

CHAPTER 940

CRIMES AGAINST LIFE AND BODILY SECURITY

	LIFE.	
940.01	First-degree murder.	940.201
940.02	Second-degree murder.	940.205
940.03	Third-degree murder.	940.206
940.04	Abortion.	940.21
940.05	Manslaughter.	940.22
940.06	Homicide by reckless conduct.	940.225
940.07	Homicide resulting from negligent control of vicious animal.	940.23
940.08	Homicide by negligent use of vehicle or weapon.	940.24
940.09	Homicide by intoxicated user of vehicle or firearm.	940.28
940.12	Assisting suicide.	940.29
	BODILY SECURITY.	940.30
940.20	Battery.	940.31
		940.32

LIFE.

940.01 First-degree murder. (1) Whoever causes the death of another human being with intent to kill that person or another shall be sentenced to life imprisonment.

(2) In this chapter "intent to kill" means the mental purpose to take the life of another human being.

Conviction of 1st degree murder upheld where, in the course of a robbery, defendant severely and repeatedly hit the victim with a heavy bottle. *State v. Wells*, 51 W (2d) 477, 187 NW (2d) 328.

Evidence sufficiently supported defendant's conviction of first-degree murder (party to a crime) under proof that the victim was murdered by another with a weapon and ammunition supplied by defendant, who prior thereto, knowing his accomplice was looking for the victim and intended to kill him, not only furnished the murder weapon and demonstrated its use, but supplied his confederate with gasoline money for a car into which defendant, under pretext, lured the victim, and after the murder, defendant caused the weapon to be thrown into a lake in an attempt to hide his involvement. *Clark v. State*, 62 W (2d) 194.

Evidence warranted the jury in reasonably concluding defendant possessed the requisite intent to kill, contrary to his claim of intoxication based on his prior ingestion of liquor, the record disclosing he later, accompanied by a friend, knocked at the door of the victim's dwelling, and after a short conversation between the two, lunged at the door, pulled it open and fired his gun pointblank at the victim's head, his sobriety being further made manifest by his verbal recognition of his culpable plight and the manner in which he immediately thereafter maneuvered his car when he drove away. *State v. Nemoir*, 62 W (2d) 206, 214 NW (2d) 297.

Conviction of the defendant for 1st-degree murder, party to a crime, upheld where his oral statements and written confession were corroborated by many significant facts in the record. *Triplett v. State*, 65 W (2d) 365, 222 NW (2d) 689.

Defendant's denial of intent to kill is refuted by the record establishing that after beating his victim about the head with the butt of his gun, defendant almost fatally injured the victim by firing a shot into her abdomen at almost point-blank range. *Fells v. State*, 65 W (2d) 525, 223 NW (2d) 507.

Trial court omission to instruct on intoxication cannot be urged on appeal to invalidate defendant's 1st-degree murder conviction, absent any request for an instruction on that defense or objections to the instructions given. *Lee v. State*, 65 W (2d) 648, 223 NW (2d) 455.

Where a person discharges a weapon at a vital body part and death ensues as a natural and probable result, a rebuttable presumption arises that he intended to take a human life, the

burden of rebutting which is upon the defendant to bring forth evidence raising a reasonable doubt as to his intention to take life or as to whether such taking was justifiable or excusable. *Smith v. State*, 69 W (2d) 297, 230 NW (2d) 858.

940.02 Second-degree murder. Whoever causes the death of another human being by conduct imminently dangerous to another and evincing a depraved mind, regardless of human life, may be imprisoned not less than 5 nor more than 25 years.

As to 2nd degree murder the reference is to conduct evincing a certain state of mind, not that the state of mind actually exists. *Ameen v. State*, 51 W (2d) 175, 186 NW (2d) 206.

It is not correct that provocation may reduce a homicide to 2nd degree murder even though the provocation is not sufficient to reduce the offense to manslaughter. *State v. Anderson*, 51 W (2d) 557, 187 NW (2d) 335.

