstanding sub. (1), a person may operate a school bus in this state if one or more of the following requirements are met:

1. The person is a nonresident holding a valid commercial driver license with a “P” passenger endorsement and any additional endorsements required by the person’s home jurisdiction for the operation of a school bus and the origin or destination of the trip is in another state.

2. The person is a resident of Iowa, Illinois, Michigan or Minnesota and was licensed under s. 343.12 (2) (c), 1987 stats. This subdivision applies only for 2 years after December 20, 1989.

3. The person is a resident of Iowa, Illinois, Michigan or Minnesota and holds a valid operator’s license authorizing the operation of a school bus.

(b) The department may, by rule, establish standards for the employment by an employer of a person under par. (a) 3. as an operator of a school bus in this state. The rules may require the person to meet the qualifications contained in sub. (2) or (3) and any rules of the department applicable to residents.

(5) Any person who violates sub. (1) shall be:

(a) Fined not less than $200 nor more than $600 and may be imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both for the first such offense.

(b) Fined not less than $300 nor more than $1,000 and imprisoned for not less than 5 days nor more than 6 months for the 2nd offense occurring within 3 years.

(c) Fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $2,000 and imprisoned for not less than 10 days nor more than 6 months for the 3rd or subsequent offense occurring within 3 years.


Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 112, Wis. adm. code.

Standards under 343.12 (2) (g) are not exempt from requirements under 111.34 (2) (b). Bothum v. Department of Transp., 134 Wis. 2d 378, 396 N.W.2d 785 (Ct. App. 1986).

343.135 Special restricted operator’s license. (1) Issuance. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), upon application therefore, the department shall issue a special restricted operator’s license to any person who meets the following requirements:

1. Is at least 14 years of age and is physically disabled or is at least 16 years of age.

2. Does not possess a valid operator’s license issued under this chapter.

3. Pays the required fee.

4. Has passed an examination which includes a test of the applicant’s eyesight, ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic, knowledge of the traffic laws and an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of the vehicle for which the special restricted license is to be issued. An applicant shall furnish the motor vehicle he or she will be operating for use in testing his or her ability to operate the vehicle. The department may waive the demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a moped or motor bicycle as provided in s. 343.16 (2) (d).

(b) The department may not issue a special restricted license to a person whose operating privilege is suspended or revoked.

(2) Scope. (a) A special restricted operator’s license may be issued only for the specific vehicle or type of vehicle described on the license. A license under this paragraph may not be issued to authorize operation of a commercial motor vehicle or a school bus. A special restricted operator’s license may be issued only for the following vehicles:

1. Motor bicycles or mopeds; or

2. Specially designed vehicles having a maximum speed of 35 miles per hour which the department authorizes to be operated on the highway.

(b) If a special restricted operator’s license is issued for operation of a vehicle described in par. (a) 2., the vehicle may be operated only by the following persons:

1. The holder of the restricted license.

2. A person licensed under this chapter who operates the vehicle for the limited purposes of repairing or testing the vehicle.

(3) Design of license. The special restricted license shall be of the same size and general design of the operator’s license, except that it shall bear the words “SPECIAL RESTRICTED LICENSE”. The information on the license shall be the same as specified under s. 343.17 (3) and the holder may affix a decal thereto as provided in s. 343.175 (3). All restrictions imposed under sub. (6) shall be listed on the license or on an attachment thereto.

(4) Physical requirements. The department may set such physical standards as it deems necessary for eligibility for licensing under this section. The standards shall include a vision standard.

(5) Examination. The department may require an applicant to submit to a medical examination to determine whether the applicant meets the standards set under sub. (4). The applicant shall pay the cost of any such examination.

(6) Restrictions. The department may impose such restrictions as it deems necessary on any license issued under this section. Such restrictions may include, but are not limited to, the type of vehicle, special equipment, time of day of operation, and specific geographic areas and streets or routes of travel. A vehicle operated under this section shall display a slow moving vehicle emblem as required under s. 347.245.
(7) Expiration; renewal. A special restricted operator’s license issued under this section shall expire 2 years after the date of issuance. Within 90 days prior to the expiration of a license, the holder of the restricted license may renew the license by paying the required fee and passing the examination under sub. (1) (a) 4.


Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 112, Wis. adm. code.

343.14 Application for license. (1) Every application to the department for a license or identification card or for renewal thereof shall be made upon the appropriate form furnished by the department and shall be accompanied by the required fee.

(2) The forms for application shall be determined by the department and shall include:

(a) The full name and residence address of the applicant;
(b) The applicant’s date of birth, color of eyes, color of hair, sex, height, weight and race;
(bm) Except as provided in par. (br), the applicant’s social security number.

(br) If the applicant does not have a social security number, a statement made or subscribed under oath or affirmation that the applicant does not have a social security number. The form of the statement shall be prescribed by the department of workforce development. A license that is issued or renewed under s. 343.17 in reliance on a statement submitted under this paragraph is invalid if the statement is false.

(c) A statement as to whether the applicant has heretofore been licensed as an operator of any motor vehicle and, if so, when and by what jurisdiction;
(d) Whether any previous license or operating privilege has ever been suspended or revoked or whether application has ever been refused and, if so, the date and place of such suspension, revocation or refusal;
(e) If the application is made by a person under 18 years of age, documentary proof that the applicant is enrolled in a school program or high school equivalency program and is not a habitual truant as defined in s. 118.16 (1) (a), has graduated from high school or been granted a declaration of high school graduation equivalency or is enrolled in a home-based private educational program, as defined in s. 115.001 (3g). For purposes of this paragraph, “documentary proof” means the signature and verification of an adult sponsor as provided in s. 343.15 (1) or the applicant as provided in s. 343.15 (4) (b);
(em) If the application is made by a male who is at least 18 years of age but less than 26 years of age, the form shall notify the applicant that, by submitting the application to the department, the applicant will be added to the record of potential donors maintained by the department. The department may require the applicant to show the medical certificate of understanding entered into under s. 49.857 (2), the department shall deny an application for the issuance or renewal of a license if the applicant has not included his or her social security number in the application, or, if the applicant does not have a social security number, has not included a statement made or subscribed under oath or affirmation that the applicant does not have a social security number in the application.

(b) Except as otherwise required to administer and enforce this chapter, the department of transportation may not disclose a social security number obtained from an applicant for a license under sub. (2) (bm) to any person except to the department of workforce development for the sole purpose of administering s. 49.22.

(2m) The forms for application for a license or identification card or for renewal thereof shall include the information required under s. 85.103 (2).

(3) The department shall, as part of the application process, take a photograph of the applicant to comply with s. 343.17 (3) (a) 2. Except where specifically exempted by statute or by rule of the department, no application may be processed without the photograph being taken. In the case of renewal licenses, the photographs shall be taken once every 8 years, and shall coincide with the appearance for examination which is required under s. 343.16 (3). The department may make provision for issuance of a license without a photograph if the applicant is stationed outside the state in military service and in specific situations where the department deems such action appropriate.

(4m) The department shall develop designs for licenses and identification cards which are resistant to tampering and forgery no later than January 1, 1989. Licenses and identification cards issued on or after January 1, 1989, shall incorporate the designs required under this subsection.

(5) No person may use a false or fictitious name or knowingly make a false statement or knowingly conceal a material fact or otherwise commit a fraud in an application for any of the following:

(a) A license.
(b) An identification card.

(bm) Except as otherwise required by law, the department of transportation may not disclose a social security number obtained from an applicant for a license under sub. (2) (bm) to any person except to the department of workforce development for the sole purpose of administering s. 49.22.

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(b) An identification card.

(bm) Except as otherwise required by law, the department of transportation may not disclose a social security number obtained from an applicant for a license under sub. (2) (bm) to any person except to the department of workforce development for the sole purpose of administering s. 49.22.
343.15 Application of persons under 18: liability of sponsors; release from liability; notification of juvenile violation. (1) As excepted in sub. (4), the application of any person under 18 years of age for a license shall be signed and verified by either of the applicant’s parents, or a stepparent of the applicant or other adult sponsor, as defined by the department by rule. The application shall be signed and verified before a traffic officer, a duly authorized agent of the department or a person duly authorized to administer oaths.

(b) The adult sponsor under par. (a) shall sign and verify on the application that the person under 18 years of age is enrolled in a school program or high school equivalency program and is not a habitual truant as defined in s. 118.16 (1) (a), has graduated from high school or been granted a declaration of high school graduation equivalency or is enrolled in a home-based private educational program, as defined in s. 115.001 (3g).

(2) (a) In this subsection, “custody” does not mean joint legal custody as defined in s. 767.001 (1s).

(b) Any negligence or willful misconduct of a person under the age of 18 years when operating a motor vehicle upon the highways is imputed to the parents where both have custody and either parent is a sponsor, otherwise, it is imputed to the adult sponsor who signed the application for such person’s license. The parents or the adult sponsor is jointly and severally liable with such operator for any damages caused by such negligent or willful misconduct.

(3) Any adult who signed the application of a person under the age of 18 years for a license may thereafter file with the department a verified written request that the license of such minor be canceled. Within 10 days after the receipt of such request the department shall cancel the license. When the license has been so canceled, the adult who signed the application and the parents or guardian of such minor is relieved from the liability which otherwise would be imposed under sub. (2) by reason of having signed such application, or being a parent or guardian, insofar as any negligence or willful misconduct on the part of the minor while operating a motor vehicle subsequent to the cancellation concerned.

(4) (a) The department may issue a license to a person who is under 18 years of age even though an adult sponsor has not signed the application for license if such person is in one of the classes specified in this paragraph or in a substantially similar class specified by the department by rule and if a certificate of insurance to the effect that such person is covered by a motor vehicle policy of liability insurance meeting the requirements of s. 344.33 has been filed with the department. Such policy may be canceled or terminated only after notice as provided in s. 344.34.

1. A person who does not have a living parent.
2. A person who does not reside with his or her parents and who is a full-time student or earning a living.
3. A person who is a ward of the state, county or court and who has been placed in a foster home or a treatment foster home or in the care of a religious welfare service.
4. A person who is married and whose spouse is under 18 years of age.

(b) A person who is not required to have an adult sponsor under par. (a) shall sign and verify on the application that he or she is enrolled in a school program or high school equivalency program and is not a habitual truant as defined in s. 118.16 (1) (a), has graduated from high school or been granted a declaration of high school graduation equivalency or is enrolled in a home-based private educational program, as defined in s. 115.001 (3g).

(5) When a citation for a moving traffic violation, under chs. 341 to 349 or under a local ordinance in conformity therewith, is issued to or a notice of revocation under s. 351.027 is sent to a person who is under 18 years of age and required to have a sponsor under this section, the issuing or filing agency shall, within 7 days, notify the person’s sponsor or parents of the violation or notice. When the secretary suspends or revokes the operating privilege of a person who is under 18 years of age and who is required to have a sponsor under this section, the agency shall notify the person’s sponsor or parents of such a notice. After the secretary receives notice that a court has suspended or revoked the operating privilege of such a person, the secretary shall, within 14 days after the suspension or revocation or receipt of the notice of suspension or revocation by the court, respectively, notify the person’s sponsor or parents of the suspension or revocation.

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accommodate any special needs of the applicant. Except as may be required by the department for an “H” or “S” endorsement, the knowledge test is not intended to be a test for literacy or English language proficiency. This paragraph does not prohibit the department from requiring an applicant to correctly read and understand highway signs.

Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 129, Wis. adm. code.

(b) Third-party testing. The department may contract with a person, including an agency or department of this state or its political subdivisions or another state, or a private employer of commercial motor vehicle drivers, to administer commercial motor vehicle skills tests required by 49 CFR 383.110 to 383.135, examinations required to be administered under s. 343.12 (2) (h) and abbreviated driving skills tests required by sub. (3) (b). The department may not enter into such testing contracts with a private driver training school or other private institution. A contract with a 3rd-party tester shall include all of the following provisions:

1. All tests and examinations conducted by the 3rd-party tester shall be the same as those given by the department.

2. The department, the federal highway administration or its representative may conduct random examinations, inspections and audits of the 3rd-party tester without any prior notice.

3. At least annually, the department shall conduct an on-site inspection of the 3rd-party tester to determine compliance with the contract and with department and federal standards for testing applicants for commercial driver license and with department standards for testing applicants for school bus endorsements. At least annually, the department shall also evaluate testing given by the 3rd-party by one of the following means:

a. Department employees shall take the tests and examinations actually administered by the 3rd-party tester as if the department employee were an applicant.

b. The department shall retest a sample of drivers who were examined by the 3rd-party to compare the pass and fail results.

4. Examiners of the 3rd-party tester shall meet the same qualifications and training standards as the department’s license examiners to the extent established by the department as necessary to satisfactorily perform the skills tests required by 49 CFR 383.110 to 383.135, examinations required to be administered under s. 343.12 (2) (h) and abbreviated driving skills tests required by sub. (3) (b).

5. The department shall take prompt and appropriate remedial action against the 3rd-party tester in the event that the tester fails to comply with department or federal standards for commercial driver license testing, department standards for school bus endorsement testing or any provision of the contract. Such action may include immediate termination of testing by the 3rd-party tester and recovery of damages.

(c) Driver education course. The department may, after consultation with the department of public instruction and the technical college system board, provide for administration of and certification of the results of the test of an applicant’s knowledge of the traffic laws and ability to read and understand highway signs in conjunction with a course in driver education specified in this paragraph, by an instructor in that course. The test under this paragraph does not include that part of a driver’s examination involving the actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle required for the issuance of a license other than an instruction permit. The test under this paragraph may be administered and certified by an instructor in any of the following:

1. A course in driver education in public schools approved by the department of public instruction.

2. A course in driver education in technical colleges approved by the technical college system board.

3. A course in driver education in nonpublic and private schools that meets the minimum standards set by the department of public instruction.

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(d) Foreign license reciprocity. The chief administrator of the division of motor vehicles may, with the appropriate official of another country or of a province or other subdivision of another country, enter into a reciprocal agreement under which this state and the other country, province or other subdivision agree to waive any knowledge test and driving skills test of an applicant for an operator’s license to operate “Class D” vehicles, as described in s. 343.04 (1) (d), or “Class M” vehicles, as described in s. 343.04 (1) (e), or both, if the applicant possesses a valid license to operate those vehicles, other than an instructional permit, issued by this state or the other country, province or other subdivision. The chief administrator may enter into an agreement under this paragraph only if the criteria for any knowledge test and driving skills test required by the other country, province or other subdivision for those types of vehicles are at least as stringent as the requirements of this state. The agreement shall specify all of the following:

1. That the department will issue a regular license, as described in s. 343.03 (3) (a), to any person moving to this state who has been licensed by the other country, province or other subdivision for at least 3 years, who presently holds a license to operate that type of vehicle, other than an instructional permit, from the other country, province or other subdivision and who is at least 21 years of age. Notwithstanding s. 343.03 (3) (a), a regular license issued under this subdivision may be endorsed to permit operation of Type 1 motorcycles, but may not be endorsed to permit operation of school buses. The department shall issue a probationary license under s. 343.085 to any other applicant who holds a valid operator’s license issued by the other country, province or other subdivision.

2. That whenever the secretary has good cause to believe that an operator licensed under an agreement entered into under this paragraph is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed, the secretary may, upon written notice of at least 5 days to the licensee, require the licensee to submit to an examination including all or part of the tests specified in par. (a). Upon the conclusion of such examination the secretary shall take such action as is appropriate under this chapter, including cancellation of the license or permitting the licensee to retain the license subject to such restrictions as the secretary may order or without restrictions.

3. That the other country, province or other subdivision will treat operators licensed by this state similarly to how this state will treat operators licensed by the other country, province or other subdivision.

(2) Testing standards. (a) Rules. The department shall promulgate rules setting testing standards for commercial driver license applicants. The testing standards shall comply with 49 CFR 383.71 to 383.135.

(b) Specific requirements. The standards developed by the department under par. (c) shall provide that the examination for persons making their first application for an operator’s license shall include a test of the applicant’s eyesight, ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic, knowledge of the traffic laws, including s. 346.26, understanding of fuel-efficient driving habits and the relative costs and availability of other modes of transportation, knowledge of the need for anatomical gifts and the ability to make an anatomical gift through the use of a donor card issued under s. 343.175 (2), and an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle. The test of knowledge of the traffic laws shall include questions on the provisions of ss. 343.30 (1q), 343.303 to 343.31 and 346.63 to 346.655, relating to the operation of a motor vehicle and the consumption of alcohol beverages. The test of knowledge may also include questions on the social, medical and economic effects of alcohol and other drug abuse. The examination of applicants for authorization to operate ‘Class M’ vehicles shall test an applicant’s knowledge of Type 1 motorcycle safety, including proper eye protection to be worn during hours of darkness. The department may require persons...
changing their residence to this state from another jurisdiction and persons applying for a reinstated license after termination of a re-vocation period to take all or parts of the examination required of persons making their first application for an operator’s license. Any applicant who is required to give an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle shall furnish a representative vehicle in safe operating condition for use in testing ability.

(c) Standards. The department shall promulgate rules setting standards to govern driver license examinations and re-examinations. Such standards shall take into consideration any federal standards or requirements which may apply.

(cm) Motorcycle waiver. The department shall waive the driving skills test of a person applying for authorization to operate “Class M” vehicles if the applicant holds an instruction permit under s. 343.07 (4) and has successfully completed a basic rider course approved by the department.

Cross Reference: See also s. Trans 129.03, Wis. adm. code.

(d) Motor bicycle or moped waiver. The department may promulgate rules authorizing a license examiner to waive the operating skill examination of a person applying for a license to operate a motor bicycle or moped if the applicant has the physical ability to operate the vehicle safely. The rules shall ensure that the applicant demonstrates knowledge of the traffic laws necessary for the safe operation of the vehicle.

(e) Farm service industry employee waiver. To the extent permitted under applicable federal law or regulation, the department may waive any knowledge test and shall waive the commercial driver license driving skills test of a person applying for an “F” endorsement, except as provided under s. 343.16 (5) or (6).

(3) Testing upon renewal. (a) The department shall examine every applicant for the renewal of an operator’s license once every 8 years. The department may institute a method of selecting the date of renewal so that such examination shall be required for each applicant for renewal of a license to gain a uniform rate of examinations. The examination shall consist of a test of eyesight. The department shall make provisions for giving such examinations at examining stations in each county to all applicants for an operator’s license. The person to be examined shall appear at the examining station nearest the person’s place of residence or at such time and place as the department designates in answer to an applicant’s request. In lieu of examination, the applicant may request or mail to the department a report of examination of the applicant’s eyesight by an ophthalmologist, optometrist or physician licensed to practice medicine. The report shall be based on an examination made not more than 3 months prior to the date it is submitted. The report shall be on a form furnished and in the form required by the department. The department shall decide whether, in each case, the eyesight reported is sufficient to meet the current eyesight standards.

(b) The department shall require each applicant for the renewal of an operator’s license with an endorsement authorizing the operation of school buses to take and pass the knowledge test under sub. (1) and an abbreviated driving skills test including, but not limited to, pretrip inspection, the loading and unloading of passengers and railroad crossing procedures.

(4) Conduct of driving skills test. (a) An applicant who holds an expired instruction permit, expired out-of-state license or who seeks to reinstate his or her operating privilege may drive a motor vehicle only when accompanied by an authorized license examiner for the purpose of examining the applicant’s ability to operate a motor vehicle. Such applicant must be driven to and from the examining area by a licensed driver. This exception to the requirement to hold a valid operator’s license does not apply to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle. For purposes of examining applicants for a special restricted operator’s license under s. 343.135, the department may waive the requirements of this paragraph in any case in which it considers a waiver desirable.

(b) More than one authorized operator’s license examiner or supervisor may ride with any licensed operator or applicant for an operator’s license for the purpose of examining the person’s ability to operate a motor vehicle.

(5) Medical or other special examinations. (a) The secretary may require any applicant for a license or any licensed operator to submit to a special examination by such persons or agencies as the secretary may direct to determine incompetency, physical or mental disability, disease or any other condition which might prevent such applicant or licensed person from exercising reasonable and ordinary control over a motor vehicle. When the department requires the applicant to submit to an examination, the applicant shall pay the cost thereof. If the department receives an application for a renewal or duplicate license after voluntary surrender under s. 343.265 or receives a report from a physician or order a driver under s. 146.82 (3), or if the department has a report of 2 or more arrests within a one-year period for any combination of violations of s. 346.63 (1) or (5) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (1) or (5), or s. 346.63 (1m), 1985 stats., or s. 346.63 (2) or (6) or 940.25, or s. 940.09 where the offense involved the use of a vehicle, the department shall determine, by interview or otherwise, whether the operator should submit to an examination under this section. The examination may consist of an assessment. If the examination indicates that education or treatment for a disability, disease or condition concerning the use of alcohol, a controlled substance or a controlled substance analog is appropriate, the department may order a driver safety plan in accordance with s. 343.30 (1q). If there is no compliance with an assessment or the driver safety plan, the department shall revoke the person’s operating privilege in the manner specified in s. 343.30 (1q) (d).

(b) Whenever the department receives the results of a special examination required under this subsection, the department shall give fair consideration to the recommendation of the examining person or agency together with other evidence in determining if it is in the interest of public safety to issue, renew, deny or cancel a license. If a license is denied or canceled by the department after a special examination as provided in par. (a), such denial or cancellation shall be reviewed by a reviewing board upon written request of the applicant filed with the department within 10 days after receipt of notice of such denial or cancellation. Notice of denial or cancellation shall be in writing and contain specific reasons. The notice shall contain a statement that the applicant has 10 days within which to file a written request with the department for review of the department’s decision by the reviewing board. The applicant shall have the right to appear personally before the review board, to present witnesses and additional information, and to be represented by counsel. The department’s representative may administer oaths, issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant documents and may require a reexamination of the applicant. No law enforcement officer or other witness produced by the applicant to testify on the applicant’s behalf shall be paid a witness fee nor shall any law enforcement officer called to appear for the department be paid any witness fee. A record including the recommendations of the board shall be made of the proceeding. If a license is denied or canceled, the applicant shall be given specific reasons in writing. Review boards shall consist of the department’s representative and at least 2 members appointed by the secretary from a list of physicians licensed to practice medicine in this state and a list of optometrists licensed to practice optometry in this state. Optometrists shall be limited to reviewing cases concerning vision only. In cases concerning mental disability or disease at least one of the physicians shall have specialized training in psychiatry. In cases concerning seizure disorders at least one of the physicians shall have specialized training in neurology. The members of the board shall receive the per diem and expenses provided in s. 15.08 (7)
which shall be charged to the appropriation under s. 20.395 (5) (cq). A decision of the department based on the recommendation of a reviewing board is subject to judicial review under s. 343.40.

(c) All reports, records or information furnished by or on behalf of an applicant or licensed operator under this subsection are confidential and shall be for the sole use of the department, the applicant or licensed driver, the review board and the courts in administering this section and are not admissible as evidence for any other purpose in any civil or criminal action. The applicant or licensed driver may give informed written consent for release of this information to others.

(d) Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted to require the release of this information which was obtained under a pledge of confidentiality and such a clear pledge was made in order to obtain the information and was necessary to obtain the information.

(6) SPECIAL RETESTING OF LICENSED OPERATORS. (a) Whenever the secretary has good cause to believe that a licensed operator is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed, the secretary may, upon written notice of at least 5 days to the licensee, require the licensee to submit to an examination including all or part of the tests specified in sub. (1). Upon the conclusion of such examination the secretary shall take such action as is appropriate under this chapter, including cancellation of the license or permitting the licensee to retain the license subject to such restrictions as the secretary may order or without restrictions.

(b) Whenever the department requires an examination for renewal of an operator’s license, it shall issue a receipt at the time of request for appearance for such examination which receipt shall constitute a temporary license to operate a motor vehicle for not to exceed 60 days pending such examination.

(7) PENALTIES. (a) Any person required by or pursuant to this section to submit to an examination who by any means secures the services of another person to appear in that person’s place to take such examination may be fined not less than $100 nor more than $200 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

(b) Any person who appears for an examination under this section in the place of another person required to take such examination may be fined not less than $100 nor more than $200 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both or both for the first offense and may be fined not less than $200 nor more than $500 or imprisoned not more than one year in county jail or both for the second or each subsequent offense thereafter.

