
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 65 [2021 Senate Bill 66]

Voice Recordings That Form the Basis of an Application for a Search Warrant

2021 Wisconsin Act 65 modifies requirements that pertain to requests for a search warrant by telephone, radio, or other means of electronic communication.

Under Wisconsin law, when a person requests a warrant by telephone, radio, or other means of electronic communication, the judge must place under oath each person whose testimony forms a basis of the application and each person applying for the warrant. The judge or requesting person must also arrange for all sworn testimony to be recorded either by a court reporter or by means of a voice recording device, and must then have the record transcribed. The transcript, certified as accurate by the judge or reporter as appropriate, must be filed with the court.

Prior law required the judge to also file the original recording with the court if the testimony was recorded by means of a voice recording device. 2021 Wisconsin Act 65 eliminates this requirement.

Effective date: July 10, 2021

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