That defendant's conduct evidenced a depraved mind regardless of human life is clearly disclosed by proof that the severe beating defendant administered his divorced wife at the time when he knew of her physical condition, stemmed from ill will, hatred and jealousy. *Kasieta v. State*, 62 W (2d) 564, 215 NW (2d) 412.

Throwing a small child in the direction of a bed, though done in a reckless and callous manner, is not consciously such conduct that is imminently dangerous to life. *Seidler v. State*, 64 W (2d) 456, 219 NW (2d) 320.

Trial court refusal to give defendant's requested definition of the depraved mind necessary for second-degree murder as defined by the supreme court in *State v. Weso*, 60 W (2d) 404, did not constitute an abuse of discretion where *Weso* neither changed the law with respect to this element of the crime nor held that the standard instruction thereon was either unclear or inadequate. *Hughes v. State*, 68 W (2d) 159, 227 NW (2d) 911.

940.03 Third-degree murder. Whoever in the course of committing or attempting to commit a felony causes the death of another human being as a natural and probable consequence of the commission of or attempt to commit the felony, may be imprisoned not more than 15 years in excess of the maximum provided by law for the felony.

See note to 940.01, citing *State v. Wells*, 51 W (2d) 477, 187 NW (2d) 328.

Where defendant is found guilty of homicide occurring during commission of a felony he may be sentenced for both offenses although separate verdicts were not submitted. *Patelski v Cady*, 313 F Supp. 1268

940.04 Abortion. (1) Any person, other than the mother, who intentionally destroys the life of an unborn child may be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both.

(2) Any person, other than the mother, who does either of the following may be imprisoned not more than 15 years:

(a) Intentionally destroys the life of an unborn quick child; or

(b) Causes the death of the mother by an act done with intent to destroy the life of an unborn child. It is unnecessary to prove that the fetus was alive when the act so causing the mother's death was committed.

(3) Any pregnant woman who intentionally destroys the life of her unborn child or who consents to such destruction by another may be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

(4) Any pregnant woman who intentionally destroys the life of her unborn quick child or who consents to such destruction by another may be imprisoned not more than 2 years.

(5) This section does not apply to a therapeutic abortion which:

(a) Is performed by a physician; and

(b) Is necessary, or is advised by 2 other physicians as necessary, to save the life of the mother; and

(c) Unless an emergency prevents, is performed in a licensed maternity hospital.

(6) In this section "unborn child" means a human being from the time of conception until it is born alive.

This section cited as similar to Texas statute which was held to violate the due process clause of the 14th amendment, which protects against state action the right to privacy, including a woman's qualified right to terminate her pregnancy. *Roe v. Wade*, 410 US 113.

See note to art. I, sec. 1, citing *Babbitt v McCann*, 310 F Supp. 293.

See note to art. I, sec. 1, citing *Harling v. Dept. of H & SS*, 323 F Supp. 899.

Where US supreme court decisions clearly made Wisconsin antiabortion statute unenforceable, issue in physician's action for injunctive relief against enforcement became mooted, and it no longer presented case or controversy over which court could have jurisdiction. *Larkin v McCann*, 368 F Supp. 1352.

State regulation of abortion. 1970 WLR 933.

940.05 Manslaughter. Whoever causes the death of another human being under any of the following circumstances may be imprisoned not more than 10 years:

(1) Without intent to kill and while in the heat of passion; or

(2) Unnecessarily, in the exercise of his privilege of self-defense or defense of others or

the privilege to prevent or terminate the commission of a felony; or

(3) Because such person is coerced by threats made by someone other than his coconspirator and which cause him reasonably to believe that his act is the only means of preventing imminent death to himself or another; or

(4) Because the pressure of natural physical forces causes such person reasonably to believe that his act is the only means of preventing imminent public disaster or imminent death to himself or another.