343.17 Contents and issuance of operator’s license. (1) LICENSE ISSUANCE. The department shall issue an operator’s license and endorsements, as applied for, to every qualifying applicant who has paid the required fees.

(2) LICENSE DOCUMENT. The license shall be a single document, in one-part, consisting of 2 sides, except as otherwise provided in sub. (4) and s. 343.10 (7) (d). The document shall be, to the maximum extent practicable, tamper proof.

(3) CONTENTS. (a) The front side of the license document shall include, without limitation, all of the following:

1. The full name, date of birth and residence address of the person.
2. A color photograph of the person.
3. A physical description of the person, including sex, height, weight and hair and eye color, but excluding any mention of race.
4. A unique identifying driver number assigned by the department.
5. A facsimile of the person’s signature, or a space upon which the licensee shall immediately write his or her usual signature with a pen and ink on receipt of the license, without which the license is not valid.
6. The classes of vehicles that the person is authorized to operate under par. (c), together with any endorsements or restrictions.
7. The name of this state.
8. The date of issuance of the license.
9. The date of expiration of the license.
10. A space for the sticker under s. 343.175 (3).
11. If the license authorizes the operation of certain commercial motor vehicles, the legend “Commercial Driver License”, a readily recognizable abbreviation thereof or “CDL”.
12. If the person is not the legal drinking age, as defined in s. 125.02 (8m), at the time of issuance of the license, a distinctive appearance specified by the department that clearly identifies to the public that the person was not the legal drinking age at the time of issuance of the license.
13. If the person is under 18 years of age at the time of issuance of the license, a distinctive appearance specified by the department that clearly identifies to the public that the person was under 18 years of age at the time of issuance of the license.

(b) The reverse side of the license shall contain an explanation of any restriction codes or endorsement abbreviations used on the front of the license, in sufficient detail to identify the nature of the restrictions or endorsements to a law enforcement officer of this state or another jurisdiction. Except for a commercial driver license or a license labeled “CDL–Occupational” as described in s. 343.03 (3) (b) and (e), a part of the reverse side of each license shall be printed to serve as a document of gift under s. 157.06 (2) (b) and (c) or a document of refusal to make an anatomical gift under s. 157.06 (2) (i).

(c) The classifications on operator’s licenses shall be as follows:

1. Classification “A”, which authorizes the operation of “Class A” vehicles as described in s. 343.04 (1) (a). A driver who has passed the knowledge and driving skills tests for operating “Class A” vehicles shall receive a license authorizing the operation of “Class A”, “Class B” and “Class C” vehicles if the person possesses any requisite endorsement.
2. Classification “B”, which authorizes the operation of “Class B” vehicles as described in s. 343.04 (1) (b). A driver who has passed the knowledge and driving skills tests for operating “Class B” vehicles shall receive a license authorizing the operation of “Class B” and “Class C” vehicles if the person possesses any requisite endorsement.
3. Classification “C”, which authorizes the operation of “Class C” vehicles as described in s. 343.04 (1) (c) if the person possesses any requisite endorsement.
4. Classification “D”, which authorizes the operation of “Class D” vehicles as described in s. 343.04 (1) (d) if the person possesses any requisite endorsement.
5. Classification “M”, which authorizes the operation of Type 1 motorcycles.

(d) The endorsements on operator’s licenses shall be as follows:

1g. “F” endorsement, which authorizes a seasonal employee of a farm service industry employer who is eligible for a restricted commercial driver license under applicable federal law or regulation to operate “Class B” and “Class C” vehicles as described in s. 343.04 (1) (b) and (c) for a seasonal period not to exceed 180 days in any calendar year. This endorsement permits the transporting of liquid fertilizers in vehicles or implements of husbandry with total capacities of 3,000 gallons or less, solid fertilizers that are not transported with any organic substance or 1,000 gallons or less of diesel fuel, but no combination of these materials. The endorsement does not permit operation of a commercial motor vehicle beyond 150 miles of the farm service industry employer’s place of business or, in the case of custom harvesters, the farm currently being served.

1m. “H” endorsement, which authorizes the driver to operate vehicles transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding.

Wisconsin Statutes Archive.
2. “N” endorsement, which authorizes operating tank vehicles.

3. “P” endorsement, which authorizes operating vehicles designed to carry, or actually carrying, 16 or more passengers including the driver, except this endorsement does not authorize the operation of school buses unless the licensee also holds an “S” endorsement.

4. “S” endorsement, which authorizes operating school buses.

5. “T” endorsement, which authorizes operating commercial motor vehicles with double or triple trailers where the operation of such combination vehicles is permitted.

6. “X” endorsement, which is an optional endorsement that may be used to indicate that the licensee holds both “H” and “N” endorsements.

(c) The standard restriction codes used on commercial driver licenses include:

1. “K” restriction, which restricts a person issued a license under s. 343.065 from operating commercial motor vehicles in interstate commerce.

2. “L” restriction, which prohibits a person from operating commercial motor vehicles equipped with air brakes, as required in s. 343.13 (2).

4 SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS CARDS. (a) When an operator’s license is subject to lengthy special restrictions or other restrictions not described in the standard codes on the front side of the license, the department shall indicate on the license document that the license is subject to restrictions contained on one or more separate special restrictions cards.

(b) A separate special restrictions card shall describe the restrictions, bear the issuance date of the card, specify the identifying driver number of the license to which it applies, and indicate the number and order of special restrictions cards currently issued by the department to the person, in the manner “1 of 2”.

5 NO PHOTOS ON TEMPORARY LICENSES. The temporary licenses issued under ss. 343.10, 343.11 (1) and (3), 343.16 (6) (b) and 343.305 (8) (a) shall be on forms provided by the department and shall contain the information required by sub. (3), except the license is not required to include a photograph of the licensee.

6 RULES. Subject to subs. (2) and (3), the department shall promulgate rules setting the design and specifications for the license document and subsequent changes thereto.


343.175 Organ donor information. (1) DEPARTMENT TO SOLICIT AND RECORD INFORMATION. As part of every application for an original, duplicate, reinstated, reissued or renewal license or endorsement, the department shall inquire whether the applicant desires to be an organ donor. The department shall record the organ donor response in its file of the person.

(1r) DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION. In addition to the inquiry under sub. (1), if the applicant is at least 18 years of age, the department shall orally state to the applicant that he or she has the opportunity to indicate his or her willingness to be an organ donor. If the applicant indicates that he or she is undecided in response to the inquiry under sub. (1), the department shall provide the applicant with written information that all organ procurement organizations and the department have together developed. If the applicant makes an affirmative response to the inquiry under sub. (1), the department shall request at that time that the applicant write on the license the information that is specified under sub. (2) (ar) and affix a sticker, as described in sub. (3) (a), to the front side of the license document.

(2) DOCUMENT OF GIFT OR REFUSAL. (a) Except as provided in par. (ag), a part of the reverse side of each license shall be printed to serve as a document of gift under s. 157.06 (2) (b) and (c) or a document of refusal to make an anatomical gift under s. 157.06 (2) (i).

(3) ORGAN DONOR STICKER. (a) The department shall designate a space on the front side of the license document where the licensee may affix a sticker which indicates that the licensee is a potential donor of body organs or parts for the purposes of transplantation, therapy, medical research or education. The sticker shall not be larger than one-half inch in diameter and shall not conceal any of the contents required by s. 343.17 (3). The sticker shall be of a distinctive design and supplied to the donor by a nationally recognized organization that enlists donors of body organs or parts for the purposes of transplantation, therapy, medical research or education.

(b) The use of the sticker on the license document is proper and authorized only if the bearer has indicated his or her intent to make body organs or parts available by filling out and carrying a donor card.

History: 1989 a. 105, 298; 1995 a. 446.

343.18 License to be carried; verification of signature. (1) Every licensee shall have his or her license document, including any special restrictions cards issued under s. 343.10 (7) (d) or 343.17 (4), in his or her immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the same upon demand from any judge, justice or traffic officer.

(1m) A person charged with violating sub. (1) may not be convicted if he or she produces in court or in the office of the arresting officer a license theretofore issued to the licensee and valid at the time of his or her arrest.

(2) FOR THE PURPOSE OF VERIFYING THE SIGNATURE ON A LICENSE, ANY JUDGE, JUSTICE OR TRAFFIC OFFICER MAY REQUIRE THE LICENSEE TO WRITE THE LICENSEE'S SIGNATURE IN THE PRESENCE OF SUCH OFFICER.

(3) (a) Except as provided in par. (c), any person who violates sub. (1) shall forfeit not more than $200.

(b) If the person is operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the violation, any person who violates sub. (1) shall forfeit not less than $250 nor more than $2,500.


There is a public interest in permitting police to request a motorist's license and to run a status check on the license. State v. Ellenbecker, 159 Wis. 2d 91, 464 N.W.2d 427 (Ct. App. 1990).

343.19 Duplicate licenses or identification cards. (1) If a license issued under this chapter or an identification card issued under s. 343.50 is lost or destroyed or the name or address named in the license or identification card is changed or the condition specified in s. 343.17 (3) (a) 12. or 13. no longer applies, the person to whom the license or identification card was issued may obtain a duplicate thereof or substitute therefor upon furnishing proof satisfactory to the department of name and date of birth and
that the license or identification card has been lost or destroyed or that application for a duplicate license or identification card is being made for a change of address or name or because the condition specified in s. 343.17 (3) (a) 12. or 13. no longer applies. If the applicant is a male who is at least 18 years of age but less than 26 years of age, the application shall include the information required under s. 343.14 (2) (em). If the original license or identification card is found it shall immediately be transmitted to the department. Duplicates of nonphoto licenses shall be issued as nonphoto licenses.

(1m) If a license issued under this chapter has been surrendered under s. 343.265 and has not expired, the person to whom the license was issued may obtain a duplicate license upon furnishing to the department the applicable information under sub. (1) and complying with the requirements for reissuance of a license after surrender provided under s. 343.265 (2).

(2) No person may knowingly make a false statement or fail to return the original license or identification card to the department upon finding it or fail to comply with any other requirement of this section relating to an application for any of the following:

(a) A duplicate license.

(b) A duplicate identification card.

(4) Any person who violates sub. (2) may be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both.

History:

343.20 Expiration of licenses. (1) (a) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter, reinstated licenses, probationary licenses issued under s. 343.085 and original licenses other than instruction permits shall expire 2 years from the date of the applicant’s next birthday. All other licenses and license endorsements shall expire 8 years after the date of issuance. The department may institute any system of initial license issuance which it deems advisable for the purpose of gaining a uniform rate of renewals. In order to put such a system into operation, the department may issue licenses which are valid for any period less than the ordinary effective period of such license. If the department issues a license that is valid for less than the ordinary effective period as authorized by this paragraph, the fees due under s. 343.21 (1) (a), (b) and (d) shall be prorated accordingly.

(c) The department may, by rule, require any person who is issued a license that is valid for a period of more than 2 years to demonstrate continuing qualifications to hold a license under this chapter at 2-year intervals. The rules may include, without limitation, requiring examination under s. 343.16 (6) or requiring current medical certification under s. 343.16 (5). The department rules shall require cancellation or suspension of the license for noncompliance and shall permit surrender of the operator’s license under s. 343.265.

(d) The department shall cancel an operator’s license that is endorsed for the operation of school buses under s. 343.12 (3), regardless of the license expiration date, if the licensee fails to provide proof to the department of an annual physical examination determining that the person meets the physical standards established under s. 343.12 (2) (g). The licensee may elect to surrender the license under s. 343.265 (1m).

(e) Upon payment in full of the fees required by s. 343.21, the department shall issue to a qualified person an original operator’s license that expires 3 years after the person’s next birthday, but only if the person meets one of the following requirements:

1. The person is moving to this state, surrenders his or her valid commercial driver license issued by another state and makes application for a commercial driver license in this state.

2. The person is 21 years of age or older and moving to this state, has been licensed in another jurisdiction for at least 3 years and presently holds a valid license, other than an instruction permit, from another jurisdiction which has not expired for more than 6 months.

3. The person is entitled to a regular license under an agreement entered into under s. 343.16 (1) (d).

(2) The department shall mail to the last-known address of a licensee at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the license a notice of the date upon which such license must be renewed. Failure to receive notice to renew such license shall not be a defense to a charge of operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator’s license.

(2m) The department shall include with the notice that it mails under sub. (2) information regarding the requirements of s. 347.48 (4); information, as developed by all organ procurement organizations in cooperation with the department, that promotes anatomical donations and which relates to the anatomical donation opportunity available under s. 343.175; and, for licensees aged 65 years or older, material, as provided by the department, explaining the voluntary program that is specified in s. 71.55 (10) (b).

(3) Any person who holds a valid license and who is unable to make a renewal application within the period declared by the department, due to serving with any branch of the armed services, may apply for a renewal of the license at any time during such service or within 6 months after the date of discharge from such service.

(4) Any license issued under this chapter does not expire on the expiration date on the license if, on that expiration date, the licensee is on active duty in the U.S. armed forces and is absent from this state. Any license extended under this subsection expires 30 days after the licensee returns to this state or 90 days after the licensee is discharged from active duty, whichever is earlier. If a license is renewed after an extension under this subsection, the renewal period shall begin on the day after the expiration date on the license.

343.21 License fees. (1) The following fees, in addition to any driving skills test fee, shall be paid to the department for the issuance, renewal, upgrading and reinstatement of licenses, endorsements and instruction permits:

(a) For the initial issuance of a license authorizing only the operation of “Class D” motor vehicles, $18.

(b) For the renewal of a license authorizing only the operation of “Class D” motor vehicles, $24.

(c) For the initial issuance of authorization to operate “Class M” motor vehicles, $12 in addition to any other fees due.

(d) For the initial issuance of authorization to operate “Class M” motor vehicles, $8 in addition to any other fees due.

(e) For the initial issuance of authorization to operate school buses that are not commercial motor vehicles, $5.

(f) For the initial issuance or renewal of authorization to operate “Class A,” “Class B” or “Class C” motor vehicles, or upgrading an existing regular license which only authorizes the operation of “Class D” motor vehicles, $64. This fee includes issuance of any “H,” “N,” “P,” “S” or “T” endorsements or “Class D” authorization applied for at the same time for which the applicant is qualified.

(g) For upgrading an existing commercial driver license to add an “H,” “N,” “P,” “S” or “T” endorsement, $5.

(h) For upgrading an existing commercial driver license to add authorization to operate another class of commercial motor vehicles, $5.

(i) For removing a “K” restriction against operation of commercial motor vehicles in interstate commerce, the same fee as for a duplicate license.

(j) For removing an “L” restriction prohibiting operation of commercial motor vehicles equipped with air brakes, $5.

(k) Except as provided in par. (im) or (ir), for an instruction permit, $20.

(lm) For an instruction permit authorizing the operation of “Class M” vehicles, $22.
(ir) For an instruction permit authorizing the operation of “Class D” vehicles, $25.

(j) For reinstatement of an operating privilege previously revoked or suspended, $50.

(jm) For reinstatement of a previously disqualified authorization to operate a commercial motor vehicle, $50. This fee is not applicable to disqualifications under s. 343.315 (2) (g).

(k) For an occupational license, $40.

(L) For a duplicate license, $4.

(m) For reinstatement of a previously canceled license or endorsement, $50. This fee includes reinstatement of any classification or endorsement applied for at the same time for which the applicant is qualified.

(1m) In addition to the fee specified in sub. (1) (am), (b) or (d), an applicant whose application for renewal of a license or authorization under sub. (1) (am), (b) or (d) is filed after the date of expiration of the license or authorization shall pay to the department a late fee of $5.

(2) (a) In addition to the fees set under sub. (1), any applicant whose application for a permit, license, upgrade or endorsement, taken together with the applicant’s currently valid license, if any, requires the department to administer a driving skills test of the applicant’s ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle shall pay to the department an examination fee of $20 for an examination in a commercial motor vehicle other than a school bus and $15 for an examination in any other vehicle. Payment of the examination fee entitles the applicant to not more than 3 tests of the applicant’s ability to exercise reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle. If the applicant does not qualify for issuance of a license, upgraded license or endorsement in 3 such tests, then a 2nd examination fee in the same amount shall be paid, which payment entitles the applicant to not more than 3 additional tests.

(b) The operator shall pay to the department an examination fee of $15 for conducting the special examination requested under s. 121.555 (2) (cm), except that if the examination is in a commercial motor vehicle other than a school bus the fee is $20. Payment of the examination fee entitles the person to not more than 3 tests of the person’s ability to safely operate the vehicle proposed to be used under s. 121.555 (1) (a). If the applicant does not pass the examination for safe operation of the vehicle in 3 such tests, then a 2nd examination fee in the same amount shall be paid, which payment entitles the person to not more than 3 additional tests.


343.22 Notice of change of address or name. (1) Whenever any person, after applying for or receiving a license, permit or endorsement, changes his or her name or address, the department shall notify the person of such action. The person shall within 10 days thereafter notify the department in writing of his or her new name or address, and if the department is notified by the local authorities or by the postal authorities that the address named in the application or in the license or identification card issued to him or her has been changed, the department shall notify the person of such change. The department so that the complete operator’s record is available for the use of the secretary in determining whether operating privileges of such person shall be suspended, revoked, canceled, or withheld in the interest of public safety. The record of suspen-
of suspension.

Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 100, Wis. adm. code.

(3) (a) The department shall maintain a file, for each person convicted of a violation as defined by s. 343.30 (6) (a), containing a record of convictions of violations as defined by s. 343.30 (6) (a) and suspensions and revocations under s. 343.30 (6). The department may purge the record of any such conviction 24 months after it is reported.

(b) The department record of a person’s conviction for exceeding a posted speed limit shall include the number of miles per hour in excess of the posted speed limit, as reported to the department.

(4) The department shall purge all of the following from the file of a person:

(a) Any record of an administrative suspension upon receipt of a report from the court hearing the action arising out of the same incident or occurrence that the action has been dismissed or the person has been found innocent of the charge arising out of that incident or occurrence.

(b) Any record of issuance of an out−of−service order under s. 343.305 (7) (b) or (9) (am) upon receipt of a report from the court hearing the action arising out of the same incident or occurrence that the action has been dismissed or the person has been found innocent of the charge of violating s. 346.63 (7) arising out of that incident or occurrence. In the case of a nonresident, the department shall also inform the state of licensure of the dismissal or finding of innocence.

(5) The department shall maintain the files specified in this section in a form that is appropriate to the form of the records constituting those files.


343.234 Department to furnish information to the selective service system. Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, the department shall forward to the selective service system, in electronic format, any information on an application for a driver’s license, permit, or identification card submitted under this chapter by a male who is at least 18 years of age but less than 26 years of age that is requested by the selective service system for the purpose of registering the applicant with the selective service system. This section does not apply if the selective service system does not register applicants with the selective service system on the basis of information forwarded under this section.

History: 2001 a. 93.

343.235 Access to license and identification card records. (1) In this section:

(a) “Agent” means an authorized person who acts on behalf of or at the direction of another person.

(b) “Insurer” has the meaning given in s. 600.03 (27).

(c) “Personal identifier” has the meaning given in s. 85.103 (1).

(d) “State authority” has the meaning given in s. 19.62 (8).

(2) In providing copies under s. 19.35 (1) (a) of any written information collected or prepared under this chapter which consists in whole or in part of the personal identifiers of 10 or more persons, the department may not disclose a personal identifier of any person who has made a designation under s. 85.103 (2) or (3).

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to any of the following:

(a) A law enforcement agency, a state authority or a federal governmental agency to perform a legally authorized function.

(b) An insurer authorized to write property and casualty or life, disability or long−term care insurance in this state or an agent of the insurer, if the insurer or agent uses the personal identifiers for purposes of issuing or renewing a policy and related underwriting, billing or processing or paying a claim. Notwithstanding sub. (5), no insurer, or agent of an insurer, may disclose to another person for marketing purposes any personal identifier received under this paragraph.

(5) Any person who has received under sub. (3) a personal identifier of any person who has made a designation under s. 85.103 (2) or (3) shall keep the personal identifier confidential and may not disclose it except for a purpose applicable to that person under sub. (3).

(6) (a) Any person who discloses a personal identifier in violation of this section may be required to forfeit not more than $500 for each violation.

(b) Any person who requests or obtains a personal identifier from the department under this section under false pretenses may be required to forfeit not more than $500 for each violation.

(c) Paragraphs (a) and (b) do not apply to a legal custodian under s. 19.33 of the department.


343.237 Access to license and identification card photographs. (1) In this section:

(a) “Law enforcement agency of a physically adjacent state” has the meaning given in s. 175.46 (1) (b).

(b) “Wisconsin law enforcement agency” has the meaning given in s. 175.46 (1) (f).

(2) Any photograph taken of an applicant under s. 343.14 (3) or 343.50 (4) may be maintained by the department and, except as provided in this section, shall be kept confidential. Except as provided in this section, the department may release a photograph only to the person whose photograph was taken.

(3) The department shall provide a Wisconsin law enforcement agency with a copy of a photograph taken on or after September 1, 1997, of an applicant under s. 343.14 (3) or 343.50 (4) if the department receives a written request on the Wisconsin law enforcement agency’s letterhead that contains all of the following:

(a) The name of the person whose photograph is requested.

(b) The name of the person making the request and the Wisconsin law enforcement agency that employs the requester.

(c) A statement signed by a division commander or higher authority within the Wisconsin law enforcement agency that the photograph is requested for any of the following purposes:

1. An investigation of unlawful activity.

2. A missing person investigation.

3. The identification of an accident victim.

4. The identification of a deceased person.

(d) A statement that the request is not made solely to obtain a photograph for use as part of a photo lineup or photo array.

(4) If a law enforcement agency of a physically adjacent state makes a request meeting all the requirements specified for a request by a Wisconsin law enforcement agency under sub. (3), the department shall comply with the request if all of the following apply:

(a) The law enforcement agency of the physically adjacent state agrees to comply with all the requirements under this section.
(b) The physically adjacent state allows Wisconsin law enforcement agencies similar or greater access to similar information from that physically adjacent state.

(4m) The department shall attach to each copy of a photograph provided under this section the notation: “This photograph is subject to the requirements and restrictions of section 343.237 of the Wisconsin Statutes.”

(5) Any law enforcement agency that has in its possession a copy of a photograph provided to it under sub. (3) or (4) shall destroy any copies of the photograph in its possession when the photograph is no longer necessary for the investigative or identification purpose specified in its request for the copy of the photograph.

(6) For each copy of a photograph provided under sub. (3) or (4), the department shall record and maintain the written request for the copy of the photograph and may not disclose any record or other information concerning or relating to the written request to any person other than a court, district attorney, county corporation counsel, city, village or town attorney, law enforcement agency, the applicant or identification card holder or, if the applicant or identification card holder is under 18 years of age, his or her parent or guardian.

(7) The department may not charge a fee for providing a copy of any photograph to a Wisconsin law enforcement agency under this section.

(8) (a) Any law enforcement agency that receives a photograph provided to a law enforcement agency under this section shall keep the copy of the photograph confidential and may disclose it only if disclosure is necessary to perform a law enforcement function and the person to whom the copy of the photograph is disclosed agrees to comply with par. (c).

(b) If a law enforcement agency discloses a copy of a photograph to another person under par. (a), the copy of the photograph shall have attached to it the notation specified in sub. (4m).

(c) Any person who receives a copy of a photograph from a law enforcement agency under par. (a) shall destroy any copies of the photograph in his or her possession when the photograph is no longer necessary to perform the law enforcement function for which the photograph was disclosed.

(9) Not later than August 1, 1998, and annually thereafter, the department of transportation and the department of justice jointly shall submit a report to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) concerning the copies of photographs provided under this section, including the agencies to whom and the purposes for which the copies of the photographs were provided. The department of transportation and the department of justice shall consult with other interested persons when preparing a report under this subsection.

(10) Any person who willfully discloses a copy of a photograph in violation of this section may be required to forfeit not more than $500 for each violation. Each copy disclosed constitutes a separate offense.


343.24 operators’ licenses 343.245

(1) The department shall upon request furnish any person an abstract of the operating record of any person. The abstract shall be certified if certification is requested. Such abstract is not admissible in evidence in any action for damages arising out of a motor vehicle accident.

