

CHAPTER 973

SENTENCING

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973.01 Indeterminate sentence; Wisconsin state prisons. (1) (a) If imprisonment in the Wisconsin state prisons for a term of years is imposed, the court may fix a term less than the prescribed maximum. The form of such sentence shall be substantially as follows: "You are hereby sentenced to the Wisconsin state prisons for an indeterminate term of not more than (the maximum as fixed by the court) years"

(b) The sentence shall have the effect of a sentence at hard labor for the maximum term fixed by the court, subject to the power of actual release from confinement by parole by the department or by pardon as provided by law. If a person is sentenced for a definite time for an offense for which he may be sentenced under this section, he is in legal effect sentenced as required by this section, said definite time being the maximum period. A defendant convicted of a crime for which the minimum penalty is life shall be sentenced for life.

(2) Upon the recommendation of the department, the governor may, without the procedure required by ch. 57, discharge absolutely, or upon such conditions and restrictions and under such limitation as he thinks proper, any inmate committed to the Wisconsin state prisons after he has served the minimum term of punishment prescribed by law for the offense for which he was sentenced, except that if the term was life imprisonment, 5 years must elapse after parole before such a recommendation can be made to the governor. Such discharge shall have the effect of an absolute or conditional pardon, respectively.

(3) Female persons convicted of a felony may be committed to the Wisconsin home for women.

(4) A female person over 18 years of age convicted of a misdemeanor for which the maximum penalty is imprisonment for 6 months or more may be sentenced to a term

not less than 6 months in the Wisconsin home for women instead of the county jail if the department certifies to the court that it has adequate facilities at said home and is willing to accept such commitment.

It is not a denial of equal treatment to sentence a defendant to 4 years imprisonment although other persons involved (all minors) received lesser or no punishment. *State v. Schiltz*, 50 W (2d) 395, 184 NW (2d) 134

An abuse of discretion, as it relates to sentencing procedures, will be found only where there is no rational basis for the imposition of the sentence or these rationale are not articulated in, or inferable from, the record, or where discretion is exercised on the basis of clearly irrelevant or improper factors. *Davis v. State*, 52 W (2d) 697, 190 NW (2d) 890

973.02 Place of imprisonment when none expressed. When a statute authorizes imprisonment for its violation but does not prescribe the place of imprisonment, 1) a sentence of less than one year shall be to the county jail, 2) a sentence of more than one year shall be to the Wisconsin state prisons and the minimum under the indeterminate sentence law shall be one year, and 3) a sentence of one year may be to either the Wisconsin state prisons or the county jail. But in any proper case sentence and commitment may nevertheless be to the Wisconsin home for women, the department or any house of correction or other institution as provided by law.

973.03 Jail sentence. (1) If at the time of passing sentence upon a defendant who is to be imprisoned in a county jail, there is no jail in the county suitable for said defendant, the court may sentence him to any suitable county jail in the state. The expenses of supporting him there shall be borne by the county in which the crime was committed.

(2) A defendant sentenced to the Wisconsin state prisons and to a county jail or house of correction for separate crimes shall serve all sentences whether concurrent or consecutive in the state prisons.

History: 1971 c. 298.

973.04 Credit for imprisonment under earlier sentence for the same crime. When a sentence is vacated and a new sentence is imposed upon the defendant for the same crime, the department shall credit the defendant with confinement theretofore served and good time, if any, earned by the defendant pursuant to ss. 53.11. and 53.12 while so confined.

973.05 Fines. (1) When a defendant is sentenced to pay a fine, the court may grant permission for the payment to be made within a period not to exceed 60 days. If no such permission is embodied in the sentence, the fine shall be payable forthwith.

(2) When a defendant is sentenced to pay a fine and is also placed on probation, the court may make the payment of the fine a condition of probation.

973.06 Costs. (1) The costs taxable against the defendant shall consist of the following items and no others:

(a) The necessary disbursements and fees of officers allowed by law and incurred in connection with the arrest, preliminary examination and trial of the defendant, including, in the discretion of the court, the fees and disbursements of the agent appointed to return a defendant from another state or country.

(b) Fees and travel allowance of witnesses for the state at the preliminary examination and the trial.

(c) Fees and disbursements allowed by the court to expert witnesses. Section 271.04 (2) shall not apply in criminal cases.

(d) Fees and travel allowance of witnesses for the defense incurred by the county at the request of the defendant, at the preliminary hearing and the trial.

(e) Attorney fees payable to the defense attorney by the county.

(2) The court may remit the taxable costs, in whole or in part.

973.07 Failure to pay fine or costs. When a fine or the costs are not paid as required by the sentence, the defendant may be committed to the county jail until the fine and costs are paid or discharged for a period fixed by the court not to exceed 6 months.