Uniform instruction No. 1140 as to self-defense approved *Mitchell v. State*, 47 W (2d) 695, 177 NW (2d) 833

Failure to negate the intentional nature of the killing or establish adequate provocation requires the refusal of a manslaughter instruction. *State v. Lucynski*, 48 W (2d) 232, 179 NW (2d) 889.

Where there was no evidence which would constitute either first or second degree murder a finding that defendant acted in the heat of passion will not sustain a conviction of manslaughter. *Boissonneault v. State*, 50 W (2d) 662, 184 NW (2d) 846.

A defendant is not entitled to submission of a manslaughter (self-defense) verdict when he testified that he did not intend to do the act which resulted in death. *Day v. State*, 55 W (2d) 756, 201 NW (2d) 42.

An instruction as to self-defense and one in regard to manslaughter are not mutually exclusive. Self-defense may be either a complete defense or a mitigation of murder. *Ross v. State*, 61 W (2d) 160, 211 NW (2d) 827.

Driveway incident took place 5 days prior to the shooting. Such anger would not constitute adequate provocation under (1). *Marks v. State*, 63 W (2d) 769, 218 NW (2d) 328.

Court declines to abandon the established objective test applied in manslaughter-heat of passion cases. *Hayzes v. State*, 64 W (2d) 189, 218 NW (2d) 717.

Instruction under (2) is proper only if, under some reasonable view, the evidence is sufficient to establish guilt of causing the death of another in the exercise of self-defense. *Bedford v. State*, 65 W (2d) 357, 222 NW (2d) 658.

940.06 Homicide by reckless conduct. (1) Whoever causes the death of another human being by reckless conduct may be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.

(2) Reckless conduct consists of an act which creates a situation of unreasonable risk and high probability of death or great bodily harm to another and which demonstrates a conscious disregard for the safety of another and a willingness to take known chances of perpetrating an injury. It is intended that this definition embraces all of the elements of what was heretofore known as gross negligence in the criminal law of Wisconsin.

940.07 Homicide resulting from negligent control of vicious animal. Whoever knowing the vicious propensities of any animal intentionally suffers it to go at large or keeps it without ordinary care, if such animal, while so at large or not confined, kills any human being who has taken all the precautions which the circumstances may permit to avoid such animal, may be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned not more than 5 years.

940.08 Homicide by negligent use of vehicle or weapon. (1) Whoever causes the death of another human being by a high degree of negligence in the operation or handling of a vehicle, firearm, airgun, knife or bow and arrow may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year in county jail or both.

(2) A high degree of negligence is conduct which demonstrates ordinary negligence to a high degree, consisting of an act which the person should realize creates a situation of unreasonable risk and high probability of death or great bodily harm to another.

940.09 Homicide by intoxicated user of vehicle or firearm. Whoever by the negligent operation or handling of a vehicle, firearm or airgun and while under the influence of an intoxicant causes the death of another may be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both. No person shall be convicted under this section except upon proof of causal negligence in addition to such operation or handling while under the influence of an intoxicant.

940.12 Assisting suicide. Whoever with intent that another take his own life assists such person to commit suicide may be imprisoned not more than 10 years.

BODILY SECURITY.

940.20 Battery. Whoever causes bodily harm to another by an act done with intent to cause bodily harm to that person or another without the consent of the person so harmed may be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

940.201 Abuse of children. Whoever tortures or subjects to cruel maltreatment any child may be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than one year in county jail or both. In this section, "child" means a person under 16 years of age.

940.205 Battery to peace officers; firemen. Whoever causes bodily harm to a peace officer, as defined in s. 939.22 (22), or fireman, acting in his official capacity and the person knows or has reason to know that the victim is a peace officer or fireman, by an act done with intent to cause bodily harm to the peace officer or fireman, without consent of the person so injured, may be imprisoned not more than 2 years.