(2) The department shall charge the following fees for conducting searches of vehicle operators’ records:

(a) For each file search, $5.

(b) For each computerized search, $5.

(c) For each search requested by telephone, $6, or an established monthly service rate determined by the department.

(2m) If the department, in maintaining a computerized operating record system, makes copies of its operating record file database, or a portion thereof, on computer tape or other electronic media, copies of the tape or media may be furnished to any person on request. The department may also furnish to any person upon request records on computer tape or other electronic media that contain information from files of uniform traffic citations or motor vehicle accidents and that were produced for or developed by the department for purposes related to maintenance of the operating record file database. The department shall charge a fee of $5 for each file of vehicle operators’ records contained in the tape or media. The department shall charge a fee of not more than $5 for each file of uniform traffic citations or motor vehicle accidents contained in the tape or media. Nothing in this subsection requires the department to produce records of particular files or data in a particular format except as those records or data are made by the department for its purposes.

(3) The department shall not disclose information concerning or related to a violation as defined by s. 343.30 (6) to any person other than a court, district attorney, county corporation counsel, city, village or town attorney, law enforcement agency or the minor who committed the violation or his or her parent or guardian.

(4) (a) In this subsection:

1. “Agent” means an authorized person who acts on behalf of or at the direction of another person.

2. “Insurer” has the meaning given in s. 600.03 (27).

3. “Personal identifier” has the meaning given in s. 85.103 (1).

4. “State authority” has the meaning given in s. 19.62 (8).

(b) In furnishing 10 or more operating records to a person under sub. (1) or (2m), the department may not disclose a personal identifier of any person who has made a designation under s. 85.103 (2) or (3).

(c) Paragraph (b) does not apply to any of the following:

1. A law enforcement agency, a state authority or a federal governmental agency to perform a legally authorized function.

2. An insurer authorized to write property and casualty or life, disability or long-term care insurance in this state or an agent of the insurer, if the insurer or agent uses the names or addresses for purposes of issuing or renewing a policy and related underwriting, billing or processing or paying a claim. Notwithstanding par. (e), no insurer, or agent of an insurer, may disclose to another person for marketing purposes any personal identifier received under this subdivision.

(e) Any person who has received under par. (c) a personal identifier of any person who has made a designation under s. 85.103 (2) or (3) shall keep the personal identifier confidential and may not disclose it except for a purpose applicable to that person under par. (c).

(f) 1. Any person who discloses a personal identifier in violation of this subsection may be required to forfeit not more than $500 for each violation.

2. Any person who requests or obtains a personal identifier from the department under this subsection under false pretenses may be required to forfeit not more than $500 for each violation.

3. Subdivisions 1, and 2, do not apply to a legal custodian under s. 19.33 of the department.

Cross Reference: See also chs. Trans 195, Wis. adm. code.

343.245 Duties of commercial motor vehicle drivers; employer responsibilities; penalties. (1) Definitions. In this section:

(a) “Employee” means any operator of a commercial motor vehicle who is either directly employed by or under lease to an employer, including a full-time, regularly employed driver, a volunteer driver, a casual, intermittent or occasional driver, a leased driver, and an independent, owner-operator contractor while in the course of operating a commercial motor vehicle.

(b) “Employer” means any person, including the state or a political subdivision thereof, who owns or leases a commercial motor vehicle.
motor vehicle or assigns a person to drive a commercial motor vehicle.

(2) NOTIFICATIONS BY DRIVER. (a) Notification of convictions. 1. 'To state.' A person, after applying for or receiving a commercial driver license issued by this state, who is convicted of violating in a motor vehicle any law of this state or local ordinance adopted in conformity therewith or a law enacted by a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state which is in conformity with any law of this state, or the law of another jurisdiction, relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than parking violations, shall notify the department of the conviction in the manner specified by the department within 30 days after the date of conviction.

2. 'To employers.' An employee, after applying for or receiving a commercial driver license issued by this state, who is convicted of violating in a motor vehicle any law of this state or local ordinance adopted in conformity therewith or a law enacted by a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state which is in conformity with any law of this state, or the law of another jurisdiction, relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than parking violations, shall notify his or her current employer in writing of the conviction within 30 days after the date of conviction.

(b) Notification of suspensions, revocations and cancellations. An employee whose commercial driver license is suspended, revoked or canceled by a state, or who loses the privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle in any state for any period, including being disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle or subject to an out-of-service order, shall notify his or her current employer of that fact before the end of the first business day after the day on which the employee receives notice of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, disqualification or out-of-service order.

(c) Notification of previous employment. An applicant for employment as a commercial motor vehicle driver shall provide, at the time of application, information on his or her employment history as a commercial motor vehicle driver as requested by the prospective employer, certified as true and complete by the applicant, including all of the following information for the 10 years preceding the date of application:

1. The names and addresses of any previous employers for which the applicant was a commercial motor vehicle driver.

2. The dates of employment with each employer in subd. 1.

3. The reason for leaving each employer in subd. 1.

(3) EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES. (a) Every employer shall request each applicant for employment as a commercial motor vehicle driver to provide the information specified in sub. (2), and no employer may employ as a commercial motor vehicle driver an applicant who refuses or otherwise fails to provide true and complete information.

(b) No employer may knowingly allow, permit or authorize an employee to operate a commercial motor vehicle during any period when the employee:

1. Has had his or her commercial driver license suspended, revoked or canceled by any state;

2. Is disqualified from operating a commercial vehicle;

3. Is subject to an out-of-service order in any state;

4. Has more than one operator’s license, except during the 10-day period beginning on the date on which the employee is issued an operator’s license; or

5. Does not possess a valid commercial driver license properly endorsed to permit operation of the vehicle.

(c) No employer may knowingly allow, permit, or authorize an employee to operate a commercial motor vehicle in violation of any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation relating to railroad crossings.

(3m) EMPLOYER NOTIFICATION PROGRAM. (a) The department shall establish by rule an employer notification program to permit an employer to register the name of an employee and be notified by the department whenever a conviction or suspension, revocation, cancellation, disqualification or out-of-service order is recorded on the operating record of the employee. An employer may withdraw an employee’s name from the program at any time.

(b) The department shall establish and collect reasonable fees from employers in the program sufficient to defray the costs of instituting and maintaining the program, including the registration and withdrawal of employees. The fee for each notification by the department to an employer under par. (a) shall be $5.

(4) PENALTIES. (a) Except as provided in pars. (b) and (c), any person who violates sub. (2) or (3) shall forfeit not more than $2,500.

(b) Any person who violates sub. (3) shall be fined not less than $2,500 nor more than $10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 90 days or both.

(c) Any person who violates sub. (3) shall forfeit not more than $10,000.


Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 118, Wis. adm. code.

SUBCHAPTER III
CANCELLATION, REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF LICENSES

343.25 Cancellation of licenses. The secretary shall cancel a license:

1. Whenever the secretary determines that the license or endorsement was issued upon an application which contains a false statement as to any material matter; or

2. Within 10 days after receiving a written request from a person who signed the application of a person under 18 years of age, or a notice of cancellation or termination of insurance, as provided in s. 343.15; or

3. When the license is held by a person under 18 years of age and the secretary receives satisfactory evidence of the death of the adult who signed the application for the license; or

4. When the person holding the license falls into one of the classes of persons to whom the law prohibits issuance of a license or a particular endorsement; or

5. Whenever the secretary determines that a person has secured a license or endorsement by hiring or permitting another to appear in the person’s place to take an examination; or

6. Whenever the secretary determines that a license has been altered and returned for cancellation under s. 343.43 (2); or

7. When a person who has been ordered to submit to an examination under s. 343.16 or to appear for either group or individual counseling or examination under s. 343.32 (2) fails or refuses to do so. Such cancellation shall continue until compliance with the order has been made or the order is rescinded.

History: 1975 c. 5, 199; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (c); 1989 a. 105, 359.

343.26 License after cancellation. Any person whose license has been canceled, whether the license has been canceled by the secretary or stands canceled as a matter of law, may apply for a new license at any time. Upon receipt of the application and the required fee, the department shall issue or refuse issuance of the license as upon an original application. The department may, but need not, require the applicant to submit to an examination as provided in s. 343.16.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a), (c).

343.265 Voluntary surrender and reissuance after surrender. (1) The department may accept the voluntary surrender of the operator’s license of a person who has a mental or physical disability or disease or a medical condition which prevents or may prevent the person from exercising reasonable control over a motor vehicle if the person’s operating privilege is not subject to suspension or revocation for any reason.
(1m) The department may accept the voluntary surrender of the operator’s license of a person who no longer intends to exercise the privilege of operating a vehicle class or type authorized by that license, if the person’s operating privilege is not subject to suspension or revocation for any reason. The department may issue a license under sub. (2), omitting the authorizations to operate a vehicle class or type that the person has relinquished.

(2) A person whose voluntary surrender of license under sub. (1) or (1m) has been accepted by the department may apply for a duplicate license under s. 343.19, or, if the person’s license has expired during the period of surrender, a renewal license, at any time. Upon receiving the person’s application and the applicable fee under s. 343.21, the department shall issue or deny the license as provided in this subchapter. The department may require the person to submit to an examination under s. 343.16 (5).


343.28 Courts to report convictions and forward licenses to the department. (1) Whenever a person is convicted of a moving traffic violation under chs. 341 to 349 or under a local ordinance enacted under ch. 349, the clerk of the court in which the conviction occurred, or the justice, judge or magistrate of a court not having a clerk, shall, as provided in s. 345.48, forward to the department the record of such conviction. The record of conviction forwarded to the department shall state whether the offender was involved in an accident at the time of the offense, whether the offender was operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the offense and, if so, whether the offender was transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding or operating a vehicle designed to carry, or actually carrying, 16 or more passengers, including the driver. Whenever a person is convicted of exceeding a posted speed limit, the record of conviction forwarded to the department shall include the number of miles per hour in excess of the posted speed limit.

(2) Whenever a person is convicted of any offense for which s. 343.31 makes mandatory the revocation by the secretary of such person’s operating privilege, the court in which the conviction occurred shall require the surrender to it of any license then held by such person. The clerk of the court, or the justice, judge or magistrate if the court has no clerk, shall, as provided in s. 345.48, forward to the department the record of conviction and any surrendered licenses. The record of conviction forwarded to the department shall state whether the offender was involved in an accident at the time of the offense, whether the offender was operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the offense and, if so, whether the offender was transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding or operating a vehicle designed to carry, or actually carrying, 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

(3) If a person is convicted of committing a violation as defined by s. 343.30 (6) (a), the clerk of the court, or the justice, judge or magistrate if the court has no clerk, shall, as provided in s. 345.48, forward to the department the record of conviction and any surrendered licenses.

(4) Any person who fails to comply with any provision of this section relative to forwarding records of convictions to the department may be fined not more than $100 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

History: 1971 c. 278; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a), (c); 1977 c. 273; 1979 c. 331; 1989 a. 105; 1995 a. 113; 1999 a. 140.

343.30 Suspension and revocation by the courts. (1) A court may suspend a person’s operating privilege for any period not exceeding one year upon such person’s conviction in such court of violating any of the state traffic laws or any local ordinance enacted under ch. 349.

(1g) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), a court may suspend a person’s operating privilege for any period not exceeding 6 months upon the person’s conviction for violating s. 343.44 (1) (a), (b) or (d) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith if the person has been convicted of 3 or more prior violations of s. 343.44 (1) (a), (b) or (d), or similar violations under s. 343.44 (1), 1997 stats., or a local ordinance in conformity therewith, within the 5-year period preceding the violation. The revocation shall be for a period of 6 months, unless the court orders a period of revocation of less than 6 months and places its reasons for ordering the lesser period of revocation on the record.

3. Except as provided in subd. 3., 4. or 4m., if the number of convictions under ss. 940.09 (1) and 940.25 in the person’s lifetime, plus the total number of other convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under s. 343.307 (1) within a 10-year period, equals 2, the court shall revoke the person’s operating privilege for not less than one year nor more than 18 months. After the first 60 days of the revocation period or, if the total number of convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under this subdivision within —

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any 5−year period equals 2 or more, after one year of the revocation period has elapsed, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 if he or she has completed the assessment and is complying with the driver safety plan ordered under par. (c).

4. Except as provided in subd. 4m., if the number of convictions under ss. 940.09 (1) and 940.25 in the person’s lifetime, plus the total number of other convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under s. 343.307 (1), equals 3 or more, the court shall revoke the person’s operating privilege for not less than 2 years nor more than 3 years. After the first 90 days of the revocation period or, if the total number of convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under this subdivision within any 5−year period equals 2 or more, after one year of the revocation period has elapsed, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 if he or she has completed the assessment and is complying with the driver safety plan ordered under par. (c).

4m. If there was a minor passenger under 16 years of age in the motor vehicle at the time of the violation that gave rise to the conviction under s. 346.63 (1) or a local ordinance in conformity with s. 346.63 (1), the applicable minimum and maximum revocation periods under subd. 2., 3. or 4. for the conviction are doubled.

5. The time period under this paragraph shall be measured from the dates of the refusals or violations which resulted in the suspensions, revocations or convictions.

(c) 1. Except as provided in subd. 1. a. or b., the court shall order the person to submit to and comply with an assessment by an approved treatment facility as defined in s. 51.45 (2) (c) for examination of the person’s use of alcohol, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs and development of a driver safety plan for the person. The court shall notify the department of transportation of the assessment order. The court shall notify the person that noncompliance with assessment or the driver safety plan will result in revocation of the person’s operating privilege until the person is in compliance. The assessment order shall:

a. If the person is a resident, refer the person to an approved public treatment facility in the county in which the person resides. The facility named in the order may provide for assessment of the person in another approved public treatment facility. The order shall provide that if the person is temporarily residing in another state, the facility named in the order may refer the person to an appropriate treatment facility in that state for assessment and development of a driver safety plan for the person satisfying the requirements of that state.

b. If the person is a nonresident, refer the person to an approved public treatment facility in this state. The order shall provide that the facility named in the order may refer the person to an appropriate treatment facility in the state in which the person resides for assessment and development of a driver safety plan for the person satisfying the requirements of that state.

c. Require a person who is referred to a treatment facility in another state under subd. 1. a. or b. to furnish the department written verification of his or her compliance from the agency which administers the assessment and driver safety plan program. The person shall provide initial verification of compliance within 60 days after the date of his or her conviction. The requirement to furnish verification of compliance may be satisfied by receipt by the department of such verification from the agency which administers the assessment and driver safety plan program.

1m. The person may voluntarily submit to an assessment by an approved public treatment facility, as defined in s. 51.45 (2) (c), and driver safety plan under this paragraph before the conviction. A prosecutor may not use that voluntary submission to justify a reduction in the charge made against the person. Upon notification of the person’s submission to the voluntary assessment and driver safety plan, the court may take that voluntary submission into account when determining the person’s sentence, and shall suspend the order to submit to assessment pending the person’s completion of the voluntary assessment and driver safety plan.

2. The department of health and family services shall establish standards for assessment procedures and the driver safety plan programs by rule. The department of health and family services shall establish by rule conflict of interest guidelines for providers.

3. Prior to developing a plan which specifies treatment, the facility shall make a finding that treatment is necessary and appropriate services are available. The facility shall submit a report of the assessment and the driver safety plan within 14 days to the county department under s. 51.42, the plan provider, the department of transportation and the person, except that upon request by the facility and the person, the county department may extend the period for assessment for not more than 20 additional workdays.

The county department shall notify the department of transportation regarding any such extension.

(d) The assessment report shall order compliance with a driver safety plan. The report shall inform the person of the fee provisions under s. 46.03 (18) (f). The driver safety plan may include a component that makes the person aware of the effect of his or her offense on a victim and a victim’s family. The driver safety plan may include treatment for the person’s misuse, abuse or dependence on alcohol, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, or attendance at a school under s. 345.60, or both. If the plan requires inpatient treatment, the treatment shall not exceed 36 months. A driver safety plan under this paragraph shall include a termination date consistent with the plan which shall not extend beyond one year. The county department under s. 51.42 shall assure notification of the department of transportation and the person of the person’s compliance or noncompliance with assessment and with treatment. The school under s. 345.60 shall notify the department, the county department under s. 51.42 and the person of the person’s compliance or noncompliance with the requirements of the school. Nonpayment of the assessment fee or, if the person has the ability to pay, nonpayment of the driver safety plan fee is noncompliance with the court order. If the department is notified of any noncompliance, other than for nonpayment of the assessment fee or driver safety plan fee, it shall revoke the person’s operating privilege under the county department under s. 51.42 or the school under s. 345.60 notifies the department that the person is in compliance with assessment or the driver safety plan.

If the department is notified that a person has not paid the assessment fee, or that a person with the ability to pay has not paid the driver safety plan fee, the department shall suspend the person’s operating privilege for a period of 2 years or until it receives notice that the person has paid the fee, whichever occurs first. The department shall notify the person of the suspension or revocation, the reason for the suspension or revocation and the person’s right to a review. A person may request a review of a revocation based upon failure to comply with a driver safety plan within 10 days of notification. The review shall be conducted by the subunit of the department of transportation designated by the secretary. The issues at the review are limited to whether the driver safety plan, if challenged, is appropriate and whether the person is in compliance with the assessment order or the driver safety plan. The review shall be conducted within 10 days after a request is received. If the driver safety plan is determined to be inappropriate, the department shall order a reassessment and if the person is otherwise eligible, the department shall reinstate the person’s operating privilege. If the person is determined to be in compliance with the assessment or driver safety plan, and if the person is otherwise eligible, the department shall reinstate the person’s operating privilege. If there is no decision within the 10−day period, the department shall issue an order reinstating the person’s operating privilege until the review is completed, unless the delay is at the request of the person seeking the review.

(e) Notwithstanding par. (c), if the court finds that the person is already covered by an assessment or is participating in a driver safety plan or has had evidence presented to it by a county department under s. 51.42 that the person has recently completed assessment, a driver safety plan or both, the court is not required to make an order under par. (c). This paragraph does not prohibit the

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from making an order under par. (e), if it deems such an order advisable.

(f) The department may make any order which the court is authorized or required to make under this subsection if the court fails to do so.

(h) The court or department shall provide that the period of suspension or revocation imposed under this subsection shall be reduced by any period of suspension or revocation previously served under s. 343.305 if the suspension or revocation under s. 343.305 and the conviction for violation of s. 346.63 (1) or (2m) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith arise out of the same incident or occurrence. The court or department shall order that the period of suspension or revocation imposed under this subsection run concurrently with any period of time remaining on a suspension or revocation imposed under s. 343.305 arising out of the same incident or occurrence. The court may modify an occupational license authorized under s. 343.305 (8) (d) in accordance with this subsection.

(12) If a court imposes a driver improvement surcharge under s. 346.655 and the person fails to pay the surcharge within 60 days after the date by which the court ordered the surcharge to be paid, the court may suspend the person’s operating privilege until the person pays the surcharge, except that the suspension period may not exceed 2 years.

(2c) A court may suspend a person’s operating privilege upon conviction of any offense specified under ss. 940.225, 948.02, 948.025 and 948.07, if the court finds that it is inimical to the public safety and welfare for the offender to have operating privileges. The suspension shall be for one year or until discharge from prison or jail sentence or probation, extended supervision or parole with respect to the offenses specified, whichever date is later. Receipt of a certificate of discharge from the department of corrections or other responsible supervising agency, after one year has elapsed since the suspension, entitles the holder to reinstatement of operating privileges. The holder may be required to present the certificate to the secretary if the secretary deems necessary.

(2g) A court may suspend or revoke a person’s operating privilege for any period not exceeding one year upon conviction of that person for violating s. 346.67, 346.68 or 346.69. This subsection does not apply to circumstances that require the department to revoke a person’s operating privilege under s. 343.31 (1) (d) or (3) (i) or (j).

(2j) (a) A court may revoke a person’s operating privilege upon the person’s first conviction for violating s. 346.44 or 346.62 (2m) and shall revoke a person’s operating privilege upon the person’s 2nd or subsequent conviction within a 5-year period for violating s. 346.44 or 346.62 (2m). The revocation shall be for a period of 6 months. For purposes of determining prior convictions for purposes of this paragraph, the 5-year period shall be measured from the dates of the violations that resulted in the convictions. Each conviction under s. 346.44 or 346.62 (2m) shall be counted, except that convictions under s. 346.44 and 346.62 (2m) arising out of the same incident or occurrence shall be counted as a single conviction.

(2m) A court may suspend a person’s operating privilege upon conviction of the person for violating s. 346.93. Such suspension shall be for a period of not less than 30 days nor more than one year.

(2n) The court that ordered the issuance of an occupational license under s. 343.10 (4) (b) may withdraw the order to issue the license whenever the court, upon the facts, does not see fit to permit the licensee to retain the occupational license. Upon receiving notice that a court has withdrawn its order to issue an occupational license, the department shall cancel that license.

(4) Whenever a court or judge suspends or revokes an operating privilege under this section, the court or judge shall immediately take possession of any suspended or revoked license and shall forward it as provided in s. 345.48 to the department together with the record of conviction and notice of suspension or revocation. Whenever a court or judge restricts the operating privilege of a person, the court or judge shall forward notice of the restriction to the department.

(5) No court may suspend or revoke an operating privilege except as authorized by this chapter or ch. 345, 351 or 938 or s. 767.303, 800.09 (1) (c), 800.095 (4) (b) 4. or 961.50. When a court revokes, suspends or restricts a juvenile’s operating privilege under ch. 938, the department of transportation shall not disclose information concerning or relating to the revocation, suspension or restriction to any person other than a court, district attorney, county corporation counsel, city, village or town attorney, law enforcement agency, or the minor whose operating privilege is revoked, suspended or restricted, or his or her parent or guardian. Persons entitled to receive this information shall not disclose the information to other persons or agencies.

(6) (a) In this subsection, “violation” means a violation of s. 125.07 (4) (a) or (b), 125.085 (3) (b) or 125.09 (2) or a local ordinance that strictly conforms to one of those statutes or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state that strictly conforms to one of those statutes.

(b) If a court imposes suspension of a person’s operating privilege under s. 125.07 (4) (b) or (c), 346.93 (2f) or (2g) or 938.344 (2), (2bc) or (2d), the suspension imposed shall be one of the following:

1. For a first violation, suspension for 90 to 30 days.
2. For a violation committed within 12 months of a previous violation, suspension for not more than one year.
3. For a violation committed within 12 months of 2 or more previous violations, suspension for not more than 2 years.

(bm) If the court imposes a suspension of a person’s operating privilege under s. 125.085 (3) (bd), the suspension shall be for 30 to 90 days.

(c) Except as provided by par. (d), the suspension of the operating privilege under this subsection shall commence on the date of disposition.

(d) If the person subject to suspension under this subsection does not hold a valid license under this chapter other than a license under s. 343.07 or 343.08 on the date of disposition, the suspension under par. (b) shall commence on the date that such a license would otherwise be reinstated or issued after the person applies and qualifies for issuance or 2 years from the date of disposition, whichever occurs first.


Cross Reference: See also ch. HFS 62, Wis. adm. code.

Sub. (5) does not preclude the suspension of operating privileges by a municipal court under s. 800.09 or 800.095. City of Milwaukee v. Kilgore, 193 Wis. 2d 168, 532 N.W.2d 690 (1995).

Suspension or revocation of operating privileges applies to both a regular driver license and to a chauffeur’s license. 63 Att'y Gen. 240.

343.301 Installation of ignition interlock device or immobilization of a motor vehicle. (1) IGNITION INTERLOCK. (a) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., if a person improperly refuses to take a test under s. 343.305 or violates s. 346.63 (1) or (2), 940.09 (1), or 940.25, and the person has a total of one or more prior convictions, suspensions, or revocations, counting convictions under ss. 940.09 (1) and 940.25 in the person’s lifetime and other convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under s. 343.307 (1), the court may order that the person’s operating privilege for the operation of “Class D” vehicles be restricted to operating “Class D” vehicles that are equipped with an ignition interlock device.