973.08 Records accompanying prisoner. When any defendant is sentenced to the Wisconsin state prisons, a copy of the judgment of conviction shall be delivered by the officer executing the judgment to the warden or superintendent of the institution when the prisoner is delivered. The transcript of the testimony and

proceedings shall be filed pursuant to s. 256.57 (2) within 120 days from the date sentence is imposed unless the period is extended by the court.

History: 1971 c. 298 s. 26 (1).

973.09 Probation. (1) When a person is convicted of a crime, the court may, by order, withhold sentence or impose sentence and stay its execution, and in either case place him on probation to the department for a stated period, stating in the order the reasons therefor, and may impose any conditions which appear to be reasonable and appropriate. The period of probation may be made consecutive to a sentence on a different charge, whether imposed at the same time or previously.

(2) The original term of probation shall be:

(a) For misdemeanors, not less than 6 months, nor more than 2 years;

(b) For felonies, not less than one year nor more than either the statutory maximum term of imprisonment for the crime or 3 years, whichever is greater.

(3) Prior to the expiration of any probation period, the court may for cause by order extend probation for a stated period or modify the terms and conditions thereof.

(4) The court may also require as a condition of probation that the probationer be confined in the county jail between the hours or periods of his employment during such portion of his term of probation as the court specifies, but not to exceed one year and the court shall require him to pay the costs as provided in s. 56.08 (4). While confined pursuant to this subsection he shall be subject to all the rules of the jail and the discipline of the sheriff.

(5) When the probationer has satisfied the conditions of his probation, he shall be discharged and the department shall issue him a certificate of final discharge, a copy of which shall be filed with the clerk.

History: 1971 c. 298

973.10 Control and supervision of probationers. (1) A sentence of probation shall have the effect of placing the defendant in the custody of the department and shall subject him to the control of the department under conditions set by the court and rules and regulations established by the department for the supervision of probationers and parolees.

(2) If a probationer violates the conditions of his probation, the department may order him brought before the court for sentence which shall then be imposed without further stay or if he has already been sentenced, may order him

to prison; and the term of the sentence shall begin on the date he enters the prison. A copy of the order of the department shall be sufficient authority for the officer executing it to take the probationer to court or to prison. The officer shall execute such order as a warrant for arrest but any officer may, without order or warrant, take the probationer into custody whenever necessary in order to prevent escape or enforce discipline or for violation of probation.

(3) The department may upon request of any court having jurisdiction under s. 973.11 receive for supervision outside of any county to which s. 973.11 is applicable, probationers convicted in such county and shall have the same custody and control of the persons as it has over other probationers in custody of the department.

History: 1971 c. 298.

Defendant cannot claim that his probation was not validly revoked for escaping from county jail while awaiting trial on another offense because he was subsequently acquitted of that offense. Motions for reconsideration of probation revocation orders must be made within 90 days. *Dobs v. State*, 47 W (2d) 20, 176 NW (2d) 289.

Before probation can be revoked the department must hold a hearing and make a record so that on judicial review it can be determined whether the department acted arbitrarily or capriciously. The hearing need not be formal. The prisoner is not entitled to counsel at the hearing. *State ex rel. Johnson v. Cady*, 50 W (2d) 540, 185 NW (2d) 306.

See note to Art. I, sec. 8, citing *Hahn v. Burke*, 430 F (2d) 100.

Probation revocation; right to a hearing and to counsel. 1971 WLR 648.

973.11 Probation in populous counties.

(1) This section applies only to counties having a population of more than 500,000.

(2) The probation department of the criminal branches of the circuit court and the misdemeanor and traffic branches of the county court, respectively, shall have custody of persons on probation from each court.

(3) All courts in the county shall have all the powers contained in ss. 973.09 and 973.10 with respect to the imposition of probation and its terms and conditions. Wherever in those sections the term department is used it refers to the probation department established pursuant to this section.

(4) The senior judge of the criminal branches of the circuit court shall appoint a chief probation officer. Such judge may appoint additional probation officers who shall be subordinate to the chief. He may also appoint a deputy chief probation officer to perform the duties of the chief during his absence or inability to perform them. Except as otherwise provided, probation officers shall have power to arrest and shall execute the orders of the courts affecting their probationers.

(5) Probation violators whether sentenced or not, shall be taken before the court for a hearing.

(6) Probation officers shall receive the salaries and necessary expenses as determined by the county board. The county board shall provide quarters and supplies for the adequate administration of probation under this section.

(7) Municipal and district court probation officers having civil service status in such counties on December 31, 1961, shall continue in such status for the criminal branches of the circuit court and the misdemeanor traffic branches of the county court on and after January 1, 1962.