Resisting or obstructing an officer (946 41) is not a lesser-included crime of battery to a peace officer. State v. Zdiarstek, 53 W (2d) 776, 193 NW (2d) 833

940.206 Battery of witnesses and jurors. Whoever causes bodily harm to a person who is or was a witness as defined in s. 943.30 (3) (b) or a grand or petit juror with intent to cause bodily harm to that person by reason of his having attended or testified as a witness or by reason of any verdict or indictment assented to by him, without consent of the person injured, may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.

940.21 Mayhem. Whoever, with intent to disable or disfigure another, cuts or mutilates the tongue, eye, ear, nose, lip, limb or other bodily member of another, may be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 15 years or both.

940.22 Aggravated battery. Whoever causes great bodily harm to another by an act done with intent to cause great bodily harm to that person or another may be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.

History: 1975 c. 154.

While it is a question of law and not of fact as to whether injuries are sufficient to constitute the crime of aggravated battery, the question becomes one of fact and not of law where there is a factual dispute as to the nature of the injuries, and that issue is one for jury resolution. *Irby v. State*, 49 W (2d) 612, 182 NW (2d) 251.

This section must be read as though the word "great" appeared before the words "bodily harm". *State v. Gould*, 56 W (2d) 808, 202 NW (2d) 903.

940.225 Sexual assault. (1) **FIRST DEGREE SEXUAL ASSAULT.** Whoever does any of the following shall be fined not more than \$15,000 or imprisoned not more than 15 years or both:

(a) Has sexual contact or sexual intercourse with another person without consent of that person and causes pregnancy or great bodily harm to that person.

(b) Has sexual contact or sexual intercourse with another person without consent of that person by use or threat of use of a dangerous weapon or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim reasonably to believe it to be a dangerous weapon.

(c) Is aided or abetted by one or more other persons and has sexual contact or sexual intercourse with another person without consent of that person by use or threat of force or violence.

(d) Has sexual contact or sexual intercourse with a person 12 years of age or younger.

(2) **SECOND DEGREE SEXUAL ASSAULT.** Whoever does any of the following shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years or both:

(a) Has sexual contact or sexual intercourse with another person without consent of that person by use or threat of force or violence.

(b) Has sexual contact or sexual intercourse with another person without consent of that person and causes injury, illness, disease or loss or impairment of a sexual or reproductive organ, or mental anguish requiring psychiatric care for the victim.

(c) Has sexual contact or sexual intercourse with a person who suffers from a mental illness or deficiency which renders that person temporarily or permanently incapable of appraising the person's conduct, and the defendant knows of such condition.

(d) Has sexual contact or sexual intercourse with a person who the defendant knows is unconscious.

(e) Has sexual contact or sexual intercourse with a person who is over the age of 12 years and under the age of 18 years without consent of that person, as consent is defined in sub. (4).

(3) THIRD DEGREE SEXUAL ASSAULT. Whoever has sexual intercourse with a person without the consent of that person shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.

(3m) FOURTH DEGREE SEXUAL ASSAULT. Whoever has sexual contact with a person without the consent of that person shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than one year in the county jail or both.

(4) CONSENT. "Consent", as used in this section, means words or overt actions by a person who is competent to give informed consent indicating a freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact. A person under 15 years of age is incapable of consent as a matter of law. The following persons are presumed incapable of consent but the presumption may be rebutted by competent evidence, subject to the provisions of s. 972.11 (2):

(a) A person who is 15 to 17 years of age.

(b) A person suffering from a mental illness or defect which impairs capacity to appraise personal conduct.

(c) A person who is unconscious or for any other reason is physically unable to communicate unwillingness to an act.

(5) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Intimate parts" includes the breast, buttock, anus, penis, vagina or pubic mound of a human being.

(b) "Sexual contact" means any intentional touching of the intimate parts, clothed or unclothed, of a person to the intimate parts, clothed or unclothed, of another, or the intentional touching by hand, mouth or object of the intimate parts, clothed or unclothed, of another, if that intentional touching can reasonably be construed as being for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification or if such

touching contains the elements of actual or attempted battery as defined in s. 940.20.