2. If a person improperly refuses to take a test under s. 343.305 or violates s. 346.63 (1) or (2), 940.09 (1), or 940.25, and the person has a total of 2 or more convictions, suspensions, or revocations, counted under s. 343.307 (1) within any 5-year period,
the court shall order that the person’s operating privilege for the operation of “Class D” vehicles be restricted to operating vehicles that are equipped with an ignition interlock device and shall order that each motor vehicle for which the person’s name appears on the vehicle’s certificate of title or registration be equipped with an ignition interlock device. If equipping each motor vehicle with an ignition interlock device under this subdivision would cause an undue financial hardship, the court may order that one or more motor vehicles subject to this subdivision not be equipped with an ignition interlock device. This subdivision does not apply if the court enters an order under sub. (2) (a) 2. or, if the person has 2 or more prior convictions, suspensions, or revocations for purposes of this subdivision, to the motor vehicle owned by the person and used in the violation or refusal if the court orders the vehicle to be seized and forfeited under s. 346.65 (6).

(b) 1. The court may restrict the operating privilege restriction under par. (a) 1. for a period of not less than one year nor more than the maximum operating privilege revocation period permitted for the refusal or violation.

2. The court shall order the operating privilege restriction and the installation of an ignition interlock device under par. (a) 2. for a period of not less than one year nor more than the maximum operating privilege revocation period permitted for the refusal or violation, beginning one year after the operating privilege revocation period begins.

(c) If the court enters an order under par. (a), the person shall be liable for the reasonable cost of equipping and maintaining any ignition interlock device installed on his or her motor vehicle.

(d) A person to whom an order under par. (a) applies violates that order if he or she requests or permits another to blow into an ignition interlock device or to start a motor vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device for the purpose of providing the person an operable motor vehicle without the necessity of first submitting a sample of his or her breath to analysis by the ignition interlock device.

(2) IMMOBILIZATION. (a) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., if a person improperly refuses to take a test under s. 343.305 or violates s. 346.63 (1) or (2), 940.09 (1), or 940.25, and the person has a total of one or more prior convictions, suspensions, or revocations, counting convictions under ss. 940.09 (1) and 940.25 in the person’s lifetime and other convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under s. 343.307 (1), the court may order that the motor vehicle used during the refusal or violation and owned by the person be immobilized.

2. If a person improperly refuses to take a test under s. 343.305 or violates s. 346.63 (1) or (2), 940.09 (1), or 940.25, and the person has a total of 2 or more convictions, suspensions, or revocations counted under s. 343.307 (1) within any 5-year period, the court shall order that each motor vehicle for which the person’s name appears on the vehicle’s certificate of title or registration be immobilized. If immobilizing each motor vehicle under this subdivision would cause undue hardship to any person, except the person to whom the order applies, who is completely dependent on a motor vehicle subject to immobilization for the necessities of life, including a family member or any person who holds legal title to a motor vehicle with the person to whom the order applies, the court may order that one or more motor vehicles subject to this subdivision not be immobilized. This subdivision does not apply if the court enters an order under sub. (1) (a) 1. or, if the person has 2 or more prior convictions, suspensions, or revocations for purposes of this subdivision, to the motor vehicle owned by the person and used in the violation or refusal if the court orders the vehicle to be seized and forfeited under s. 346.65 (6).

(b) 1. The court may order the immobilization under par. (a) 1. for a period of not less than one year nor more than the maximum operating privilege revocation period permitted for the refusal or violation.

2. The court shall order the immobilization under par. (a) 2. for a period of not less than one year nor more than the maximum operating privilege revocation period permitted for the refusal or violation, beginning on the first day of the operating privilege revocation period.

(c) If the court orders that the person’s motor vehicle be immobilized, the person shall be liable for the reasonable cost of equipping and maintaining any immobilization device installed on his or her motor vehicle.

(d) The court shall notify the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, that an order to immobilize a motor vehicle has been entered. The registration records of the department shall reflect that the order has been entered against the motor vehicle and remains unexecuted. Any law enforcement officer may execute that order based on the information provided by the department. The law enforcement agency shall notify the department when an order has been executed under this paragraph and the department shall amend its vehicle registration records to reflect that notification.

(e) Within 10 days after immobilizing a motor vehicle under par. (d), the law enforcement agency that immobilized the vehicle shall provide notice of the immobilization to all lienholders of record. The notice shall set forth the year, make, model, and vehicle identification number of the motor vehicle, where the motor vehicle is located and the reason for the immobilization.

History: 1999 a. 109; 2001 a. 16 ss. 3417m to 3420h, 4060gj, 4060hw, 4060hy; 2001 a. 104.

343.305 Preliminary breath screening test. If a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the person is violating or has violated s. 346.63 (1) or (2m) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith, or s. 346.63 (2) or (6) or 940.25 or s. 940.09 where the offense involved the use of a vehicle, or if the officer detects any presence of alcohol, a controlled substance, controlled substance analog or other drug, or a combination thereof, on a person driving or operating or on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle or has reason to believe that the person is violating or has violated s. 346.63 (7) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith, the officer, prior to an arrest, may request the person to provide a sample of his or her breath for a preliminary breath screening test using a device approved by the department for that purpose. The result of this preliminary breath screening test may be used by the law enforcement officer for the purpose of deciding whether or not the person shall be arrested for a violation of s. 346.63 (1), (2m), (5) or (7) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith, or s. 346.63 (2) or (6), 940.09 (1) or 940.25 and whether or not to request or require chemical tests as authorized under s. 343.305 (3). The result of the preliminary breath screening test shall not be admissible in any action or proceeding except to show probable cause for an arrest, if the arrest is challenged, or to prove that a chemical test was properly required or requested of a person under s. 343.305 (3). Following the screening test, additional tests may be required or requested of the driver under s. 343.305 (3). The general penalty provision under s. 939.61 (1) does not apply to a refusal to take a preliminary breath screening test.


A prosecutor’s statement that the defendant failed a preliminary breath test was improper, but evidence that the defendant refused to take a breathalyzer test was relevant and constitutionally admissible. State v. Albritton, 98 Wis. 2d 663, 298 N.W.2d 196 (Ct. App. 1980).

A preliminary breath test result is not determinative of probable cause to arrest for driving while intoxicated. A low test result does not void the grounds for arrest. Dane County v. Sharpee, 154 Wis. 2d 515, 453 N.W.2d 508 (Ct. App. 1990). The bar of preliminary breath tests under this section is limited to proceedings related to arrests for offenses contemplated under this statute including those related to motor vehicles and intoxication. State v. Beaver, 181 Wis. 2d 959, 512 N.W.2d 254 (Ct. App. 1994).
This section bars the evidentiary use of preliminary breath test results in motor vehicle violation cases, but not in other actions. Prosecutors who wish to rely on PBT results are required to present evidence of the device’s scientific accuracy as a foundation for admission. State v. Doer, 229 Wis. 2d 616, 599 N.W.2d 897 (Ct. App. 1999).

“Probable cause to believe” refers to a quantum of evidence greater than reasonable suspicion to make an investigative stop, but less than probable cause to make an arrest. County of Jefferson v. Renz, 231 Wis. 2d 293, 603 N.W.2d 541 (1999).

### 343.305 Tests for intoxication; administrative suspension and court-ordered revocation.

**1. Definitions.** In this section:

(a) “Drive” means the exercise of physical control over the speed and direction of a motor vehicle while it is in motion.

(b) “Operate” means the physical manipulation or activation of any of the controls of a motor vehicle necessary to put it in motion.

**2. Implied Consent.** Any person who is on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle or drives or operates a motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state, or in those areas enumerated in s. 346.61, is deemed to have given consent to one or more tests of his or her blood, breath, or urine, for the purpose of determining the presence or quantity in his or her blood or breath, of alcohol, controlled substances, controlled substance analogs or other drugs, or any combination of alcohol, controlled substances, controlled substance analogs and other drugs, when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer under sub. (3) (a) or (am) or when required to do so under sub. (3) (b). Any such tests shall be administered upon the request of a law enforcement officer. The law enforcement agency by which the officer is employed shall be prepared to administer, either at its agency or at its agency's request, tests for alcohol or drugs.

**3. Requested or Required.** (a) Upon arrest of a person for violation of s. 346.63 (1), (2m) or (5) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith, or for a violation of s. 346.63 (2) or (6) or 940.25, or s. 940.09 where the offense involved the use of a vehicle, a law enforcement officer may request the person to provide one or more samples of his or her breath, blood or urine for the purpose specified under sub. (2). Compliance with a request for one type of sample does not bar a subsequent request for a different type of sample.

(b) Prior to arrest, a law enforcement officer may request the person to provide one or more samples of his or her breath, blood or urine for the purpose specified under sub. (2) whenever a law enforcement officer detects any presence of alcohol, a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog or other drug, or a combination thereof, on a person driving or operating or on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle or has reason to believe the person is violating or has violated s. 346.63 (7). Compliance with a request for one type of sample does not bar a subsequent request for a different type of sample. For the purposes of this paragraph, “law enforcement officer” includes inspectors in the performance of duties under s. 110.07 (3).

(c) A person who is unconscious or otherwise not capable of withdrawing consent is presumed not to have withdrawn consent under this subsection, and if a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the person has violated s. 346.63 (1), (2m) or (5) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith, or s. 346.63 (2) or (6) or 940.25, or s. 940.09 where the offense involved the use of a vehicle, or detects any presence of alcohol, controlled substance, controlled substance analog or other drug, or a combination thereof, on a person driving or operating or on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle or has reason to believe the person has violated s. 346.63 (7), one or more samples specified in par. (a) or (am) may be administered to the person.

**4. Information.** At the time that a chemical test specimen is requested under sub. (3) (a) or (am), the law enforcement officer shall read the following to the person from whom the test specimen is requested:

“You have either been arrested for an offense that involves driving or operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, or you are suspected of driving or being on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle after consuming an intoxicating beverage.

This law enforcement agency now wants to test one or more samples of your breath, blood or urine to determine the concentration of alcohol or drugs in your system. If any test shows more alcohol in your system than the law permits while driving, your operating privilege will be suspended. If you refuse to take any test that this agency requests, your operating privilege will be revoked and you will be subject to other penalties. The test results or the fact that you refused testing can be used against you in court.

If you take all the requested tests, you may choose to take further tests. You may take the alternative test that this law enforcement agency provides free of charge. You also may have a test conducted by a qualified person of your choice at your expense. You, however, will have to make your own arrangements for that test.

If you have a commercial driver license or were operating a commercial motor vehicle, other consequences may result from positive test results or from refusing testing, such as being placed out of service or disqualified.”

**5. Administering the Test; Additional Tests.** (a) If the person submits to a test under this section, the officer shall direct the testing of the test. A blood test is subject to par. (b). The person who submits to the test is permitted, upon his or her request, the alternative test provided by the agency under sub. (2) or, at his or her own expense, reasonable opportunity to have any qualified person of his or her own choosing administer a chemical test for the purpose specified under sub. (2). If the person has not been requested to provide a sample for a test under sub. (3) (a) or (am), the person may request a breath test to be administered by the agency or, at his or her own expense, reasonable opportunity to have any qualified person administer any test specified under sub. (3) (a) or (am). The failure or inability of a person to obtain a test at his or her own expense does not preclude the admission of evidence of the results of any test administered under sub. (3) (a) or (am). If a person requests the agency to administer a breath test and if the agency is unable to perform that test, the person may request the agency to perform a test under sub. (3) (a) or (am) that it is able to perform. The agency shall comply with a request made in accordance with this paragraph.

(b) Blood may be withdrawn from the person arrested for violation of s. 346.63 (1), (2), (2m), (5) or (6) or 940.25, or s. 940.09 where the offense involved the use of a vehicle, or a local ordinance in conformity with s. 346.63 (1), (2m) or (5), or as provided in sub. (3) (am) or (b) to determine the presence or quantity of alcohol, a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog or any other drug, or any combination of alcohol, controlled substance, controlled substance analog and any other drug in the blood only by a physician, registered nurse, medical technologist, physician assistant or person acting under the direction of a physician.

(c) A person acting under par. (b), the employer of any such person and any hospital where blood is withdrawn by any such person have immunity from civil or criminal liability under s. 895.53.

(d) At the trial of any civil or criminal action or proceeding arising out of the acts committed by a person alleged to have been driving or operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant, a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog or any other drug, or under the influence of any combination of alcohol, a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog and any other drug, to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving, or under the combined influence of an intoxicant and any other drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable...
of safely driving, or having a prohibited alcohol concentration, or alleged to have been driving or operating on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle while having an alcohol concentration above 0.0 or possessing an intoxicating beverage, regardless of its alcohol content, or within 4 hours of having consumed or having been under the influence of an intoxicating beverage, regardless of its alcohol content, or of having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more, the results of a test administered in accordance with this section are admissible on the issue of whether the person was under the influence of an intoxicant, a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog or any other drug, to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving or under the combined influence of an intoxicant and any other drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving or under any issue relating to the person’s alcohol concentration. Test results shall be given the effect required under s. 885.235.

(6) REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTS. (a) Chemical analyses of blood or urine to be considered valid under this section shall have been performed substantially according to methods approved by the laboratory of hygiene and by an individual possessing a valid permit to perform the analyses issued by the department of health and family services. The department of health and family services shall approve laboratories for the purpose of performing chemical analyses of blood or urine for alcohol, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs and shall develop and administer a program for regular monitoring of the laboratories. A list of approved laboratories shall be provided to all law enforcement agencies in the state. Urine specimens are to be collected by methods specified by the laboratory of hygiene. The laboratory of hygiene shall furnish an ample supply of urine and blood specimen containers to permit all law enforcement officers to comply with the requirements of this section.

(b) The department of transportation shall approve techniques or methods of performing chemical analysis of the breath and shall:
1. Approve training manuals and courses throughout the state for the training of law enforcement officers in the chemical analysis of a person’s breath;
2. Certify the qualifications and competence of individuals to conduct the analysis;
3. Have trained technicians, approved by the secretary, test and certify the accuracy of the equipment to be used by law enforcement officers for chemical analysis of a person’s breath under sub. (3) (a) or (am) before regular use of the equipment and periodically thereafter at intervals of not more than 120 days; and
4. Issue permits to individuals according to their qualifications.

Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 316, Wis. adm. code.

(c) For purposes of this section, if a breath test is administered using an infrared breath-testing instrument:
1. The test shall consist of analyses in the following sequence: one adequate breath sample analysis, one calibration standard analysis, and a 2nd, adequate breath sample analysis.
2. A sample is adequate if the instrument analyzes the sample and does not indicate the sample is deficient.
3. Failure of a person to provide 2 separate, adequate breath samples in the proper sequence constitutes a refusal.

(d) The department of transportation may promulgate rules pertaining to the calibration and testing of preliminary breath screening test devices.

(e) 1. In this paragraph, “licensor” means the department of health and family services or, with respect to permits issued under par. (b) 4., the department of transportation.
2. In addition to any other information required by the licensor, an application for a permit or laboratory approval under this subsection shall include the following:

   a. Except as provided in subd. 2. am., in the case of an individual, the individual’s social security number.
   b. In the case of an individual who does not have a social security number, a statement made or subscribed under oath or affirmation that the applicant does not have a social security number. The form of the statement shall be prescribed by the department of workforce development. A permit or approval that is issued or renewed under this section in reliance on a statement submitted under this subd. 2. am. is invalid if the statement is false.
   c. In the case of a person who is not an individual, the person’s federal employer identification number.
   d. (7) C. H. E. M. I. C. A. L. T. E. S. T.; A. D. M. I. N. I. S. T. R. E. V. I. S. I. O. N. (a) If a person submits to chemical testing administered in accordance with this section and any test results indicate a prohibited alcohol concentration, the law enforcement officer shall report the results to the department and take possession of the person’s license and forward it to the department. The person’s operating privilege is administratively suspended for 6 months.
   e. (b) If a person who was driving or operating or on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle submits to chemical testing administered in accordance with this section and any test results indicate an alcohol concentration above 0.0, the law enforcement officer may take possession of the person’s license and retain the license for 24 hours. The person may reclaim a seized license in person or request return of the license by mail. The law enforcement officer shall issue a citation for violation of s. 346.63 (7) (a) 1., issue citations for such other violations as may apply and issue an out-of-serve order to the person for the 24 hours after the testing, and report both the out-of-service order and the test results to the department in the manner prescribed by the department. If the person is a nonresident, the department shall report issuance of the out-of-service order to the driver licensing agency in the person’s home jurisdiction.
   f. (8) C. H. E. M. I. C. A. L. T. E. S. T.; A. D. M. I. N. I. S. T. R. E. V. I. S. I. O. N. 1. (a) The law enforcement officer shall notify the person of the administrative suspension under sub. (7) (a). The notice shall advise the person that his or her operating privilege will be administratively suspended and that he or she has the right to obtain administrative and judicial review under this subsection. This notice of administrative suspension serves as a 30–day temporary license. An administrative suspension under
sub. (7) (a) becomes effective at the time the 30-day temporary license expires. The officer shall submit or mail a copy of the notice to the department.

(am) The law enforcement officer shall provide the person with a separate form for the person to use to request the administrative review under this subsection. The form shall clearly indicate how to request an administrative review and shall clearly notify the person that this form must be submitted within 10 days from the notice date indicated on the form or the person’s hearing rights will be deemed waived. The form shall, in no less than 16-point boldface type, be titled: IMPORTANT NOTICE — RESPONSE WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS.

(b) 1. Within 10 days after the notification under par. (a), or, if the notification is by mail, within 13 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after the date of the mailing, the person may request, in writing, that the department review the administrative suspension. The review procedure is not subject to ch. 227. The department shall hold the hearing on the matter in the county in which the offense allegedly occurred or at the nearest office of the department if the offense allegedly occurred in a county in which the department does not maintain an office. The department shall hold a hearing regarding the administrative suspension within 30 days after the date of notification under par. (a). The person may present evidence and may be represented by counsel. The arresting officer need not appear at the administrative hearing unless subpoenaed under s. 805.07, but he or she must submit a copy of his or her report and the results of the chemical test to the hearing examiner.

2. The administrative hearing under this paragraph is limited to the following issues:
   a. The correct identity of the person.
   b. Whether the person was informed of the options regarding tests under this section as required under sub. (4).
   c. Whether the person had a prohibited alcohol concentration at the time the offense allegedly occurred.
   d. Whether one or more tests were administered in accordance with this section.
   e. If one or more tests were administered in accordance with this section, whether each of the test results for those tests indicate the person had a prohibited alcohol concentration.
   f. Whether probable cause existed for the arrest.
   g. Whether the person was driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle when the offense allegedly occurred.
   h. The hearing examiner shall conduct the administrative hearing in an informal manner. No testimony given by any witness may be used in any subsequent action or proceeding. The hearing examiner may permit testimony by telephone if the site of the administrative hearing is equipped with telephone facilities to allow multiple party conversations.
   i. The hearing examiner shall consider and determine the reliability of all of the evidence presented at the administrative hearing. Statements and reports of law enforcement officers are subject to the same standards of credibility applied to all other evidence presented.

5. If the hearing examiner finds that the criteria for administrative suspension have not been satisfied or that the person did not have a prohibited alcohol concentration at the time the offense allegedly occurred, the examiner shall order that the administrative suspension of the person’s operating privilege be rescinded without payment of the fee under s. 343.39 if the hearing examiner fails to mail this notice to the person within 30 days after the date of the notification under par. (a).

(c) 1. An individual aggrieved by the determination of the hearing examiner may have the determination reviewed by the court hearing the action relating to the applicable violation listed under sub. (3) (a) or (am). If the individual seeks judicial review, he or she must file the request for judicial review with the court within 20 days of the issuance of the hearing examiner’s decision. The court shall send a copy of that request to the department. The judicial review shall be conducted at the time of the trial of the underlying offense under s. 346.63. The prosecutor of the underlying offense shall represent the interests of the department.

2. The court shall order that the administrative suspension be either rescinded or sustained and forward its order to the department. The department shall vacate the administrative suspension under sub. (7) unless, within 60 days of the date of the request for judicial review of the administrative hearing decision, the department has been notified of the result of the judicial review or of an order of the court entering a stay of the hearing examiner’s order continuing the suspension.

3. Any party aggrieved by the order of a circuit court under sub. 2. may appeal to the court of appeals. Any party aggrieved by the order of a municipal court under sub. 2. may appeal to the circuit court for the county where the offense allegedly occurred.

4. A request for judicial review under this subsection does not stay any administrative suspension order.

5. If any court orders under this subsection that the administrative suspension of the person’s operating privilege be rescinded, the person need not pay the fee under s. 343.21 (1) (j).

(d) A person who has his or her operating privilege administratively suspended under this subsection is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 at any time.

(9) Refusals: Notice and Court Hearing. (a) If a person refuses to take a test under sub. (3) (a), the law enforcement officer shall immediately take possession of the person’s license and prepare a notice of intent to revoke, by court order under sub. (10), the person’s operating privilege. If the person was driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle, the officer shall issue an out-of-service order to the person for the 24 hours after the refusal and notify the department in the manner prescribed by the department. The officer shall issue a copy of the notice of intent to revoke the privilege to the person and submit or mail a copy with the person’s license to the circuit court for the county in which the arrest under sub. (3) (a) was made. The officer shall also mail a copy of the notice of intent to revoke to the district attorney for that county and the department. The notice of intent to revoke the person’s operating privilege shall contain substantially all of the following information:

1. That prior to a request under sub. (3) (a), the officer had placed the person under arrest for a violation of s. 346.63 (1), (2m) or (3) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or s. 346.63 (2) or (6), 940.09 (1) or 940.25.

2. That the officer complied with sub. (4).

3. That the person refused a request under sub. (3) (a).

4. That the person may request a hearing on the revocation within 10 days by mailing or delivering a written request to the court whose address is specified in the notice. If no request for a hearing is received within the 10-day period, the revocation period commences 30 days after the notice is issued.

5. That the issues of the hearing are limited to:
   a. Whether the officer had probable cause to believe the person was driving or operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or a controlled substance analog or any combination of alcohol, a controlled substance and a controlled substance analog, under the influence of any other drug to a degree which renders the person incapable of safely driving, or under the combined influence of alcohol and any other drug to a degree which renders the person incapable of safely driving...
or having a prohibited alcohol concentration or, if the person was driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle, an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more and whether the person was lawfully placed under arrest for violation of s. 346.63 (1), (2m) or (5) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or s. 346.63 (2) or (6), 940.09 (1) or 940.25.

b. Whether the officer complied with sub. (4).

c. Whether the person refused to permit the test. The person shall not be considered to have refused the test if it is shown by a preponderance of evidence that the refusal was due to a physical inability to submit to the test due to a physical disability or disease unrelated to the use of alcohol, controlled substances, controlled substance analogs or other drugs.

6. That, if it is determined that the person refused the test, there shall be an order for the person to comply with assessment and a driver safety plan.

(3) (am) If a person driving or operating or on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle refuses a test under sub. (3) or (am), the law enforcement officer shall immediately take possession of the person’s license, issue an out-of-service order to the person for the 24 hours after the refusal and notify the department in the manner prescribed by the department, and prepare a notice of intent to revoke, by court order under sub. (10), the person’s operating privilege. The officer shall issue a copy of the notice of intent to revoke the privilege to the person and submit or mail a copy with the person’s license to the circuit court for the county in which the refusal is made. The officer shall also mail a copy of the notice of intent to revoke to the district attorney for that county and the department. The notice of intent to revoke the person’s operating privilege shall contain substantially all of the following information:

1. That the officer has issued an out-of-service order to the person for the 24 hours after the refusal, specifying the date and time of issuance.
2. That the officer complied with sub. (4).
3. That the person refused a request under sub. (3) or (am).
4. That the person may request a hearing on the revocation within 10 days by mailing or delivering a written request to the court whose address is specified in the notice. If no request for a hearing is received within the 10-day period, the revocation period commences 30 days after the notice is issued.
5. That the issues of the hearing are limited to:
   a. Whether the officer detected any presence of alcohol, controlled substance, controlled substance analog or other drug, or a combination thereof, on the person or had reason to believe that the person was violating or had violated s. 346.63 (7).
   b. Whether the officer complied with sub. (4).
   c. Whether the person refused to permit the test. The person shall not be considered to have refused the test if it is shown by a preponderance of evidence that the refusal was due to a physical inability to submit to the test due to a physical disability or disease unrelated to the use of alcohol, controlled substances, controlled substance analogs or other drugs.
6. That if it is determined that the person refused the test there will be an order for the person to comply with assessment and a driver safety plan.