(8) This section applies only to persons placed on probation by the criminal branches of the circuit court prior to January 1, 1972, and to persons placed on probation by the misdemeanor and traffic branches of the county court prior to September 1, 1972. Persons placed on probation by the criminal branches of the circuit court on and after January 1, 1972, and persons placed on probation by the misdemeanor and traffic branches of the county court on and after September 1, 1972, shall be placed in the control and under supervision of the department of health and social services pursuant to ss. 973.09 and 973.10. Effective January 1, 1974, all other probation cases still supervised under this section shall likewise be placed under the control of the department of health and social services.

History: 1971 c. 125.

The provision for court hearing before revocation of parole in Milwaukee county does not violate the equal protection clause. *State ex rel. Johnson v. Cady*, 50 W (2d) 540, 185 NW (2d) 306.

973.12 Sentence of a repeater. (1) Whenever a person charged with a crime will be a repeater as defined in s. 939.62 if convicted, any prior convictions may be alleged in the complaint, indictment or information or amendments so alleging at any time before or at arraignment, and before acceptance of any plea. The court may, upon motion of the district attorney, grant a reasonable time to investigate possible prior convictions before accepting a plea. If such prior convictions are admitted by the defendant or proved by the state, he shall be subject to sentence under s. 939.62 unless he establishes that he was pardoned on grounds of innocence for any crime necessary to constitute him a repeater. An official report of the F.B.I. or any other governmental agency of the United States or of this or any other state shall be prima facie evidence of any conviction or sentence therein reported. Any sentence so reported shall be deemed prima facie to have been fully served

in actual confinement or to have been served for such period of time as is shown or is consistent with the report. The court shall take judicial notice of the statutes of the United States and foreign states in determining whether the prior conviction was for a felony or a misdemeanor.

(2) In every case of sentence under s. 939.62, the sentence shall be imposed for the present conviction, but if the court indicates in passing sentence how much thereof is imposed because the defendant is a repeater, it shall not constitute reversible error, but the combined terms shall be construed as a single sentence for the present conviction.

973.13 Excessive sentence, errors cured.

In any case where the court imposes a maximum penalty in excess of that authorized by law, such excess shall be void and the sentence shall be valid only to the extent of the maximum term authorized by statute and shall stand commuted without further proceedings.

973.14 Sentence to house of correction.

(1) In addition to the authority in ss. 53.18 and 56.18, prisoners sentenced to a county jail may be transferred by the sheriff to the house of correction without court approval except that prisoners to whom the privileges of s. 56.08 have been granted may not be transferred without court approval.

(2) Prisoners confined in the house of correction may be transferred by the superintendent of the house of correction to the county jail without court approval.

(3) A prisoner sentenced to a county jail or the house of correction being held in a county jail awaiting trial on another charge shall be deemed to be serving such county jail or house of correction sentence and shall be given credit on such sentence as provided in s. 53.43 or 56.19.

973.15 Sentence, terms, escapes. (1) All sentences to the Wisconsin state prisons shall be for one year or more, except as provided in s. 973.01 (4). Except as otherwise provided in this section, all sentences commence at noon on the day of sentence, but time which elapses after sentence while the defendant is in the county jail or is at large on bail shall not be computed

as any part of his term of imprisonment. The court may impose as many sentences as there are convictions and may provide that any such sentence be concurrent or that it shall commence at the expiration of any other sentence; and if the defendant is then serving a sentence, the present sentence may provide that it shall commence at the expiration of the previous sentence. If a convict escapes, the time during which he is unlawfully absent from the prison after such escape shall not be computed as part of his term. Courts may impose sentences to be served in whole or in part concurrently with a sentence being served in a federal institution or an institution of another state.

(2) When a court orders a sentence to the Wisconsin state prisons to be served in whole or in part concurrently with a sentence being served in a federal institution or an institution of another state, the trial and commitment records required under s. 973.08 shall be delivered immediately to the warden or superintendent of the Wisconsin institution designated as the reception center to receive the prisoner when he becomes available to Wisconsin authorities.

(3) Sections 53.11 and 57.06 are applicable to an inmate serving a sentence to the Wisconsin state prisons but confined in a federal institution or an institution in another state. Section 53.12 applies only during that portion of the sentence served in actual residence in a Wisconsin institution.

973.16 Time out. If an order or judgment releasing a prisoner on habeas corpus is reversed, the time during which he was at liberty thereunder shall not be counted as part of his term.

973.17 Judgment against a corporation.

(1) If a corporation fails to appear within the time required by the summons, the default of such corporation may be recorded and the charge against it taken as true, and judgment shall be rendered accordingly.

(2) Upon default of the defendant corporation or upon conviction, judgment for the amount of the fine shall be entered.

(3) A judgment against a corporation shall be collected in the same manner as in civil actions.