



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 273
[2011 Senate Bill 127]

Aggravating Factor in Sentencing for Crimes Involving Domestic Abuse

Under current law, when making a sentencing decision, courts consider specific factors, including, in some instances, aggravating factors.

2011 Wisconsin Act 273 creates an aggravating factor in sentencing for crimes that involve an act of domestic abuse. Specifically, the Act provides that when making a sentencing decision concerning a person convicted of a crime that involves an act of domestic abuse, the court must consider, as an aggravating factor, the fact that the act was committed in a place or a manner in which the act was observable by or audible to a child or was in the presence of a child and the actor knew or had reason to know that the act was observable by or audible to a child or was in the presence of a child.

Effective date: The Act takes effect on April 24, 2012, and first applies to acts committed on that date.

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