(b) The use of the notice under par. (a) or (am) by a law enforcement officer in connection with the enforcement of this section is adequate process to give the appropriate court jurisdiction over the person.

(c) If a law enforcement officer informs the circuit court that a person has refused to submit to a test under sub. (3) or (am), the court shall be prepared to hold any requested hearing to determine if the refusal was proper. The scope of the hearing shall be limited to the issues outlined in par. (a) 5. or (am) 5. Section 967.055 applies to any hearing under this subsection.

(d) At the close of the hearing, or within 5 days thereafter, the court shall determine the issues under par. (a) 5. or (am) 5. If all issues are determined adversely to the person, the court shall proceed under sub. (10). If one or more of the issues is determined favorably to the person, the court shall order that no action be taken on the operating privilege on account of the person’s refusal to take the test in question. This section does not preclude the prosecution of the person for violation of s. 346.63 (1), (2m), (5) or (7) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith, or s. 346.63 (2) or (6), 940.09 (1) or 940.25.

(10) Refusals; Court-Ordered Revocation. (a) If the court determines under sub. (9) (d) that a person improperly refused to take a test or if the person does not request a hearing within 10 days after the person has been served with the notice of intent to revoke the person’s operating privilege, the court shall proceed under this subsection. If no hearing was requested, the revocation period shall begin 30 days after the date of the refusal. If a hearing was requested, the revocation period shall commence 30 days after the date of refusal or immediately upon a final determination that the refusal was improper, whichever is later.

(b) 1. Except as provided in subds. 3. and 4., the court shall revoke the person’s operating privilege under this paragraph according to the number of previous suspensions, revocations or convictions that would be counted under s. 343.307 (2). Suspensions, revocations and convictions arising out of the same incident shall be counted as one. If a person has a conviction, suspension or revocation for any offense that is counted under s. 343.307 (2), that conviction, suspension or revocation shall count as a prior conviction, suspension or revocation under this subdivision.

2. Except as provided in subd. 3., 4. or 4m., for the first improper refusal, the court shall revoke the person’s operating privilege for one year. After the first 30 days of the revocation period, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10.

3. Except as provided in subd. 4m., if the number of convictions under ss. 940.09 (1) and 940.25 in the person’s lifetime, plus the total number of other convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under s. 343.307 (2) within a 10-year period, equals 2, the court shall revoke the person’s operating privilege for 2 years. After the first 90 days of the revocation period or, if the total number of convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under this subdivision within any 5-year period equals 2 or more, after one year of the revocation period has elapsed, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 if he or she has completed the assessment and is complying with the driver safety plan.

4. Except as provided in subd. 4m., if the number of convictions under ss. 940.09 (1) and 940.25 in the person’s lifetime, plus the total number of other convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under s. 343.307 (2) within a 10-year period, equals 2, or for the person the court shall revoke the person’s operating privilege for 3 years. After the first 120 days of the revocation period or, if the total number of convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under this subdivision within any 5-year period equals 2 or more, after one year of the revocation period has elapsed, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 if he or she has completed the assessment and is complying with the driver safety plan.

4m. If there was a minor passenger under 16 years of age in the motor vehicle at the time of the incident that gave rise to the improper refusal, the applicable minimum and maximum revocation periods under subd. 2., 3. or 4. for the improper refusal are doubled.

5. The time period under this paragraph shall be measured from the dates of the refusals or violations which resulted in revocations or convictions.

(c) 1. Except as provided in subd. 1. a. or b., the court shall order the person to submit to and comply with an assessment by an approved public treatment facility as defined in s. 51.45 (2) (c) for examination of the person’s use of alcohol, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs and development of a driver safety plan for the person. The court shall notify the person and the department of transportation of the assessment order.
court shall also notify the person that noncompliance with assessment or the driver safety plan will result in license suspension until the person is in compliance. The assessment order shall:

a. If the person is a resident, refer the person to an approved public treatment facility in the county in which the person resides. The facility named in the order may provide for assessment of the person in another approved public treatment facility. The order shall provide that if the person is temporarily residing in another state, the facility named in the order may refer the person to an appropriate treatment facility in that state for assessment and development of a driver safety plan for the person satisfying the requirements of the plan.

b. If the person is a nonresident, refer the person to an approved public treatment facility in this state. The order shall provide that the facility named in the order may refer the person to an appropriate treatment facility in the state in which the person resides for assessment and development of a driver safety plan for the person satisfying the requirements of that state.

c. Require a person who is referred to a treatment facility in another state under subd. 1. a. or b. to furnish the department written verification of his or her compliance from the agency which administers the assessment and driver safety plan program. The person shall provide initial verification of compliance within 60 days after the date of his or her conviction. The requirement to furnish verification of compliance may be satisfied by receipt by the department of such verification from the agency which administers the assessment and driver safety plan program.

2. The department of health and family services shall establish standards for assessment procedures and the driver safety plan programs by rule. The department of health and family services shall establish by rule conflict of interest guidelines for providers.

3. Prior to developing a plan which specifies treatment, the facility shall make a finding that treatment is necessary and appropriate services are available. The facility shall submit a report of the assessment and the driver safety plan within 14 days to the county department under s. 51.42, the plan provider, the department of transportation and the person, except that upon request by the facility and the person, the county department may extend the period for assessment for not more than 20 additional workdays. The county department shall notify the department of transportation regarding any such extension.

(d) The assessment report shall order compliance with a driver safety plan. The report shall inform the person of the fee provisions under s. 46.03 (18) (f). The driver safety plan may include a component that makes the person aware of the effect of his or her offense on a victim and a victim’s family. The driver safety plan may include treatment for the person’s misuse, abuse or dependence on alcohol, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, attendance at a school under s. 345.60, or both. If the plan requires inpatient treatment, the treatment shall not exceed 30 days. A driver safety plan under this paragraph shall include a termination date consistent with the plan which shall not extend beyond one year. The county department under s. 51.42 shall assure notification of the department of transportation and the person of the person’s compliance or noncompliance with assessment and treatment. The school under s. 345.60 shall notify the department, the county department under s. 51.42 and the person of the person’s compliance or noncompliance with the requirements of the school. Nonpayment of the assessment fee or, if the person has the ability to pay, nonpayment of the driver safety plan fee is noncompliance with the court order. If the department is notified of noncompliance of that state plan for nonpayment of the assessment fee or driver safety plan fee, it shall revoke the person’s operating privilege until the county department under s. 51.42 or the school under s. 345.60 notifies the department that the person is in compliance with assessment or the driver safety plan. If the department is notified that a person has not paid the assessment fee, or that a person with the ability to pay has not paid the driver safety plan fee, the department shall suspend the person’s operating privilege for a period of 2 years or until it receives notice that the person has paid the fee, whichever occurs first. The department shall notify the person of the suspension or revocation, the reason for the suspension or revocation and the person’s right to a review. A person may request a review of a revocation based upon failure to comply with a driver safety plan within 10 days of notification. The review shall be handled by the subunit of the department of transportation designated by the secretary. The issues at the review are limited to whether the driver safety plan, if challenged, is appropriate and whether the person is in compliance with the assessment order or the driver safety plan. The review shall be conducted within 10 days after a request is received. If the driver safety plan is determined to be inappropriate, the department shall order a reassessment and if the person is otherwise eligible, the department shall reinstate the person’s operating privilege. If the person is determined to be in compliance with the assessment or driver safety plan, and if the person is otherwise eligible, the department shall reinstate the person’s operating privilege. If there is no decision within the 10-day period, the department shall issue an order reinstating the person’s operating privilege until the review is completed, unless the delay is at the request of the person seeking the review.

(3) Notwithstanding par. (c), if the court finds that the person is already covered by an assessment or is participating in a driver safety plan or has had evidence presented to it by a county department under s. 51.42 that the person has recently completed assessment, a driver safety plan or both, the court is not required to make an order under par. (c). This paragraph does not prohibit the court from making an order under par. (c), if it deems such an order advisable.

(em) One penalty for improperly refusing to submit to a test for intoxication regarding a person arrested for a violation of s. 346.63 (2m) or (7) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith is revocation of the person’s operating privilege for 6 months. If there was a minor passenger under 16 years of age in the motor vehicle at the time of the incident that gave rise to the improper refusal, the revocation period is 12 months. After the first 15 days of the revocation period, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10. Any such improper refusal or revocation for the refusal does not count as a prior refusal or a prior revocation under this section or ss. 343.30 (1q), 343.307 and 346.65 (2). The person shall not be required to submit to and comply with any assessment or driver safety plan under pars. (c) and (d).

(f) The department may make any order which the court is authorized or required to make under this subsection if the court fails to do so.

(g) The court or department shall provide that the period of suspension or revocation imposed under this subsection or under sub. (7) shall be reduced by any period of suspension or revocation previously served under s. 343.30 (1p) or (1q) if both suspensions or revocations arose out of the same incident or occurrence. The court or department shall order that the period of suspension or revocation imposed under this subsection or sub. (7) run concurrently with any time remaining on a suspension or revocation imposed under s. 343.30 (1p) or (1q) arising out of the same incident or occurrence.

(10m) Refusals; Seizure, immobilization or ignition interlock of a motor vehicle. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), if the person whose operating privilege is revoked under sub. (10) has one or more prior convictions, suspensions, or revocations, as counted under s. 343.307 (1), the procedure under s. 343.301 shall be followed if the court enters an order regarding operating privilege restriction or enters an order regarding immobilization. If the number of convictions under ss. 940.09 (1) and 940.25 in the lifetime of the person whose operating privilege is revoked under sub. (10), plus the total number of other convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under s. 343.307 (1), equals 2 or more, the procedure under s. 346.65 (6) shall be followed if the court orders seizure and forfeiture of the motor vehicle used in the improper refusal and owned by the person.
Evidence of refusal was not admissible when the defendant was not fully informed of the consequences in accordance with (former) sub. (4). State v. Algaier, 165 Wis. 2d 515, 487 N.W.2d 292 (Ct. App. 1991).

A mental disorder cannot justify a refusal unless it is severe enough that the defendant was actually informed of all rights and penalties relating to him was sufficient. State v. Psikula, 168 Wis. 2d 135, 483 N.W.2d 250 (Ct. App. 1992). See also Village of Oregon v. Bryant, 188 Wis. 2d 680, 524 N.W.2d 635 (1995).

Under (former) sub. (9) (a) requirement that evidence of intoxication will be produced and served immediately is directory and not mandatory. State v. Moline, 170 Wis. 2d 531, 489 N.W.2d 667 (Ct. App. 1992).

When officer knows the defendant was licensed as a commercial operator and the ensuing revocation revokes all operating privileges, the commercial operator warning notice (former) sub. (4), must be given. State v. Geraldson, 176 Wis. 2d 476, 500 N.W.2d 415 (Ct. App. 1993).

Overstatement of the potential penalties for refusal to submit to a chemical test is substantial compliance with (former) sub. (4) and not grounds for reversing a revocation for refusal. State v. Sutton, 177 Wis. 2d 709, 501 N.W.2d 326 (Ct. App. 1993).

There is no error in informing a driver of all warnings under (former) sub. (4), including those applying to only commercial operators and those applying to only non-commercial operators, regarding the consequences of refusal of an alternate test. Wisconsin Statutes. 171 Wis. 2d 124, 490 N.W.2d 761 (Ct. App. 1992).

A finding in an administrative review under sub. (8) that there was no probable cause for an arrest does not preclude the consideration of the same issue in a criminal proceeding. State v. Kastan, 207 Wis. 2d 609, 558 N.W.2d 687 (Ct. App. 1996).

A valid search warrant is not a precondition to admission of evidence obtained by a warrantless search. State v. Maynard, 189 Wis. 2d 239, 525 N.W.2d 102 (Ct. App. 1994).

A driver’s “subjective confusion” over the right not to take a chemical test is not grounds for challenging the propriety of the warnings given prior to submission to a chemical test. There is a 3-part standard to be applied in determining the adequacy of the warnings. County of Ozaukee v. Quelle, 198 Wis. 2d 269, 542 N.W.2d 196 (Ct. App. 1995).

Discovery procedures in chapter 804 apply to refusal hearings under this section. State v. Schopp, 204 Wis. 2d 266, 554 N.W.2d 236 (Ct. App. 1996).

The implied consent law does not expressly require a suspect’s written consent to the blood alcohol test. A consent form will be liberally construed to determine whether it misinforms the suspect of the law. State v. Wright, 204 Wis. 2d 343, 555 N.W.2d 384 (Ct. App. 1996).

A driver’s voluntary and unprovoked admission of refusal to submit to a blood alcohol test is not a confession of guilt for an arrest, but may be considered on the question of whether probable cause existed for the arrest. Refusal to submit to a blood alcohol test may result in the warning under sub. (4) being inadequate. Evidence of a refusal that follows an inadequate warning violates due process, but admission is subject to a harmless error analysis. State v. Schimmang, 210 Wis. 2d 325, 565 N.W.2d 225 (Ct. App. 1997).

When an officer exceeds the duty to give warnings prior to administering the test and gives erroneous information, it is the defendant’s burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the erroneous information caused the defendant’s refusal. State v. Ludwigson, 212 Wis. 2d 871, 569 N.W.2d 762 (Ct. App. 1997).

Willingness to submit to a blood alcohol test, subsequent to an earlier refusal, does not cure the refusal. State v. Rydies, 214 Wis. 2d 101, 571 N.W.2d 417 (Ct. App. 1997).

A refusal to submit to a blood alcohol test is not required to find a refusal. Conduct may serve as the basis for finding a refusal. State v. Rydies, 214 Wis. 2d 101, 571 N.W.2d 471 (Ct. App. 1997).

The chief of the DOT chemical test section is given authority to determine the procedures for evaluation of breath testing instruments. The consideration of modifications made to a new model of a previously tested machine and determination that the 2 models were analytically the same was sufficient testing. State v. Busch, 217 Wis. 2d 429, 576 N.W.2d 904 (1998).

When a defendant submitted to a blood test prior to being placed under arrest, the test was not made pursuant to this section. As such, there was no right to an alternative test under sub. (5). State v. Thurtell, 224 Wis. 2d 662, 592 N.W.2d 1 (Ct. App. 1999).

There is no constitutional duty to inform suspected drunk drivers that the right to counsel does not attach to the implied consent statute. State v. Reitter, 227 Wis. 2d 662, 618 N.W.2d 240 (1999).

The implied consent law was not made pursuant to this section. As such, there was no right to an alternative test under sub. (5). State v. Thurtell, 224 Wis. 2d 662, 592 N.W.2d 1 (Ct. App. 1999).

A warrantless blood draw is permissible when: 1) the blood is taken to obtain evidence of intoxication from a person lawfully arrested; 2) the person is in custody and the procedure is reasonable under the circumstances; and 3) the method used is reasonable and performed in a reasonable manner, and 4) the arrestee presents no reasonable objection. State v. Thorstad, 2000 W1 App 199, 238 Wis. 2d 666, 618 N.W.2d 240. (Ct. App. 2007).
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although a notice of intent to revoke operating privileges under sub. (9) (a) did not contain "substantially all" of the statutorily required information, it provided meaningful notice and opportunity to be heard. as such the error was technical and required finding of prejudice for dismissal of the action. state v. gauthois, 2000 wi app 274, 240 wis. 2d 83, 622 n.w.2d 24.

the notice under (4) regarding the consequences for failing to submit to a blood alcohol test does not violate due process. it does not mislead accused persons regarding taking or refusing the blood alcohol test. state v. nord, 2001 wi app 48, 241 wis. 2d 387, 625 n.w.2d 302.

sub. (9) (a) requires the accused person to notify the police under sub. (4), an officer is required to utilize methods that, according to the circumstances at the time, are reasonable and will convey the warnings. whether the accused driver comprehends the warnings is not part of the record. a driver's hearing impairment must be taken into account and documented as is reasonably possible under the circumstances. state v. piddington, 2001 wi 24, 241 wis. 2d 754, 623 n.w.2d 528.

drivers have no right to refuse a chemical test and need not consent to a test. when there is a refusal, the implied consent law does not preclude police from pursuing other avenues for collecting evidence. state v. gibson, 2001 wi app 71, 242 wis. 2d 267, 626 n.w.2d 73.

that a person agreed to a breath test but not a blood test, did not render police inadmissible in a blood test unreasonable. state v. wodeniak, 247 wis. 2d 554, 634 n.w.2d 867.

by consenting to the taking of a blood sample, the defendant also consented to the chemical test as the test results are of the sample. these are not separate events for warrant requirement purposes. state v. vanlaarhoven, 2001 wi app 275, 248 wis. 2d 881, 637 n.w.2d 411.

a warrantless blood draw by a physician in a jail setting may be unreasonable if it invites an unjustified element of personal risk of pain and infection. absent evidence of those risks, a blood draw under those circumstances was reasonable. state v. durley, 2002 wis. app. 32, 290 wis. 2d 1128, 680 n.w.2d 546.

the circuits court's improper denial of a hearing requested under sub. (8) as the result of its miscalculation of time that resulted in a suspension without a hearing was not a finding of hearing impairment entitling the defendant to dismissal of the conviction. when the court, on realizing the error, conducted a hearing and found that the defendant's refusal was improper and a license suspension was in order. state v. carlson, 2002 wis. app. 45, 250 wis. 2d 562, 641 n.w.2d 24.

sub. (9) (a) does not provide the exclusive option when faced with an arrestee who refuses to submit to a chemical test. an officer may acknowledge the refusal, complete the refusal, and then proceed with an involuntary blood test, using reasonable force to withdraw blood from a noncompliant suspect, and the officer may necessarily inform a suspect that such a procedure is a possibility upon his or her refusal. state v. marshall, 2002 wis. app. 33, 251 wis. 2d 408, 642 n.w.2d 571.

when the arresting officer makes no specific threats beyond what arises under this section, the threat of loss driving privileges does not constitute a coercive measure that invalidates a defendant's consent for 4th amendment purposes. an arrest officer by informing the accused person, simply states the truth: refusal to submit to a chemical test will result in driving privileges being revoked. police officers are entitled to make true statements. village of little chute v. walitalo, 2002 wi app 211, 251 wis. 2d 650, 650 n.w.2d 891.

when a law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that an unconscious person is guilty of driving while intoxicated, a blood sample may be taken, and the test results are admissible in evidence and may not be excluded by the trial court. 59 atty. gen. 183.

IMPLIED consent is discussed. 62 atty. gen. 174.

the method by which a law enforcement agency may provide 2 tests for blood alcohol concentration under sub. (1), 1985 stats. [now sub. (2)] is discussed. the agency is not required to actually own or physically possess the testing devices. 63 atty. gen. 119.

under s. 343.305 (1) and (4), 1985 stats., hospital personnel must administer tests and report results at the request of officers, subject to penalty under 946.40. 68 atty. gen. 209.

Federal law requiring confidentiality of patient records has no application to the taking of a blood sample under this section. 73 atty. gen. 45.

A law enforcement officer may use physical restraint, subject to constitutional limitations, in order to draw a legally justified blood sample. refusal by a health professional to comply with a law enforcement officer's authorized request to take a blood sample from a person whom the officer has legally restrained by force constitutes refusal to aid an officer under s. 946.40. 74 atty. gen. 123.

Refusal hearings under this section are discussed. 77 atty. gen. 4.

A Massachusetts implied consent law that mandates suspension of a license for refusal to take a breath–analysis test did not violate the due process clause. mackey v. members, inc. u.s. 1 (1979).

the admission into evidence of a defendant's refusal to submit to a blood–alcohol test did not deny the right against self-incrimination. south dakota v. neville, 459 U.S. 553 (1983).

Wisconsin's new administrative suspension statute. 72 MLR 120 (1988).

the new OMVWI law: Wisconsin changes its approach to the problem of drinking and driving. Hammer, WBB April, May 1982.


343.307 Prior convictions, suspensions or revocations to be counted as offenses. (1) The court shall count the following to determine the length of a revocation under s. 346.30 (1q) (b) and to determine the penalty under s. 346.65 (2):

(a) Convictions for violations under s. 346.63 (1), or a local ordinance in conformity with that section.

(b) Convictions for violations of a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (1).

(c) Convictions for violations under s. 346.63 (2) or 940.25, or s. 940.09 where the offense involved the use of a vehicle.

(d) Convictions under the law of another jurisdiction that prohibits refusal of chemical testing or use of a motor vehicle while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog, or a combination thereof, or with an excess or specified range of alcohol concentration, or under the influence of any drug to a degree that renders the person incapable of safely driving, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction's laws.

(e) Operating privilege suspensions or revocations under the law of another jurisdiction arising out of a refusal to submit to chemical testing.

(f) Revocations under s. 343.305 (10).

(2) The court shall count the following to determine the length of a revocation under s. 343.305 (10) and to determine the penalty under s. 346.65 (2) and to determine the prohibited alcohol concentration under s. 340.01 (46m):

(a) Convictions for violations under s. 346.63 (1) or (5), or a local ordinance in conformity with either section.

(b) Convictions for violations of a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (1) or (5).

(c) Convictions for violations under s. 346.63 (2) or (6).

(d) Convictions under the law of another jurisdiction that is in substantial conformity with 49 CFR 383.51 (b) (1) (i) or (ii) or both.

(e) Convictions under the law of another jurisdiction that prohibits refusal of chemical testing or use of a motor vehicle while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog, or a combination thereof, or with an excess or specified range of alcohol concentration, or under the influence of any drug to a degree that renders the person incapable of safely driving, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction's laws.

(f) Operating privilege suspensions or revocations under the law of another jurisdiction arising out of a refusal to submit to chemical testing.

(g) Revocations under s. 343.305 (10).

(h) Convictions for violations under s. 940.09 (1) or 940.25.

(3) If the same elements of the offense must be proven under a local ordinance or under a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state as under s. 346.63 (1) or (2) or both, or s. 346.63 (5), the local ordinance or the law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state shall be considered to be in conformity with s. 346.63 (1) or (2) or both, or s. 346.63 (5), for purposes of ss. 343.30 (1q) (b) 1., 343.305 (10) (b) 1. and 346.65 (2) and (2j).


343.31 Revocation or suspension of licenses after certain convictions. (1) The department shall revoke a person's operating privilege upon receiving a record of conviction showing that the person has been convicted of any of the following offenses under a state law or under a local ordinance which is in conformity therewith or under a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state which is in conformity with state law:

(a) Homicide or great bodily harm resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle and which is criminal under s. 346.62 (4), 940.06, 940.09, 940.10 or 940.25.

(am) Injury by the operation of a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant, a controlled substance or a controlled substance analog, or any combination of an intoxicant, a controlled substance and a controlled substance analog, under the influence

Wisconsin Statutes Archive.
of any other drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving, or under the combined influence of an intoxicant and any other drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving or while the person has a prohibited alcohol concentration and which is criminal under s. 346.63 (2).

(a) Injury by the operation of a commercial motor vehicle while the person has an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more but less than 0.1 and which is criminal under s. 346.63 (6).

(b) Upon conviction for operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant, controlled substance, controlled substance analog or a combination thereof, under the influence of any other drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving, or under the combined influence of an intoxicant and any other drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving, in accordance with the order of the court.

(c) Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used.

(d) Failure to stop and render aid as required under the laws of this state in the event of a motor vehicle accident resulting in death of or personal injury to another or in serious property damage.

(g) Operating a motor vehicle without having furnished proof of financial responsibility when proof of financial responsibility is required.

(hm) A violation of s. 343.44 (1) (a), (b) or (d), or a local ordinance in conformity therewith, if the person has been convicted of 3 or more prior violations of s. 343.44 (1) (a), (b) or (d), or similar violations under s. 343.44 (1), 1997 stats., or a local ordinance in conformity therewith within the 5-year period preceding the violation. Revocation under this paragraph shall be for a period of 6 months unless a lesser period of revocation is ordered under s. 343.30 (1g) (b).

(i) Knowingly fleeing or attempting to elude a traffic officer under s. 346.04 (3).