(c) "Sexual intercourse" includes the meaning assigned under s. 939.22 (36) as well as cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse or any other intrusion, however slight, of any part of a person's body or of any object into the genital or anal opening of another, but emission of semen is not required.

(6) NO PROSECUTION OF SPOUSE. No person may be prosecuted under this section if the complainant is his or her legal spouse, unless the parties are living apart and one of them has filed for an annulment, legal separation or divorce.

History: 1975 c. 184, 421.

940.23 Injury by conduct regardless of life. Whoever causes great bodily harm to another human being by conduct imminently dangerous to another and evincing a depraved mind, regardless of human life, may be imprisoned not more than 10 years.

The crime of injury by conduct regardless of life can be a lesser included offense under an information charging first degree murder. *Martin v. State*, 57 W (2d) 499, 204 NW (2d) 499.

940.24 Injury by negligent use of weapon.

(1) Whoever causes bodily harm to another by a high degree of negligence in the operation or handling of a firearm, airgun, knife or bow and arrow, may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year or both.

(2) A high degree of negligence is conduct which demonstrates ordinary negligence to a high degree, consisting of an act which the person should realize creates a situation of unreasonable risk and high probability of death or great bodily harm to another.

940.28 Abandonment of young child.

Whoever, with intent to abandon him, leaves any child under the age of 6 years in a place where he may suffer because of neglect may be imprisoned not more than 3 years.

940.29 Abuse of inmates of institutions.

Any person in charge of or employed in any of the following institutions who abuses, neglects or ill-treats any person confined in or an inmate of any such institution or who knowingly permits another person to do so may be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than one year in county jail or both:

(1) A penal or correctional institution or other place of confinement; or

(2) A home for the aged; or

(3) A hospital for the mentally ill; or

(4) A school or institution for the mentally deficient; or

(5) A state school for the blind or deaf; or

(6) An institution operated by a licensed child welfare agency or by a public agency for the care of neglected, dependent, or delinquent children; or

(7) A nursing home as defined in s. 50.02.

(8) An adult group foster home under s. 146.305 (2).

(9) A residential care institution under s. 146.32 (2).

History: 1975 c. 119; 1975 c. 413 s. 18

940.30 False imprisonment. Whoever intentionally confines or restrains another without his consent and with knowledge that he has no lawful authority to do so may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 2 years or both.

False imprisonment is not a lesser included offense of the crime of kidnapping. *Geitner v. State*, 59 W (2d) 128, 207 NW (2d) 837

940.31 Kidnapping. (1) Whoever does any of the following may be imprisoned not more than 15 years:

(a) By force or threat of imminent force carries another from one place to another without his consent and with intent to cause him to be secretly confined or imprisoned or to be carried out of this state or to be held to service against his will; or

(b) By force or threat of imminent force seizes or confines another without his consent

and with intent to cause him to be secretly confined or imprisoned or to be carried out of this state or to be held to service against his will; or

(c) By deceit induces another to go from one place to another with intent to cause him to be secretly confined or imprisoned or to be carried out of this state or to be held to service against his will.

(2) Whoever violates sub. (1) with intent to cause another to transfer property in order to obtain the release of the victim shall be sentenced to life imprisonment; but if his victim is released without permanent physical injury prior to the time the first witness is sworn at the trial the defendant may be imprisoned not more than 30 years.

940.32 Abduction. Whoever, for any unlawful or immoral purpose, does any of the following may be imprisoned not more than 15 years:

(1) By force or threat of imminent force, takes any child under 18 years of age from his home or the custody of his parent or guardian; or

(2) Entices any child under 18 years of age from his home or the custody of his parent or guardian; or

(3) By force or threat of imminent force, detains any child under 18 years of age who is away from his home or the custody of his parent or guardian.