



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2005 Wisconsin Act 310**  
[2005 Assembly Bill 970]

**Admitting Evidence of Prior Sexual  
Assault Convictions**

*2005 Wisconsin Act 310* provides that in a criminal proceeding in which a person is accused of committing first-degree sexual assault or first-degree sexual assault of a child, evidence that a person was convicted of a violation of first-degree sexual assault or first-degree sexual assault of a child may be admitted to prove the character of the person in order to show that the person acted in conformity with the demonstrated character traits.

Under *prior law*, evidence that a person was previously convicted of first-degree sexual assault or first-degree sexual assault of a child was not admissible in a court proceeding for the purpose of proving that the person has a propensity to commit crimes or has a character or disposition that makes him or her more likely to commit a crime. However, evidence of such a prior criminal act could have been admitted for other purposes, including to prove motive, opportunity, intent, identity, or absence of mistake.

***Effective Date:*** Act 310 takes effect on April 21, 2006.

***Prepared by:*** Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney

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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/>.