(2) The department shall revoke the operating privilege of any resident upon receiving notice of the conviction of such person in another jurisdiction for an offense therein which, if committed in this state, would have been cause for revocation under this section or for revocation under s. 343.30 (1g). Such offenses shall include violation of any law of another jurisdiction that prohibits use of a motor vehicle while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog, or a combination thereof, or with an excess or specified range of alcohol concentration, or under the influence of any drug to a degree that renders the person incapable of safely driving, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s laws. Upon receiving similar notice with respect to a nonresident, the department shall revoke the privilege of the nonresident to operate a motor vehicle in this state. Such revocation shall not apply to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle by a nonresident who holds a valid commercial driver license issued by another state.

(2m) The department may suspend or revoke, respectively, the operating privilege of any resident upon receiving notice of the conviction of that person under a law of another jurisdiction or a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state for an offense which, if the person had committed the offense in this state and been convicted of the offense under the laws of this state, would have permitted suspension or revocation of the person’s operating privilege under s. 343.30 (1g). Upon receiving similar notice with respect to a nonresident, the department may suspend or revoke the privilege of the nonresident to operate a motor vehicle in this state. The suspension or revocation shall not apply to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle by a nonresident who holds a valid commercial driver license issued by another state. A suspension or revocation under this subsection shall be for any period not exceeding 6 months.

(2r) The department shall suspend a person’s operating privilege upon receiving a record of conviction showing that the person has been convicted of perjury or the making of a false affidavit or the making of a false statement or certification to the department under this chapter or any other law relating to the ownership or operation of motor vehicles.

(2u) The department shall suspend the operating privilege of a person who has been issued an occupational license upon receiving a record of conviction showing that the person has been convicted of any of the following offenses.

(a) Any offense that may be counted under s. 351.02 (1) (a), other than s. 351.02 (1) (a) 5.

(b) Exceeding by 20 or more miles per hour any lawful or posted maximum speed limit.

(c) Participating in any race or speed or endurance contest.

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection or sub. (2m), all revocations or suspensions under this section shall be for a period of one year.

(b) If the revocation results from a first conviction of operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant, controlled substance, controlled substance analog or a combination thereof, under the influence of any other drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving, or under the combined influence of an intoxicant and any other drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving, and the conviction occurs in another jurisdiction, the period of revocation shall be 6 months.

(bm) For any person convicted under a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (1):

1. Except as provided in subds. 3. and 4., the department shall revoke the person’s operating privilege under this paragraph according to the number of previous suspensions, revocations or convictions that would be counted under s. 343.307 (1). Suspensions, revocations and convictions arising out of the same incident shall be counted as one. If a person has a conviction, suspension or revocation for any offense that is counted under s. 343.307 (1), that conviction, suspension or revocation shall count as a prior conviction, suspension or revocation under this subdivision.

2. Except as provided in subd. 3., 4. or 4m., for the first conviction, the department shall revoke the person’s operating privilege for not less than 6 months nor more than 9 months. If an Indian tribal court in this state revokes the person’s privilege to operate a motor vehicle on tribal lands for not less than 6 months nor more than 9 months for the conviction specified in par. (bm) (intro.), the department shall impose the same period of revocation. The person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 at any time.

3. Except as provided in subd. 4m., if the number of convictions under ss. 940.09 (1) and 940.25 in the person’s lifetime, plus the total number of suspensions, revocations, and other convictions counted under s. 343.307 (1) within a 10−year period, equals 2, the department shall revoke the person’s operating privilege for not less than one year nor more than 18 months. If an Indian tribal court in this state revokes the person’s privilege to operate a motor vehicle on tribal lands for not less than one year nor more than 18 months for the conviction specified in par. (bm) (intro.), the department shall impose the same period of revocation. After the first 60 days of the revocation period or, if the total number of convictions, suspensions, and revocations counted under this subdivision within any 5−year period equals 2 or more, after one year of the revocation period has elapsed, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10.

4. Except as provided in subd. 4m., if the number of convictions under ss. 940.09 (1) and 940.25 in the person’s lifetime, plus the total number of other suspensions, revocations and convictions counted under s. 343.307 (1), equals 3 or more, the department shall revoke the person’s operating privilege for not less than 2 years nor more than 3 years. If an Indian tribal court in this state revokes the person’s privilege to operate a motor vehicle on tribal lands for not less than 2 years nor more than 3 years for the conviction specified in par. (bm) (intro.), the department shall impose the same period of revocation. After one year of the revocation period.
has elapsed, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10.

4m. If the Indian tribal court that convicted the person determined that there was a minor passenger under 16 years of age in the motor vehicle at the time of the incident that gave rise to the conviction, the applicable minimum and maximum revocation periods under subds. 2., 3. or 4. for the conviction are doubled.

5. The time period under this paragraph shall be measured from the dates of the refusals or violations which resulted in the suspensions, revocations or convictions.

(c) Any person convicted under s. 940.09 of causing the death of another or of an unborn child by the operation or handling of a motor vehicle shall have his or her operating privilege revoked for 5 years. If there was a minor passenger under 16 years of age or an unborn child, as defined in s. 939.75 (1), in the motor vehicle at the time of the violation that gave rise to the conviction under s. 940.09, the revocation period is 10 years.

(d) Any person convicted of knowingly fleeing or attempting to elude a traffic officer under s. 346.04 (3) shall have his or her operating privilege revoked as follows:
   1. If the offense did not result in bodily harm to another or damage to the property of another, for 6 months.
   2. If the offense results in bodily harm to another or causes damage to the property of another, as provided in par. (a).
   3. If the offense results in great bodily harm to another, for 2 years.
   4. If the offense results in the death of another, for 5 years.

(e) Any person convicted under s. 346.63 (2) shall have his or her operating privilege revoked for not less than one year nor more than 2 years. If there was a minor passenger under 16 years of age in the motor vehicle at the time of the violation that gave rise to the conviction under s. 346.63 (2), the minimum and maximum revocation periods are doubled.

(f) Any person convicted under s. 940.25 shall have his or her operating privilege revoked for 2 years. If there was a minor passenger under 16 years of age or an unborn child, as defined in s. 939.75 (1), in the motor vehicle at the time of the violation that gave rise to the conviction under s. 940.25, the revocation period is 4 years.

(i) If a person is convicted for a violation of s. 346.67 (1) where the accident involved great bodily harm, the period of revocation is 2 years.

(j) If a person is convicted for a violation of s. 346.67 (1) where the accident involved death, the period of revocation is 5 years.

3m. (a) Any person who has his or her operating privilege revoked under sub. (3) (c) or (f) is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 after the first 120 days of the revocation period, except that if the total number of convictions, suspensions, or revocations for any offense that is counted under s. 343.307 (1) within any 5–year period equals 2 or more, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 after one year of the revocation period has elapsed.

(b) Any person who has his or her operating privilege revoked under sub. (3) (e) is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 after the first 60 days of the revocation period, except that if the total number of convictions, suspensions, or revocations for any offense that is counted under s. 343.307 (1) within any 5–year period equals 2 or more, the person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 after one year of the revocation period has elapsed.


The court cannot waive the revocation ordered by the division of motor vehicles.


When a person is charged under a second offense OWI, the charge may not be reduced to or punished as a first. The department must treat this as a second offense for purposes of revocation. 69 Atty. Gen. 47.

343.315 Commercial motor vehicle disqualifications; effects. (1) EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITY. An employer may not allow, permit or authorize a driver who is disqualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle during a period of disqualification after March 31, 1992. An employer who knowingly violates this subsection shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned for not more than 90 days or both. An employer who negligently violates this subsection shall forfeit not more than $2,500.

(2) DISQUALIFYING OFFENSES. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), a person shall be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a one–year period upon a first conviction of any of the following offenses, committed on or after July 1, 1987, while driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle:

1. Section 346.63 (1) (a) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (1) (a) or the law of another jurisdiction prohibiting driving or operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog or a combination thereof, or under the influence of any drug which renders the person incapable of safely driving, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s laws.

2. Section 346.63 (1) (b) or (5) (a) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (1) (b) or (5) (a) or the law of another jurisdiction prohibiting driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle while the person’s alcohol concentration is 0.04 or more or with an excess or specified range of alcohol concentration, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s laws.

3. Section 346.67 (1), 346.68 or 346.69 or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.67 (1), 346.68 or 346.69 or the law of another jurisdiction prohibiting leaving the scene of an accident involving a motor vehicle driven or operated by the person, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s laws.

4. Using a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony in this state, including a violation of a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state for an offense therein which, if the person had been convicted of the offense under the laws of this state, would have constituted a felony, or in another jurisdiction.

5. Section 343.305 (9) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 343.305 (9) or the law of another jurisdiction prohibiting refusal of a person driving or operating a motor vehicle to submit to chemical testing to determine the person’s alcohol concentration or intoxication, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s laws.

6. Section 346.63 (2) or (6), 940.09 (1) or 940.25 or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (2) or (6), 940.09 (1) or 940.25, or the law of another jurisdiction prohibiting causing or inflicting injury, generally bodily harm or death through use of a motor vehicle while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog or a combination thereof, or with an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more or with an excess or specified range of alcohol concentration, or under the influence of any drug to a degree that renders the person incapable of safely driving, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s laws.

(b) If any of the violations listed in par. (a) occurred in the course of transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding on or after July 1, 1987, the person shall be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a 3–year period.

(c) A person shall be disqualified for life from operating a commercial motor vehicle if convicted of 2 or more violations of any
of the offenses listed in par. (a), or any combination of those offenses, arising from 2 or more separate incidents. The department shall consider only offenses committed on or after July 1, 1987, in applying this paragraph.

(d) The department may, by rule, establish guidelines and conditions under which a disqualification for life under par. (c) may be reduced to a period of not less than 10 years. The rules shall include standards for a rehabilitation program to be successfully completed by the applicant for reinstatement. If a person is reinstated after successful completion of the rehabilitation program and is subsequently convicted of any offense listed in par. (a), the person shall be permanently disqualified for life and ineligible to apply for a reduction of the lifetime disqualification under this paragraph.

(e) A person is disqualified for life from operating a commercial motor vehicle if the person uses a commercial motor vehicle on or after July 1, 1987, in the commission of a felony involving the manufacture, distribution, delivery or dispensing of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog, or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, deliver or dispense a controlled substance or controlled substance analog. No person who is disqualified under this paragraph is eligible for reinstatement under par. (d).

(f) A person is disqualified for a period of 60 days from operating a commercial motor vehicle if convicted of 2 serious traffic violations, and 120 days if convicted of 3 serious traffic violations, arising from separate occurrences committed within a 3−year period while driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle. The 120−day period of disqualification under this paragraph shall be in addition to any other period of disqualification imposed under this paragraph. In this paragraph, “serious traffic violations” means:

1. Violating s. 346.57 (4) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.57 (4) by excessive speeding, or the law of another jurisdiction prohibiting excessive speeding by exceeding the posted speed limit by 15 or more miles per hour as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s law.

2. Violating any state or local law of this state or any law of another jurisdiction prohibiting reckless or careless driving of a motor vehicle or driving or operating a motor vehicle with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s law.

3. Violating s. 346.62 or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.62 or the law of another jurisdiction prohibiting reckless or careless driving of a motor vehicle or driving or operating a motor vehicle with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property, as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s law.

4. Violating s. 346.07 (2), 346.08, 346.09, 346.10, 346.13, 346.24 (3) or 346.34 (1) (a) 3. or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.07 (2), 346.08, 346.09, 346.10, 346.13, 346.24 (3) or 346.34 (1) (a) 3. or the law of another jurisdiction prohibiting improper or erratic lane changes or improper passing, or otherwise prohibiting the conduct described in sections 11−304 to 306 and 11−309 of the uniform vehicle code and model traffic ordinance (1987), as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s law.

5. Violating s. 346.14 or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.14 or the law of another jurisdiction prohibiting following a vehicle too closely, or otherwise prohibiting the conduct described in section 11−310 of the uniform vehicle code and model traffic ordinance (1987), as those or substantially similar terms are used in that jurisdiction’s law.

(fm) A person is disqualified for a period of 60 days from operating a commercial motor vehicle if convicted of violating s. 343.14 (5) or 345.17, if the violation relates to an application for a commercial driver license.

(g) A person is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for the 24−hour period following issuance of a citation for violation of s. 346.63 (7) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith or a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with s. 346.63 (7) or issuance of an out−of−service order for violating 49 CFR 392.5 or the law of another jurisdiction in substantial conformity therewith.

(h) Except as provided in par. (i), a person is disqualified for a period of 90 days from operating a commercial motor vehicle if convicted of an out−of−service violation, or one year if convicted of 2 out−of−service violations, or 3 years if convicted of 3 or more out−of−service violations, arising from separate occurrences committed within a 10−year period while driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle. A disqualification under this paragraph shall be in addition to any penalty imposed under s. 343.44.

In this paragraph, “out−of−service violation” means violating s. 343.44 (1) by operating a commercial motor vehicle while ordered out−of−service under state or federal law.

(i) If the violation listed in par. (h) occurred in the course of transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding or while operating a vehicle designed to carry, or actually carrying, 16 or more passengers, including the driver, the person shall be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for 180 days upon a first conviction, or for a 3−year period for a 2nd or subsequent conviction, arising from separate occurrences committed within a 10−year period while driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle. A disqualification under this paragraph shall be in addition to any penalty imposed under s. 343.44.

(j) A person is disqualified for a period of 60 days from operating a commercial motor vehicle if convicted of a railroad crossing violation, or 120 days if convicted of 2 railroad crossing violations or one year if convicted of 3 or more railroad crossing violations, arising from separate occurrences committed within a 3−year period while driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle. In this paragraph, “railroad crossing violation” means a violation of a federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation relating to any of the following offenses at a railroad crossing:

1. If the operator is not always required to stop the vehicle, failing to reduce speed and determine that the tracks are clear of any approaching train.

2. If the operator is not always required to stop the vehicle, failing to stop before reaching the crossing if the tracks are not clear.

3. If the operator is always required to stop the vehicle, failing to do so before proceeding onto the crossing.

4. Failing to have sufficient space to proceed completely through the crossing without stopping the vehicle.

5. Failing to obey any official traffic control device or the directions of any traffic officer, railroad employee, or other enforcement official.

6. Failing to successfully proceed through the crossing because of insufficient undercarriage clearance.

(3) EFFECT OF DISQUALIFICATION. (a) Notwithstanding s. 343.39, if a person’s license or operating privilege is revoked or suspended as the result of an offense committed after March 31, 1992, which results in disqualification under sub. (2), the department shall immediately disqualify the person from operating a commercial motor vehicle for the period required under sub. (2). The person’s authorization to operate a commercial motor vehicle shall not be reinstated upon expiration of the period of revocation or suspension unless the period of disqualification has...
also expired. During any period of disqualification in which the person’s license or operating privilege is not revoked or suspended, the department may issue an operator’s license to the person for the operation of vehicles other than commercial motor vehicles.

(b) If a person’s license or operating privilege is not otherwise revoked or suspended as the result of an offense committed after March 31, 1992, which results in disqualification under sub. (2) (a) to (f), (h), (i), or (j), the department shall immediately disqualify the person from operating a commercial motor vehicle for the period required under sub. (2) (a) to (f), (h), (i), or (j). Upon proper application by the person and payment of a duplicate license fee, the department may issue a separate license authorizing only the operation of vehicles other than commercial motor vehicles. Upon expiration of the period of disqualification, the person may apply for authorization to operate commercial motor vehicles under s. 343.26.

(c) Nothing in this subsection exempts a person from reinstatement fees under s. 343.21 or complying with applicable provisions of s. 343.38.

(d) Disqualifications shall be effective from the date of conviction of the disqualifying offense.

(4) NOTIFICATION AND COMMENCEMENT. The department shall send the notice of disqualification by 1st class mail to a person’s last-known residence address. A period of disqualification ordered under this section commences on the date on which the notice is sent under this subsection. This subsection does not apply to disqualifications under sub. (2) (g).


343.32 Other grounds for revocation or suspension of licenses; demerit points. (1) The secretary shall revoke a person’s operating privilege whenever one or more of the following conditions exist:

(c) Notice has been received of the conviction of such person in another jurisdiction for an offense therein which, if committed in this state, would have required revocation of such person’s operating privilege under this subsection.

(1m) (a) In this subsection, “another jurisdiction” means any state other than Wisconsin and includes the District of Columbia, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico and any territory or possession of the United States and any province of the Dominion of Canada.

(b) The secretary shall suspend a person’s operating privilege for not less than 6 months nor more than 5 years whenever notice has been received of the conviction of such person under federal law or the law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state or the law of another jurisdiction for any offense wherein which, if the person had committed the offense in this state and been convicted of the offense under the laws of this state, would have required suspension of such person’s operating privilege under s. 961.50. The person is eligible for an occupational license under s. 343.10 as follows:

1. For the first such conviction, at any time.
2. For a 2nd conviction within a 5–year period, after the first 60 days of the suspension period.
3. For a 3rd or subsequent conviction within a 5–year period, after the first 90 days of the suspension period.

(c) For purposes of counting the number of convictions under par. (b), convictions of any violation of ch. 961 shall be counted and given the effect specified under par. (b). The 5–year period under this subsection shall be measured from the dates of the violations which resulted in the convictions.

(d) If the person’s license or operating privilege is currently suspended or revoked or the person does not currently possess a valid operator’s license issued under this chapter, the suspension or revocation under this subsection is effective on the date on which the person is first eligible and applies for issuance, renewal or reinstatement of an operator’s license under this chapter.

(1s) The secretary shall suspend the operating privilege of any person who has been convicted under state law or under a local ordinance which is in conformity therewith or under a law of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state which is in conformity with state law of altering the person’s license, loaning the person’s license to another or unlawfully or fraudulently using or permitting an unlawful or fraudulent use of a license.

(2) (a) The secretary may suspend a person’s operating privilege if the person appears by the records of the department to be a habitually reckless or negligent operator of a motor vehicle or to have repeatedly violated any of the state traffic laws, any local ordinance enacted under ch. 349 or any traffic laws enacted by a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state if the tribal traffic laws violated strictly conform to provisions in chs. 341 to 348 or, if the offense occurred on a federal military installation located in this state, any federal law which is in strict conformity with a state traffic law. For the purpose of determining when to suspend an operating privilege under this subsection, the secretary may determine and adopt by rule a method of weighing traffic convictions by their seriousness and may, subject to the limitations in this subsection, change such weighted scale as experience or the accident frequency in the state makes necessary or desirable.

(b) The scale adopted by the secretary shall assign, for each conviction, 3 demerit points for exceeding the lawful speed limit by 10 or less miles per hour, 4 demerit points for exceeding the lawful speed limit by more than 10 but less than 20 miles per hour or 6 demerit points for exceeding the lawful speed limit by 20 or more miles per hour. Except as provided in s. 343.085 (5), the scale adopted by the secretary may not assign more demerit points for a subsequent conviction for exceeding the lawful speed limit than the number of demerit points specified for the conviction in this paragraph.

(bc) (1) Except as provided in subd. 2., the scale adopted by the secretary shall assess, for each conviction, twice the number of demerit points that are assessed for the same offense committed by the holder of a regular license, if the convicted person has been previously convicted of an offense for which demerit points are assessed and the person is one of the following:

a. A person who holds a probationary license.

b. An unlicensed person who would hold a probationary license if licensed.

c. A person who holds an instruction permit under s. 343.07.

2. The secretary may not increase under subd. 1. the number of demerit points that are assessed for a violation of ch. 347.

(bd) The scale adopted by the secretary shall assess, for each conviction, 6 demerit points for a violation of s. 346.44 or 346.62 (2m), except that convictions under s. 346.44 and 346.62 (2m) arising out of the same incident or occurrence shall be counted as a single conviction.

(bg) The scale adopted by the secretary shall assign, for each conviction, 3 demerit points for operating a motor vehicle while disqualified, revoked, suspended or out–of–service under s. 343.44 or a local ordinance in conformity therewith.

(bj) The scale adopted by the secretary shall assess, for each conviction, 6 demerit points for a violation of s. 346.63 (6) and 3 demerit points for a violation of s. 346.63 (7) (a) 3. The scale adopted by the secretary shall not assess any demerit points for conviction of a violation of s. 346.63 (5) or (7) (a) 1. or 2.

(bm) 1. The scale adopted by the secretary may not assess any demerit points for operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator’s license in the operator’s immediate possession in violation of s. 343.18 (1).
2. The scale adopted by the secretary may not assess more than 2 demerit points for operating a motor vehicle with a defective or improper speedometer in violation of s. 347.41.

(b) The scale adopted by the secretary may not assess any demerit points for modifying the height of a vehicle in violation of s. 347.455.

(b) The scale adopted by the secretary may not assess any demerit points for a violation of s. 346.922 or 347.48 (2m) (b), (c) or (d) or (4) (a).

(c) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., in order for the secretary to suspend an operating privilege under this subsection, the operator must have accumulated 12 demerit points in any 12−month period.

2. The secretary shall suspend, for a period of 6 months, the operating privilege of any person who holds a probationary license issued on or after September 1, 2000, and who has accumulated 12 demerit points in any 12−month period.

(d) When an operator accumulates more than 6 demerit points or has been involved in 2 or more accidents in a one−year period where the accident report indicates that the person may have been causally negligent, the secretary may require the operator to report to an examination station for driver improvement counseling, consisting of either group or individual counseling, reexamination or both.

(e) The secretary may require any person who has had his or her operating privilege suspended or revoked, whether the suspension or revocation is the result of action under this section or s. 343.30, or conviction for an offense which requires mandatory revocation under s. 343.31 to participate in driver improvement counseling, consisting of either group or individual counseling, reexamination or both.

(f) A reexamination required under par. (d) or (e) may consist of all or part of the tests specified in s. 343.16 (2) (b), or any other special examination as required under s. 343.16 (5). Upon conclusion of the counseling, interview and examination, the secretary shall take action as authorized at the conclusion of other examinations under s. 343.16 (6) (a).

(3) Except as provided in sub. (1m), a revocation or suspension under this section may be for any period not exceeding one year unless a different period is specifically prescribed by law.

(4) In adopting rules for weighing traffic convictions by their seriousness under sub. (2), the secretary shall provide by rule for a reduction of up to 3 points if a person shows to the department satisfactory evidence of completion of a course of instruction in traffic safety, defensive driving or similar course or driver improvement counseling approved by the secretary.

(5) In adopting rules for weighing traffic convictions by their seriousness under sub. (2), the secretary also may provide by rule for a reduction of points if a person shows to the department satisfactory evidence of completion of a course of instruction in traffic safety, defensive driving or similar course or driver improvement counseling approved by the secretary.

(6) There shall be no minimum waiting period before issuance of an occupational license under s. 343.10 to a person whose operating privilege has been suspended under sub. (2) if the person is otherwise eligible for issuance of an occupational license.


Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 101, Wis. adm. code.

343.325 Courts to report appeals; when appeal stays suspension, revocation or disqualification. (1) If a person files a notice of appeal from a conviction the clerk of the court in which such conviction occurred, or the judge of a court not having a clerk, shall:

(a) Promptly forward to the department a certificate stating that such appeal has been taken; and

(b) If the appeal is subsequently dropped, promptly certify such fact to the department; and

(c) Upon determination of the appeal by the appellate court, promptly certify such decision to the department.

(2) Notwithstanding ss. 343.31, 343.315 and 343.32 and except as otherwise provided in sub. (4), the secretary shall not suspend or revoke a person’s operating privilege or disqualify a person from operating a commercial motor vehicle on the basis of a conviction if the secretary receives from the court in which the conviction occurred a certificate stating that an appeal from the conviction has been taken. If the secretary receives such certificate after suspension or revocation of the operating privilege, the operating privilege shall be reinstated without requiring compliance with s. 343.38. If the secretary receives the certificate after suspension of the operating privilege or disqualification, the operating privilege or authorization to operate a commercial motor vehicle shall be reinstated automatically.

(3) Whenever suspension or revocation of an operating privilege or a disqualification has been withheld as provided in sub. (2) and the department receives notice that the conviction in question has been affirmed on appeal or that the appeal has been dropped, the secretary shall suspend or revoke such operating privilege or disqualification if the person from operating a commercial motor vehicle on the same basis as if the appeal had not been taken, but the period of suspension, revocation or disqualification shall run from the date of suspension, revocation or disqualification following the affirmance of the conviction or dropping of the appeal, less any time the operating privilege had been suspended or revoked or the authorization to operate a commercial motor vehicle had been disqualified prior to the receipt by the secretary of the certificate under sub. (2).

(3m) Whenever the suspension or revocation of an operating privilege or a disqualification has been rescinded or withheld because of administrative action, an appeal, or a court order to reopen, stay or vacate a conviction, suspension, revocation or disqualification, and that suspension, revocation or disqualification is subsequently reimposed, the period of suspension, revocation or disqualification so reimposed shall be reduced by the period of suspension, revocation or disqualification previously served.

(4) If a person whose suspension, revocation or disqualification was stayed pursuant to sub. (2) is convicted of an offense for which revocation or disqualification is mandatory under s. 343.31 or 343.315, during the pendency of the appeal of the original conviction, the secretary shall forthwith revoke such person’s operating privilege or disqualify the person from operating a commercial motor vehicle on account of the latter conviction, notwithstanding the appeal of either or both convictions.

(5) This section shall not prevent suspension or revocation of an operating privilege or a disqualification if there are grounds for suspension, revocation or disqualification other than the conviction in question.

(6) (a) If a court enters an order reopening, vacating or staying a conviction or a suspension or revocation of an operating privilege or a disqualification, the court shall promptly forward a copy of that order to the department.

(b) If there is no court order affecting the order to reopen, vacate or stay, the court shall promptly notify the department of that action.

(7) The department, upon receipt of an order under sub. (6), shall proceed under this section as if an appeal had been taken.

History: 1971 c. 278; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a), (c); 1977 c. 273; Sup. Ct. Order, 146 Wis. 2d xiii (1988); 1989 a. 7, 72; 1995 a. 113.

343.33 Hearing on suspensions and revocations. (1) Whenever the department under authority of s. 343.32 or 343.34 revokes or suspends a person’s operating privilege, the department shall immediately notify such person thereof in writing and upon his or her request shall afford him or her an opportunity for a hearing on the revocation or suspension unless the department is satisfied from the records and information in its possession
that a hearing is not warranted. If the department is not so satisfied and the person requests a hearing, the department shall hold a hearing as soon as practicable and in any event within 20 days after receipt of the request therefor. If the person requesting the hearing is a resident of this state, the department shall fix the place of the hearing as close as practicable to the applicant’s residence and in no event shall it be set for a place not in the county of the applicant’s residence or a county contiguous thereto without the consent of the applicant. If the applicant is a nonresident, the department shall determine the place of the hearing. Any person who fails without cause to appear at the time and place specified in the notice served on him or her forfeits the right to a hearing.

(2) Upon the hearing, the department or its hearing examiner may administer oaths, issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books and papers and may require a reexamination of the licensee. No law enforcement officer or other witness produced by the person who has requested a hearing to testify on his or her behalf shall be paid a witness fee by the department nor shall any law enforcement officer called to appear for the department be paid any witness fee. All testimony shall be taken and transcribed.

(3) Upon completion of the hearing, the department shall make findings of fact and shall either let the order of suspension or revocation stand or, upon good cause appearing therefor, rescind the order or modify the period of suspension or revocation.

343.34 Suspension of licenses. The secretary may suspend operating privileges under this section under the following circumstances:

(1) Whenever the secretary is satisfied that a person has violated a restriction on the license and that it is in the interests of public safety to suspend the license, the secretary shall suspend such license for a period not exceeding one year unless the violation is cause for revocation.

(2) When a person has been convicted under s. 343.16 (7) (b),

343.35 Restriction, limitation or suspension of operating privilege. The department shall restrict, limit or suspend a person’s operating privilege if the person is delinquent in making court−ordered payments of child or family support, maintenance, birth expenses, medical expenses or other expenses related to the support of a child or former spouse, or who fails to comply with appropriate notice, with a subpoena or warrant issued by the department of workforce development or a county child support agency under s. 59.53 (5) and related to paternity or child support proceedings, as provided in a memorandum of understanding entered into under s. 49.857.  

343.36 Department to distribute suspension, revocation and disqualification lists and nonresidents’ records of conviction. (2) Once each month, the department shall compile a list of the names and addresses of all residents of this state whose operating privileges were revoked or suspended or who were disqualified under s. 343.315 during the preceding month and the periods of those revocations, suspensions and disqualifications and, upon request, shall forward the list to the sheriff of each county, to the chief of police or the constable, respectively, of each city, village and town and to all county traffic officers.

(3) Upon receiving a record of conviction showing that a nonresident operator of a motor vehicle has been convicted in this state of an offense which is grounds for revocation, suspension or disqualification under the laws of this state, the department shall forward a certified copy of such record to the motor vehicle administrator in the state wherein the person so convicted is a resident.

343.37 No operation under foreign license during revocation or suspension. (1) An operator’s license or permit issued by another jurisdiction does not authorize a resident of this state whose operating privilege has been revoked or suspended pursuant to the laws of this state to operate a motor vehicle in this state until that person has obtained a new license when and as provided in this chapter. This subsection applies to a resident of this state even though that person was a nonresident at the time that person’s operating privilege was revoked or suspended.

(2) Notwithstanding the privilege conferred on nonresidents by s. 343.05 (4) (b), a nonresident whose operating privilege has been revoked or suspended pursuant to the laws of this state is not authorized to operate a motor vehicle in this state under an operator’s license or permit issued by another jurisdiction until the nonresident’s operating privilege in this state has been reinstated pursuant to the laws of this state. This subsection applies to a nonresident even though the nonresident was a resident of this state at the time the nonresident’s operating privilege was revoked or suspended. This section does not limit the operating privilege granted to nonresidents by s. 343.05 (2) (a) 2.

343.38 License after revocation or suspension; reinstatement of nonresident’s operating privilege. (1) License after revocation. Except as provided in ss. 343.10, 343.39 and 351.07, the department shall not issue a license to a person whose operating privilege has been revoked or suspended pursuant to the laws of this state if the period of revocation has expired and the person:

(a) Files with the department an application for license together with the required fee; and

(b) If the secretary so prescribes, passes an examination including the tests specified in s. 343.16 or such parts thereof as the secretary may require; and

(c) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., files and maintains with the department proof of financial responsibility in the amount, form and manner specified in ch. 344. This subdivision does not apply after 3 years have elapsed since the expiration of the period of revocation.

2. No proof under subd. 1. shall be required for any of the following:

a. A vehicle subject to the requirements of s. 121.53, 194.41 or 194.42.

b. A vehicle owned by or leased to the United States, this state or any county or municipality of this state.

c. Reinstatement of an operating privilege revoked under s. 343.30 (1q) (b) 2. (or d), 343.305 (10) (d) or 343.31 (3) (b) or (bm) 2.

d. Reinstatement of an operating privilege revoked under s. 343.31 (1) (b) 2. if, within the 5−year period preceding the violation, the person has not been convicted of a prior offense that may be counted under s. 343.307 2. if, within the 10−year period preceding the violation, the person has not been convicted of 2 or more prior offenses that may be counted under s. 343.307 2.
343.38 OPERATORS’ LICENSES

(2) REINSTATEMENT OF NONRESIDENT’S OPERATING PRIVILEGE AFTER REVOCATION BY WISCONSIN. A nonresident’s operating privilege revoked under the laws of this state is reinstated as a matter of law when the period of revocation has expired and such nonresident obtains a valid operator’s license issued by the jurisdiction of the nonresident’s residence and pays the fee specified in s. 343.21 (1) (j).

(3) REINSTATEMENT AFTER SUSPENSION. Except as provided in s. 343.10, the department shall not issue a license to a person whose operating privilege has been duly suspended while the suspension remains in effect. Upon the expiration of the period of suspension, the person’s operating privilege is reinstated as provided in s. 343.39.

(4) FIRST ISSUANCE OF LICENSE IN WISCONSIN AFTER SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION BY ANOTHER STATE. The department may issue an operator’s license to a person moving to this state whose operating privileges have been previously suspended or revoked in another state when their operating privilege has been reinstated in that state and the following conditions have been met:

(a) When the period of suspension or revocation required by law for conviction for the same traffic violation in this state has terminated.

(b) Acceptable proof of financial responsibility has been filed.

(c) Application for a Wisconsin operator’s license has been made.

(d) Any required examination has been passed.

(e) The fees required for the issuance of an original license have been paid.

(5) RESTRICTIONS ON LICENSE. If a court has ordered that the person’s operating privilege be restricted for a period of time after the revocation period is completed to operating vehicles equipped with an ignition interlock device, the license issued under this section shall include that restriction.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a), (c); 1979 c. 306, 316; 1983 a. 525; 1989 a. 72; 1991 a. 277, 316; 1997 a. 27, 84; 1999 a. 143.

343.39 When operating privilege automatically reinstated. (1) An operating privilege is automatically reinstated under any of the following circumstances:

(a) When, in the case of a suspended operating privilege, the period of suspension has terminated, the reinstatement fee specified in s. 343.21 (1) (j) has been paid to the department and, for reinstatement of an operating privilege suspended under ch. 344, the person files with the department proof of financial responsibility, if required, in the amount, form and manner specified under ch. 344.

(b) When, in the case of a revocation or suspension based on a conviction, the conviction is reversed, set aside or vacated. This paragraph applies whether or not the conviction occurred in this state and whether or not the conviction was cause for revocation or suspension only when considered in connection with the person’s previous operating record.

(c) Whenever any other provision of law provides for automatic reinstatement.

(2) Whenever a person’s operating privilege is automatically reinstated, the department shall forthwith notify such person thereof and shall return any surrendered and unexpired license in the possession of the owner, or the person’s previous operating record.

(3) If a court has ordered that the person’s operating privilege be restricted for a period of time after the suspension period is completed to operating vehicles equipped with an ignition interlock device, the license shall include that restriction.

History: 1973 c. 90; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a); 1977 c. 273; 1991 a. 39, 277; 1993 a. 16; 1997 a. 84.

343.40 Judicial review of suspension, revocation, cancellation or denial of license. The denial or cancellation of a license or the revocation or suspension of an operating privilege is subject to judicial review in the manner provided in ch. 227 for the review of administrative decisions.

History: 1977 c. 43, 187.

SUBCHAPTER IV

UNLAWFUL PRACTICES RELATIVE TO LICENSES

343.43 Unlawful use of license. (1) No person shall:

(a) Represent as valid any canceled, revoked, suspended, fictitious or fraudulently altered license; or

(b) Sell or lend that person’s license to any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another; or

(c) Represent as one’s own any license not issued to that person; or

(d) Violate any of the restrictions placed on that person’s license by or pursuant to law; or

(e) Permit any unlawful use of a license issued to that person; or

(f) Reproduce by any means whatever a copy of a license, unless the reproduction is done pursuant to rules promulgated by the department and for a valid business or occupational purpose; or

(g) Deface or alter a license except to endorse a change of address authorized by s. 343.22 (1) or (2).

(2) Whenever a license or identification card which appears to be altered is displayed to a law enforcement officer, agent of the secretary or the court, that person shall take possession of the license or identification card and return it to the department for cancellation. A notation of change of address properly endorsed on the license under s. 343.22 shall not of itself be reason to consider the license altered.

(3) Except as provided in sub. (3m), any person who violates sub. (1) shall be:

(a) Fined not less than $200 nor more than $600 and may be imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both for the first such violation.

(b) Fined not less than $300 nor more than $1,000 and imprisoned for not less than 3 days nor more than 6 months for the 2nd offense occurring within 3 years.

(c) Fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $2,000 and imprisoned for not less than 10 days nor more than 6 months for the 3rd or subsequent offense occurring within 3 years.

(3m) Any person who violates sub. (1) (d) while operating a “Class D” or “Class M” vehicle as described in s. 343.04 (1) (d) and (e), except a school bus, may be required to forfeit not more than $200 for the first offense, may be fined not more than $300 and imprisoned for not more than 30 days for the 2nd offense occurring within 3 years, and may be fined not more than $500 and imprisoned for not more than 6 months for the 3rd or subsequent offense occurring within 3 years. A violation of a local ordinance in conformity with this section shall count as a previous offense.


Constitutions for presenting a fraudulently altered driver license are restricted to situations having a direct bearing on the license as the granting of driving privileges. Changing the date of birth did not affect the owner’s driving privileges. State v. Schoelvin, 57 Wis. 2d 764.

343.435 License not to be used as security. (1) No person may require or accept an operator’s license, chauffeur’s license, occupational license, instructional permit or any other license or permit issued under this chapter as security.
(2) Any person violating this section may be required to forfeit not less than $20 nor more than $100.

(3) This section does not apply to the action by a state, county, city, village or town of requiring or accepting a license or permit when such action is authorized by some other provision of law.


343.44 Operating while suspended, revoked, ordered out-of-service or disqualified. (1) Operating offenses. (a) Operating while suspended. No person whose operating privilege has been duly suspended under the laws of this state may operate a motor vehicle upon any highway in this state during the period of suspension or in violation of any restriction on an occupational license issued to the person during the period of suspension. A person’s knowledge that his or her operating privilege is suspended is not an element of the offense under this paragraph. In this paragraph, “restriction on an occupational license” means restrictions imposed under s. 343.10 (5) (a) as to hours of the day, area, routes or purpose of travel, vehicles allowed to be operated, use of an ignition interlock device, sobriety or use of alcohol, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs.

(b) Operating while revoked. No person whose operating privilege has been duly revoked under the laws of this state may knowingly operate a motor vehicle upon any highway in this state during the period of revocation or in violation of any restriction on an occupational license issued to the person during the period of revocation. In this paragraph, “restriction on an occupational license” means restrictions imposed under s. 343.10 (5) (a) as to hours of the day, area, routes or purpose of travel, vehicles allowed to be operated, use of an ignition interlock device, sobriety or use of alcohol, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs.

(c) Operating while ordered out-of-service. No person may operate a commercial motor vehicle while ordered out-of-service under state or federal law.

(d) Operating while disqualified. No person may operate a commercial motor vehicle while disqualified under s. 343.315 or 49 CFR 383.51, under the law of another jurisdiction or Mexico that provides for disqualification of commercial drivers in a manner similar to 49 CFR 383.51, or under a determination by the federal highway administration under the federal rules of practice for motor carrier safety contained in 49 CFR 386 that the person is no longer qualified to operate a vehicle under 49 CFR 391.

(1g) Reinstatement required. Notwithstanding any specified term of suspension, revocation, cancellation or disqualification, the period of any suspension, revocation, cancellation or disqualification of an operator’s license issued under this chapter or of an operating privilege continues until the operator’s license or operating privilege is reinstated.

(2) Penalties. (a) Any person who violates sub. (1) (a) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith shall be required to forfeit not less than $50 nor more than $200.

(1) Any person who violates sub. (1) (b) before May 1, 2002, may be required to forfeit not more than $600, except that, if the person has been convicted of a previous violation of sub. (1) (b), or of operating a motor vehicle in violation of s. 343.44 (1), 1997 stats., with an operating privilege that is revoked, within the preceding 5-year period, the penalty under par. (b) shall apply.

(b) Except as provided in par. (am), any person who violates sub. (1) (b), (c) or (d) shall be fined not more than $2,500 or imprisoned for not more than one year in the county jail or both. In imposing a sentence under this paragraph, or a local ordinance in conformity with this paragraph, the court shall review the record and consider the following:

1. The aggravating and mitigating circumstances in the matter, using the guidelines described in par. (d).
2. The class of vehicle operated by the person.
3. The number of prior convictions of the person for violations of this section within the 5 years preceding the person’s arrest.
4. The reason that the person’s operating privilege was revoked, or the person was disqualified or ordered out of service, including whether the person’s operating privilege was revoked for an offense that may be counted under s. 343.307 (2).
5. Any convictions for moving violations arising out of the incident or occurrence giving rise to sentencing under this section.

(c) In addition to other penalties for violation of this section, if a person violates this section while his or her operating privilege is revoked as provided in ch. 351, the penalties may be enhanced by imprisonment and additional fines as provided in s. 351.08. For the purpose of enforcing this paragraph, in any case in which the accused is charged with operating a motor vehicle while his or her operator’s license, permit or privilege to operate is suspended or revoked or is charged with operating without a valid operator’s license, the court, before hearing the charge, shall determine whether the person is a habitual traffic offender or repeat habitual traffic offender and therefore barred from operating a motor vehicle on the highways of this state.

(d) The chief judge of each judicial administrative district shall adopt guidelines, under the chief judge’s authority to adopt local rules under SCR 70.34, for the consideration of aggravating and mitigating factors. Such guidelines shall treat operators of commercial motor vehicles at least as stringently as operators of other classes of motor vehicles.

(2p) Sentencing option. The legislature intends that courts use the sentencing option under s. 973.03 (4) whenever appropriate for persons subject to sub. (2) to provide cost savings for the state and for local governments. This option shall not be used if the suspension or revocation was for one of the following:

(a) Improperly refusing to take a test under s. 343.305.

(b) Violating s. 346.63 (1) or (5) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith.

(c) Violating s. 346.63 (2) or (6), 940.09 (1) or 940.25.

(2r) Prior convictions. For purposes of determining prior convictions under this section, the 5–year period shall be measured from the dates of the violations that resulted in the convictions and each conviction under sub. (2) shall be counted. Convictions of s. 343.44 (1), 1997 stats., other than for operating a commercial motor vehicle while ordered out-of-service shall be counted under this section as prior convictions.

(2s) Citations. Within 30 days after receipt by the department of a report from a law enforcement officer under s. 343.305 (7) or a court order under s. 343.28 of a violation committed by a person operating a commercial motor vehicle while subject to an out-of-service order under s. 343.305 (7) (b) or (9) (am), a traffic officer employed under s. 110.07 may prepare a uniform traffic citation under s. 345.11 for a violation of sub. (1) (c) or (d) and serve it on the person. The citation may be served anywhere in this state and shall be served by delivering a copy to the person personally or by leaving a copy at the person’s usual place of abode with a person of discretion residing therein or by mailing a copy to the person’s last-known residence address. The venue for prosecution may be the county where the alleged offense occurred or in the person’s county of residence.

(3) Failure to receive notice. Refusal to accept or failure to receive an order of revocation, suspension or disqualification mailed by 1st class mail to such person’s last–known address shall not be a defense to the charge of driving after revocation, suspension or disqualification. If the person has changed his or her address and fails to notify the department as required in s. 343.22 then failure to receive notice of revocation, suspension or disqualification shall not be a defense to the charge of driving after revocation, suspension or disqualification.

(4) Impoundment. In addition to other penalties for violation of this section, if a person has violated this section with respect to a motor vehicle which he or she is the owner, the court may order the vehicle impounded. The court may determine the manner and period of impoundment. The cost of keeping the vehicle constitutes a lien on the vehicle.
343.44 OPERATORS’ LICENSES

(4r) VIOLATION OF OUT-OF-SERVICE ORDER. In addition to other penalties for violation of this section, if a person has violated this section after he or she was ordered out-of-service under state or federal law, the violation shall result in disqualification under s. 343.315 (2) (h) or (i).

(5) VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT; LESSORS AND SECURED CREDITORS. If a motor vehicle impounded under sub. (4) is subject to a security agreement or lease contract, the vehicle shall be released by the court to the lessor or secured creditor upon the filing of an affidavit by the lessor or secured creditor that the security agreement or lease contract is in default and shall be delivered to the lessor or secured creditor upon payment of the accrued cost of keeping the motor vehicle.


A certified copy of the MVD order revoking the defendant’s driver’s license was admissible under s. 889.18 (2). State v. Mullins, 81 Wis. 2d 454, 260 N.W.2d 696 (1978).

The time between the violations underlying convictions, not the time between convictions, determines whether penalty enhancers apply. State v. Walczak, 157 Wis. 2d 661, 460 N.W.2d 797 (Ct. App. 1990).

The general requirements for establishing prior criminal offenses in s. 973.12 are not applicable to the penalty enhancement provisions for offenses under sub. (2). The convictions must be established by defendant’s admission, copies of prior judgments, or a teletype of the DOT driving record. State v. Spaeth, 206 Wis. 2d 134, 556 N.W.2d 729 (1996).

A circuit court may not determine the validity of a prior conviction during an enhanced sentencing proceeding precipitated on the prior conviction unless the offender alleges that a violation of the record of the prior conviction. The offender may use whatever means are available to challenge the other conviction in another forum, and if successful, seek to reopen the enhanced sentence. State v. Halden, 218 Wis. 2d 118, 238 Wis. 2d 889, 618 N.W.2d 528 (2000).

A person has a privilege, but not a right to drive a motor vehicle upon a public highway. To exercise that privilege, the person must satisfy the licensing requirements of the state. Failing that, the person may be properly prosecuted and convicted of operating after suspension of his or her operating privileges. County of Fond du Lac v. Kevin C. Derksen, 2002 WI App 160, ___ Wis. 2d ___, 647 N.W.2d 922 (Ct. App. 2001).

Section 351.08 authorizes enhancements to penalties under 343.44; it does not create a separate substantive offense. 75 Atty. Gen. 106.

343.45 Permitting unauthorized person to drive. (1) No person shall cause or knowingly permit the person’s child or another person under the person’s control to operate a motor vehicle upon any highway in violation of this chapter or when such minor is not authorized under this chapter to operate a motor vehicle.

(2) No person shall authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by the person or under the person’s control to be operated upon any highway in violation of this chapter or by a person who is not authorized under this chapter to operate a motor vehicle.

No dealer as defined in s. 340.01 (11) (intro.) but including the persons specified in s. 340.01 (11) (a), (b), (c) and (d), shall permit any person to operate any motor vehicle owned by the dealer to the dealer’s possession or control on a trial run unless the dealer has shown the person’s valid operator’s license, issued by this state or another jurisdiction, before permitting the trial run.

(3) Except as another penalty is provided by s. 343.245 (4) (b), any person violating this section may be required to forfeit not more than $100.


Parent’s unrestricted entrustment of motorcycle to minor child in violation of this section constitutes negligence per se. Kemper v. Borchard, 95 Wis. 2d 435, 290 N.W.2d 563 (Ct. App. 1980).

343.46 Duty of persons renting vehicles to another. (1) No person shall rent a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer to another unless the person who is to operate such rented vehicle is duly licensed under this chapter or, in the case of a nonresident, is duly licensed under the laws of the jurisdiction of the nonresident’s residence.

(2) No person shall rent a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer to another until that person has inspected the license of the person who is to operate the vehicle and has compared and verified the signature thereon with the signature of such person written in his or her presence.

(3) Every person renting a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer to another shall keep a record of the registration number of the motor vehicle so rented or, in the case of a trailer or semitrailer, the registration number of the motor vehicle to which such trailer or semitrailer is to be attached, the name and address of the person who is to operate such rented vehicle, the number of the license of such person and the date when and place where such license was issued. Such record shall be open to inspection by any traffic officer or employee of the department.

(4) Any person violating this section may be required to forfeit not more than $100.

History: 1971 c. 278; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a); 1991 a. 316.

SUBCHAPTER V
IDENTIFICATION CARDS

343.50 Identification cards. (1) ISSUANCE. The department shall issue to every qualified applicant, who has paid the required fee, an identification card as provided in this section.

(2) WHO MAY APPLY. Any resident of this state who does not possess a valid operator’s license which contains the resident’s photograph issued under this chapter may apply to the department for an identification card pursuant to this section. The card is not a license for purposes of this chapter and is to be used for identification purposes only.

(3) DESIGN AND CONTENTS OF CARD. The card shall be the same size as an operator’s license but shall be of a design which is readily distinguishable from the design of an operator’s license and bear upon it the words “IDENTIFICATION CARD ONLY”. The information on the card shall be the same as specified under s. 343.17 (3). The card may serve as a document of gift under s. 157.06 (2) (b) and (c) and the holder may affix a sticker thereto as provided in s. 343.175 (3). The card may also serve as a document of refusal to make an anatomical gift under s. 157.06 (2) (i). The card shall contain the holder’s photograph and, if applicable, shall be of the design specified under s. 343.17 (3) (a) 12.

(4) APPLICATION. The application for an identification card shall include any information required under ss. 85.103 (2) and 343.14 (2) (a), (b), (bm), (br), and (em), such further information as the department may reasonably require to enable it to determine whether the applicant is entitled by law to an identification card, and, for applicants who are aged 65 years or older, material, as provided by the department, explaining the voluntary program that is specified in s. 71.55 (10) (b). The department shall, as part of the application process, take a photograph of the applicant to comply with sub. (3). No application may be processed without the photograph being taken. Misrepresentations in violation of s. 343.14 (5) are punishable as provided in s. 343.14 (9).

(4m) ORGAN DONOR INFORMATION. (a) As part of every application for an identification card, the department shall inquire whether the applicant desires to be an organ donor. The department shall record the organ donor response in its file of the person.

(b) In addition to the inquiry under par. (a), if the applicant is at least 18 years of age, the department shall orally state to the applicant that he or she has the opportunity to indicate his or her willingness to be an organ donor. If the applicant indicates that he or she is undecided in response to the inquiry under par. (a), the department shall provide the applicant with written information that all organ procurement organizations and the department have together developed. If the applicant makes an affirmative response to the inquiry under par. (a), the department shall request at that time that the applicant write on the identification card the information that is required to make an anatomical gift under s. 157.06 (2) (b) and (c) and affix a sticker thereto as provided in s. 343.175 (3).

(5) VALID PERIOD. FEES. The fee for an original card and for the reinstatement of an identification card after cancellation under sub. (10) shall be $9. The card shall be valid for the succeeding period of 4 years from the applicant’s next birthday after the date of issuance.

Wisconsin Statutes Archive.
(6) Renewal. At least 30 days prior to the expiration of the card, the department shall mail a renewal application to the last−known address of each identification card holder. The department shall include with the application information, as developed by all organ procurement organizations in cooperation with the department, that promotes anatomical donations and which relates to the anatomical donation opportunity available under s. 343.175. The fee for a renewal identification card shall be $9, which card shall be valid for 4 years.

(7) Duplicate. The fee for a duplicate card is $6.

(8) Records and other information. (a) The department shall maintain current records of all identification card holders under this section in the same manner as required under s. 343.23 for operator’s licenses.

(b) The department may not disclose any record or other information concerning or relating to an applicant or identification card holder to any person other than a court, district attorney, county corporation counsel, city, village or town attorney, law enforcement agency, the applicant or identification card holder or, if the applicant or identification card holder is under 18 years of age, his or her parent or guardian. Except for photographs disclosed to a law enforcement agency under s. 343.237, persons entitled to receive any record or other information under this paragraph shall not disclose the record or other information to other persons or agencies. This paragraph does not prohibit the disclosure of a person’s name or address, of the name or address of a person’s employer or of financial information that relates to a person when requested under s. 49.22 (2m) by the department of workforce development or a county child support agency under s. 59.53 (5).

(10) Cancellation. The department shall cancel an identification card:

(a) Whenever the department determines that the card was issued upon an application which contains a false statement as to any material matter; or

(b) Whenever the department determines that an identification card has been altered and returned for cancellation under s. 343.43 (2).

(11) Surrender of Card upon Cancellation. The department may order any person whose identification card has been canceled to surrender the card to the department. The department may take possession of any identification card required to be canceled or may direct any traffic officer to take possession thereof and return it to the department.

(12) Unlawful Use. No person may:

(a) Represent as valid any canceled, fictitious or fraudulently altered identification card;

(b) Sell or lend his or her identification card to any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another;

(c) Represent as one’s own, any identification card not issued to him or her;

(d) Permit any unlawful use of an identification card issued to him or her;

(e) Reproduce by any means whatever an identification card; or

(f) Deface or alter an identification card.

(13) Penalty. Any person who fails to comply with an order under sub. (11) or who violates sub. (12) may be required to forfeit not more than $1,000.

343.51 Special Identification Cards for Physically Disabled. (1) Any person who qualifies for registration plates of a special design under s. 341.14 (1), (1a), (1m) or (1q) or any other person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk may request from the department a special identification card that will entitle any motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, parked by, or under the direction of, the person, or a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, operated by or on behalf of the organization when used to transport such a person, to parking privileges under s. 346.50 (2), (2a) and (3). The department shall issue the card at a fee to be determined by the department, upon submission by the applicant, if the applicant is an individual rather than an organization, of a statement from a physician licensed to practice medicine in any state, from an advanced practice nurse licensed to practice nursing in any state, from a Christian Science practitioner residing in this state and listed in the Christian Science journal that the person is a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk. The statement shall state whether the disability is permanent or temporary and, if temporary, the opinion of the physician, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, chiropractor or practitioner as to the duration of the disability. The department shall issue the card upon application by an organization on a form prescribed by the department if the department believes that the organization meets the requirements under this subsection.

(1m) The form for application for a special identification card under sub. (1) shall include the information required under s. 85.103 (2).

(2) (a) The department shall prescribe the form and size of identification cards issued under this section and shall promulgate rules regarding the issuance and use of the cards. The identification cards shall be designed and displayed so as to enable law enforcement officers to determine that the vehicle, when parked, is entitled to parking privileges under s. 346.50 (2), (2a) and (3), but shall not be unnecessarily conspicuous when the vehicle is operated. The department may establish an expiration date for any special identification card issued prior to July 1, 1994. Except as provided in par. (b), any special identification card issued after June 30, 1994, shall be valid for 4 years.

(b) The department shall issue special identification cards which are valid for limited periods of time if the physician’s statement required by sub. (1) indicates that the applicant’s disability is temporary.

(c) At least 30 days prior to the expiration of the card, the department shall mail a renewal application to the last−known address of each identification card holder. The application shall include all of the information required for issuance of a special identification card under sub. (1). The fee for a renewal identification card shall be the fee established by the department under sub. (1). Except as provided in par. (b), each card shall be valid for 4 years.

(3) The department shall disseminate information to all applicants for a special identification card under sub. (1) relating to the parking privileges granted under s. 346.50 (2), (2a) or (3) and their right to request enforcement of s. 346.505.

343.52 Unlawful Use of Special Identification Cards. (1) Any person or organization who does any of the following may be required to forfeit not more than $200:

(a) Lends to another a special identification card issued under s. 343.51, knowing that the person borrowing the card is not authorized by law to use it; or

(b) Displays a special identification card issued under s. 343.51 upon a vehicle which is not authorized by law to have the card displayed thereon.

(1m) Any person or organization that fraudulently procures, alters or uses a special identification card issued under s. 343.51 or reproduces by any means whatever a special identification card shall forfeit not less than $200 nor more than $500.

(2) The department shall cancel the special identification card of any person or organization who improperly uses a card as de-
scribed in sub. (1) or who reproduces or fraudulently procures, alters or uses a card under sub. (1m). The department may order a person or organization whose identification card has expired or has been canceled to surrender the card to the department. The department may take possession of any expired identification card or any identification card required to be canceled or may direct any traffic officer to take possession thereof and return it to the department.

(3) (b) A member of a disabled parking enforcement assistance council under s. 349.145 who observes a violation of this section may prepare a written report indicating that a violation has occurred. The report shall contain, if applicable, the time and location at which the violation occurred, and any other relevant information relating to the violation.

(c) Within 24 hours after observing the violation, the member may deliver the report to a traffic officer of the political subdivision in which the violation occurred. A report which does not contain all of the information in par. (b) shall nevertheless be delivered and shall be maintained by the political subdivision for statistical purposes.

(d) 1. Within 48 hours after receiving a report containing all of the information in par. (b) and after conducting an investigation, the traffic officer may prepare a uniform traffic citation under s. 345.11 for the violation and may personally serve it upon the person or organization.

2. If with reasonable diligence the person or organization cannot be served under subd. 1. or if the person or organization lives outside of the jurisdiction of the issuing authority, service may be made by certified mail addressed to the person's or organization's last-known address.


SUBCHAPTER VI

LICENSING OF DRIVER SCHOOLS AND INSTRUCTORS

Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 105, Wis. adm. code.

343.60 Definitions. In ss. 343.60 to 343.73:

(1) “Driver school” means the business of giving instruction, for compensation, in the driving of motor vehicles, except that it does not include a high school or technical college which teaches driver training as part of its regular school program and whose course of study in driver training has been approved by the department of public instruction or technical college system board and it does not include an institution of higher learning which teaches driver training as part of its teacher training program.

(2) “Fraudulent practices” includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Any conduct or representation tending to give the impression that a license to operate a motor vehicle or any other license, registration or service granted by the secretary or department may be obtained by any means other than the means prescribed by law or by furnishing or obtaining the same by illegal or improper means; or

(b) The requesting, accepting, exacting or collecting of money for such purpose.

(3) “Instructor” means any person who gives instruction in the driving of a motor vehicle, except a person who is employed as a full time instructor by a high school, technical college or institution of higher learning as provided in sub. (1).

(4) “Place of business” means the location at which the driver school is conducted.

History: 1971 c. 154 s. 79; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (b), (c); 1983 a. 189; 1993 a. 399; 1995 a. 27 s. 9145 (1); 1997 a. 27.

343.61 License required for driver school; fee. (1) No person shall conduct a driver school without being licensed therefor by the department.

(2) (a) Application for a driver school license shall be made in the form and manner prescribed by the department, shall contain such information as is required by the department and shall be accompanied by the required fee. An application shall include the following:

1. Except as provided in subd. 1m., in the case of an individual, the individual’s social security number.

1m. In the case of an individual who does not have a social security number, a statement made or subscribed under oath or affirmation that the individual does not have a social security number. The form of the statement shall be prescribed by the department of workforce development. A license that is issued by the department in reliance on a statement submitted under this subdivision is invalid if the statement is false.

2. In the case of a person who is not an individual, the person’s federal employer identification number.

(b) The department of transportation may not disclose any information received under par. (a) 1. or 2. to any person except to the department of workforce development for purposes of administering s. 49.22 or the department of revenue for the sole purpose of requesting certifications under s. 73.0301.

(3) The required fee for any driver school license, or for any annual renewal thereof, is $75 or, for licenses issued or renewed after August 31, 1998, $95.

(4) If the application for a driver school license is approved by the department and the required fee paid, the applicant shall be granted a license and shall be issued a license certificate. The licensee shall display such certificate in the licensee’s place of business.

(5) A driver school license expires at the end of the calendar year, for which it is granted.

(6) No driver school may be licensed unless its approved course of instruction does all of the following:

(a) Acquaints each student with the hazards posed by farm machinery and animals on highways and provides instruction in safely dealing with such hazards.

(b) Provides at least 30 minutes of instruction relating to organ and tissue donation and organ and tissue donation procedures.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a), (c); 1977 c. 273; 1989 a. 31; 1993 a. 455; 1997 a. 27, 191, 237; 1999 a. 9, 32, 124.

Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 105, Wis. adm. code.

343.62 License required for instructor; fee. (1) No person holding a driver school license shall employ any person as an instructor unless such person is licensed by the department to act as such instructor. No person, including the person holding the driver school license, shall act as an instructor in such school unless such person is licensed by the department to act as such instructor.

(2) (a) Application for an instructor’s license shall be made in the form and manner prescribed by the department, shall contain such information as is required by the department and shall be accompanied by the required fee. Except as provided in par. (am), the application shall include the applicant’s social security number.

(am) If the applicant does not have a social security number, a statement made or subscribed under oath or affirmation that the applicant does not have a social security number. The form of the statement shall be prescribed by the department of workforce development. A license that is issued by the department in reliance on a statement submitted under this paragraph is invalid if the statement is false.

(b) The department of transportation may not disclose a social security number obtained under par. (a) to any person except to the department of workforce development for the sole purpose of administering s. 49.22 or the department of revenue for the sole purpose of requesting certifications under s. 73.0301.
343.63 Examination of applicants for instructor’s license. All applicants for an original instructor’s license shall be examined, and other applicants may be examined, by the department as follows:

1. A written and oral test shall be completed by the applicant and shall be designed to evaluate the applicant’s knowledge of instruction procedures, motor vehicle and traffic laws, safety equipment requirements and functions of essential automotive equipment. The applicant must receive a score of at least 80 per cent.

2. The applicant must pass a road test not less than 5 miles long, which shall include driving maneuvers and parking involved in typical traffic situations. The passing score of the applicant must exceed the minimum standard set for obtaining an operator’s license by the state.

3. Except for an applicant for an instructor’s license which is restricted to classroom instruction, the applicant must pass a psychophysical test with the following grades:

   a. Visual acuity – 20/40 in either eye and at least 20/100 in the other eye, with or without corrective glasses, as measured in the Snellen type test;

   b. Color perception – ability to perceive and distinguish colors commonly used to regulate and control traffic;

   c. Depth perception – 20 per cent stereopsis, using the orthorater depth perception test built into the road sign identification target.

   d. Field of vision – lateral range of at least 85 per cent or more from a focus line to each eye;

   e. Reaction time – at least 50/100 second, using portable brake reaction test, or 75/100 second when using detonator method; and

   f. Hearing – adequate hearing with or without corrective help.

4. The applicant shall submit with his or her application a statement completed by a registered physician showing that in the physician’s judgment the applicant is physically fit to teach driving.

5. Except for a license which is restricted to classroom instruction, no license shall be issued to an applicant who has suffered an amputation or loss of the full use of either arm or hand or loss of the natural use of the foot normally employed to operate the foot brake and foot accelerator.

5m The department may issue an instructor’s license which is restricted to classroom instruction to an applicant who does not otherwise qualify for a license because of a test result under sub. (3) or because the applicant has suffered an amputation or loss of the full use of either upper limb or loss of the natural use of the foot normally employed to operate the foot brake and foot accelerator, as specified in sub. (5).

6. Applicants who fail to pass a satisfactory examination after 2 successive attempts shall not be reexamined until one year has elapsed since the date of the last examination.

343.64 Denial of driver school license. (1) The secretary may deny the application of any person for a driver school license on a determination that:

   a. Such applicant has made a material false statement or concealed a material fact in the application;

   b. Such applicant or any officer, director, stockholder, partner or any person directly interested in the business was a former holder of a license granted under s. 343.61 or was directly interested in another driver school which held a license under s. 343.61 and which license was revoked or suspended;

   c. Such applicant does not have a place of business as required by s. 343.72 (5);

   d. The applicant has not furnished satisfactory evidence of fitness;

   e. Such applicant does not have a place of business as required by s. 343.61 (2) (a) 1. or 2.;

   f. Such applicant does not have a social security number, a statement made or subscribed under oath or affirmation that the applicant does not have a social security number.


Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 105, Wis. adm. code.

343.65 Denial of instructor’s license. (1) The secretary may deny the application of any person for an instructor’s license on a determination that:

   a. Such applicant has made a material false statement or concealed a material fact in connection with the application; or

   b. The applicant has not furnished satisfactory evidence of the facts required of the applicant, has not held a license to drive a motor vehicle within this state for the past year, has not had a driving record satisfactory to the secretary, or, subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, has been convicted of a felony and has not been duly pardoned.

   c. Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, the applicant or any officer, director, stockholder, partner or any person directly interested in the business has been convicted of a felony, unless the person so convicted has been duly pardoned; or

   d. The applicant has not furnished satisfactory evidence of fitness;

   e. Such applicant does not have a place of business as required by s. 343.72 (5);

   f. Such applicant is not the true owner of the school; or

   g. The application is not accompanied by a copy of a standard liability insurance policy in the amount of $50,000 for personal injury to, or death of any one person and subject to said limit for any one person, $100,000 for personal injury to, or death of any number of persons involved in any one accident, and $10,000 for property damage in any one accident, suffered or caused by reason of the negligence of the applicant or any agent or employee of the applicant.

(2) The secretary shall deny the application of any person for a driver school license if the applicant fails to provide the information required under s. 343.61 (2) (a) 1., or 2., or if the applicant does not have a social security number, a statement made or subscribed under oath or affirmation that the applicant does not have a social security number.


Cross Reference: See also ch. Trans 105, Wis. adm. code.

343.66 Revocation or suspension of driver school license. The secretary may suspend or revoke any driver school license issued under s. 343.61 or refuse to issue a renewal thereof if:

1. The licensee has made a material false statement or concealed a material fact in connection with the application for a license for the renewal thereof;

2. Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, the licensee or any partner, member, manager or officer of the licensee has been convicted of felony;

3. The license has failed to comply with any of the requirements of ss. 343.60 to 343.72;

4. The licensee or any partner, member, manager or officer of such licensee has been guilty of fraud or fraudulent practices in relation to the business conducted under the license, or guilty of inducing another person to resort to fraud or fraudulent practices in relation to securing for himself or herself or another the license to drive a motor vehicle;

5. Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, the licensee has knowingly employed, as an instructor, a person who has been
convicted of a felony or has retained such a person in such employ after knowledge of his or her conviction; or

(6) The licensee has failed to maintain satisfactory insurance to meet damage claims in the amounts specified by s. 343.64 (1) (g).

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (c); 1977 c. 125; 1981 c. 334 s. 25 (1); 1981 c. 380, 391; 1991 a. 316; 1993 a. 112; 1997 a. 191.

343.665 Restriction, limitation, suspension or revocation of driver school license. (1) The secretary shall deny, restrict, limit or suspend any driver school license issued under s. 343.61 or refuse to issue a renewal for such license if the applicant or licensee is an individual who is delinquent in making court−ordered payments of child or family support, maintenance, birth expenses, medical expenses or other expenses related to the support of a child or former spouse, or who fails to comply, after appropriate notice, with a subpoena or warrant issued by the department of workforce development or a county child support agency under s. 59.53 (5) and related to paternity or child support proceedings, as provided in a memorandum of understanding entered into under s. 49.857.

(2) The secretary shall suspend or revoke a driver school license issued under s. 343.61, if the department of revenue certifies under s. 73.0301 that the licensee is liable for delinquent taxes. A licensee whose driver school license is suspended or revoked under this subsection for delinquent taxes is entitled to a notice under s. 343.60 to 343.72; or

(1) The licensee has made a material false statement or concealed a material fact in connection with the licensee’s application for the license or any renewal thereof;

(2) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, the licensee has been convicted of a felony;

(3) The licensee has failed to comply with any of the requirements of ss. 343.60 to 343.72;

(4) The licensee has been guilty of fraud or fraudulent practices in relation to securing for himself or herself or another a license to drive a motor vehicle.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (c); 1977 c. 125; 1981 c. 334 s. 25 (1); 1981 c. 380, 391; 1991 a. 316.

A driver whose car struck an already dead body could not be charged under this section. State v. Yoder, 200 Wis. 2d 463, 546 N.W.2d 470 (Ct. App. 1996).

343.675 Restriction, limitation, suspension or revocation of instructor’s license. (1) The secretary shall deny, restrict, limit or suspend any instructor’s license issued under s. 343.62 or refuse to issue a renewal for such license if the applicant or licensee is an individual who is delinquent in making court−ordered payments of child or family support, maintenance, birth expenses, medical expenses or other expenses related to the support of a child or former spouse, or who fails to comply, after appropriate notice, with a subpoena or warrant issued by the department of workforce development or a county child support agency under s. 59.53 (5) and related to paternity or child support proceedings, as provided in a memorandum of understanding entered into under s. 49.857.

(2) The secretary shall suspend or revoke an instructor’s license issued under s. 343.62, if the department of revenue certifies under s. 73.0301 that the licensee is liable for delinquent taxes. A licensee whose instructor’s license is suspended or revoked under this subsection for delinquent taxes is entitled to a notice under s. 73.0301 (2) (b) 1. b. and a hearing under s. 73.0301 (5) (a) but is not entitled to any other notice or hearing under this subchapter.


343.68 Renewal no bar to revocation of license. Except as provided in ss. 343.665 and 343.675, in reviewing the renewal of a license, the secretary may deny or delay such renewal for causes and violations as prescribed by ss. 343.64 to 343.72 occurring during any prior license period.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (c); 1997 a. 191.

343.69 Hearings on license denials and revocations. Before the department denies an application for a driver school license or instructor’s license or revokes any such license, the department shall notify the applicant or licensee of the pending action and that the division of hearings and appeals will hold a hearing on the pending denial or revocation. The division of hearings and appeals shall send notice of the hearing by registered or certified mail to the last−known address of the licensee or applicant, at least 10 days prior to the date of the hearing. This section does not apply to denials or revocations of licenses under s. 343.665 or 343.675.

History: 1977 c. 29 ss. 1461, 1654 (7) (a), (c); 1977 c. 418; 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (2); 1993 a. 16; 1997 a. 191, 237.

343.70 Loss or surrender of licenses. (1) If any driver school or instructor’s license is lost, it shall be reissued by the department upon application therefor accompanied by satisfactory proof of loss and a fee of $1.

(2) If a driver school or instructor’s license is suspended or revoked, the licensee shall surrender all licenses to the department and no portion of the license fee shall be refunded.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a).

343.71 Driver schools to maintain records. Every licensed driver school shall maintain the following records:

(1) A permanently bound book with pages consecutively numbered setting forth the name and address of every person given lessons, lectures, tutoring, instructions of any kind or any services relating to instructions in the operation of motor vehicles;

(2) A record showing the date, type and duration of all lessons, lectures, tutoring, instructions or other services relating to instructions in the operation of motor vehicles, and this record shall include the name of the instructor giving such lessons or instructions and identification of the vehicle in which any road lesson is given, including type of transmission;

(3) A file containing a duplicate copy of every agreement entered into between the school and every person given lessons, lectures, instructions or other services relating to instructions in the operation of motor vehicles. No person shall be given lessons, lectures, tutoring or other services relating to instructions in the operation of motor vehicles until a written agreement in a form approved by the department has been executed by both the school and the student. The student shall be given the original, while the school shall retain and preserve the carbon duplicate thereof.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a).

343.72 Rules for conducting driver schools; prohibited practices. (1) No licensee may agree to give refresher lessons, unless the student states that he or she has had previous driving experience.

(2) No licensee shall agree to give unlimited driver’s lessons, nor represent or agree, orally or in writing or as a part of an inducement to sign any agreement, to give instructions until an operator’s license is obtained.

(3) No agreement shall contain a “no refund” clause, but may contain the following: “The school will not refund any tuition or part of tuition if the school is ready, willing and able to fulfill its part of the agreement”.

(4) All records of agreement must include the following statement: “This constitutes the entire agreement between the school and the student and no verbal statement or promises will be recognized”.

(5) The licensee shall have a specific place of business described in the license. No licensee shall establish its headquarters
within 1,500 feet of a department office where licenses are issued, nor within 1,500 feet of any headquarters where official road tests are given, and locations shall be filed with the department as part of the license application. Any change in address must be reported to and approved by the department.

(6) All licensees must ascertain from state license examiners the route over which road tests are given, and no licensee may instruct in those areas.

(7) Licensees shall not publish, advertise or intimate that a license is guaranteed or assured. The display of a sign such as “License Secured Here” is forbidden.

(8) A driver school may display on its premises only a sign reading: “This School is Licensed by the State of Wisconsin”.

(9) Except as provided by sub. (8), the use of the word “Wisconsin”, “State” or the name of the city in which the school is located, in any sign, firm name or other medium of advertising is prohibited.

(10) All driver training cars used by the school must be identified by a sign on the rear of the vehicle stating that it is a driver school vehicle.

(11) All driver training cars must be registered with the department with a brief description of each, including the make, model, registration number and type of transmission.

(12) All driver training cars shall be equipped with approved dual controls so that the instructor can stop the car promptly. The department may inspect these cars at its discretion.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (a), (e); 1981 c. 314; 1991 a. 316.

343.73 Penalty. Any person who violates ss. 343.60 to 343.72 may be fined not less than $25 nor more than $100 or imprisoned not more than 30 days for each offense.

History: 1971 c. 278; 1973 c. 218.

343.75 Control group testing by department. The department may exempt certain persons from one or more of the mandatory requirements of this chapter to establish a test group in order to compare this group with a group of persons not exempted from any of the mandatory requirements of this chapter. After comparing these 2 groups, the department shall determine what effect, if any, that a particular mandatory requirement may have on highway safety in this state. The department shall submit any findings in this regard to the secretary who shall include them in the report required under s. 15.04 (1) (d).

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (7) (e); 1977 c. 196 s. 131; 1977 c. 273; 1981 c. 390 s. 252.