

## CHAPTER 941

## CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

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## VEHICLES.

**941.01 Negligent operation of vehicle.** (1) Whoever endangers another’s safety by a high degree of negligence in the operation of a vehicle, not upon a highway as defined in s. 340.01, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) Upon conviction under sub. (1), no revocation or suspension of an operator’s license may follow.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1987 a. 399.

## FIRE.

**941.10 Negligent handling of burning material.** (1) Whoever handles burning material in a highly negligent manner is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) Burning material is handled in a highly negligent manner if handled with criminal negligence under s. 939.25 or under circumstances in which the person should realize that a substantial and unreasonable risk of serious damage to another’s property is created.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1987 a. 399.

**941.11 Unsafe burning of buildings.** Whoever does either of the following is guilty of a Class D felony:

(1) Intentionally burns his or her own building under circumstances in which he or she should realize he or she is creating an unreasonable risk of death or great bodily harm to another or serious damage to another’s property; or

(2) Intentionally burns a building of one who has consented to the destruction thereof but does so under circumstances in which he or she should realize he or she is creating an unreasonable risk of death or great bodily harm to another or serious damage to a 3rd person’s property.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1993 a. 486; 1995 a. 417.

**941.12 Interfering with fire fighting.** (1) Whoever intentionally interferes with the proper functioning of a fire alarm system or the lawful efforts of fire fighters to extinguish a fire is guilty of a Class E felony.

(2) Whoever interferes with, tampers with or removes, without authorization, any fire extinguisher, fire hose or any other fire fighting equipment, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) Whoever interferes with accessibility to a fire hydrant by piling or dumping material near it without first obtaining permis-

sion from the appropriate municipal authority is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. Every day during which the interference continues constitutes a separate offense.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

**941.13 False alarms.** Whoever intentionally gives a false alarm to any public officer or employee, whether by means of a fire alarm system or otherwise, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

## WEAPONS.

**941.20 Endangering safety by use of dangerous weapon.** (1) Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor:

(a) Endangers another’s safety by the negligent operation or handling of a dangerous weapon; or

(b) Operates or goes armed with a firearm while he or she is under the influence of an intoxicant; or

(c) Intentionally points a firearm at or toward another.

(d) While on the lands of another discharges a firearm within 100 yards of any building devoted to human occupancy situated on and attached to the lands of another without the express permission of the owner or occupant of the building. “Building” as used in this paragraph includes any house trailer or mobile home but does not include any tent, bus, truck, vehicle or similar portable unit.

(2) Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class E felony:

(a) Intentionally discharges a firearm into a vehicle or building under circumstances in which he or she should realize there might be a human being present therein; or

(b) Sets a spring gun.

(3) (a) Whoever intentionally discharges a firearm from a vehicle while on a highway, as defined in s. 340.01 (22), or on a vehicle parking lot that is open to the public under any of the following circumstances is guilty of a Class C felony:

1. The person discharges the firearm at or toward another.

2. The person discharges the firearm at or toward any building or other vehicle.

(b) 1. Paragraph (a) does not apply to any of the following who, in the line of duty, discharges a firearm from a vehicle:

- a. A peace officer.
- b. A member of the U.S. armed forces.
- c. A member of the national guard.

2. Paragraph (a) does not apply to the holder of a permit under s. 29.193 (2) who is hunting from a standing motor vehicle, as defined in s. 29.001 (57), in accordance with s. 29.193 (2) (cr) 2.

(c) The state does not have to negate any exception under par. (b). Any party that claims that an exception under par. (b) is applicable has the burden of proving the exception by a preponderance of the evidence.

(d) The driver of the vehicle may be charged and convicted for a violation of par. (a) according to the criteria under s. 939.05.

(e) A person under par. (a) has a defense of privilege of self-defense or defense of others in accordance with s. 939.48.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1987 a. 399; 1989 a. 131; 1993 a. 94, 486; 1997 a. 248, 249; 1999 a. 32.

**Judicial Council Note, 1988:** The mental element of the offense under sub. (1) (a) is changed from reckless conduct to criminal negligence. See s. 939.25. If the defendant acts recklessly, the conduct is prohibited by s. 941.30. [Bill 191–S]

Pointing a firearm is not a lesser included offense of armed robbery and a defendant can be convicted of both. *State v. Smith*, 55 Wis. 2d 304, 198 N.W. 2d 630.

A jury instruction that shooting “into” a building under sub. (2) (a) occurs when a bullet penetrates the building however slightly, conformed with common usage of the word and was not improper. *State v. Grady*, 175 Wis. 2d 553, 499 N.W. 2d 285 (Ct. App. 1993).

Police officers do not have an absolute right to point their weapons, but privilege may be asserted as an affirmative defense. *State v. Trentadue*, 180 Wis. 2d 670, 510 N.W. 2d 727 (Ct. App. 1993).

**941.21 Disarming a peace officer.** Whoever intentionally disarms a peace officer who is acting in his or her official capacity by taking a dangerous weapon or a device or container described under s. 941.26 (1) (b) or (4) (a) from the officer without his or her consent is guilty of a Class E felony. This section applies to any dangerous weapon or any device or container described under s. 941.26 (1) (b) or (4) (a) that the officer is carrying or that is in an area within the officer’s immediate presence.

**History:** 1983 a. 262; 1993 a. 98; 1995 a. 339.

**941.23 Carrying concealed weapon.** Any person except a peace officer who goes armed with a concealed and dangerous weapon is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1979 c. 115, 221.

The burden is on the defendant to prove that he is a peace officer so as to come within the exception. *State v. Williamson*, 58 Wis. 2d 514, 206 N.W. 2d 613.

Totality of circumstances justified search for concealed weapon. *Penister v. State*, 74 Wis. 2d 94, 246 N.W. 2d 115.

A defendant was properly convicted under this section for driving a vehicle with a gun locked in a glove compartment. *State v. Fry*, 131 Wis. 2d 153, 388 N.W. 2d 565 (1986).

To “go armed” does not require going anywhere. The elements for a violation of s. 941.23 are: (1) a dangerous weapon is on the defendant’s person or within reach; (2) the defendant is aware of the weapon’s presence; and (3) the weapon is hidden. *State v. Keith*, 175 Wis. 2d 75, 498 N.W. 2d 865 (Ct. App. 1993).

A handgun on the seat of a car, indiscernible from ordinary observation by a person outside and within the immediate vicinity of the vehicle, was hidden from view for purposes of determining whether the gun was a concealed weapon under this section. *State v. Walls*, 190 Wis. 2d 65, 526 N.W. 2d 765 (Ct. App. 1994).

There is no statutory or common law privilege for the crime of carrying a concealed weapon under s. 941.23. *State v. Dundon*, 226 Wis. 2d 654, 594 N.W. 2d 780 (1999).

Judges are not peace officers authorized to carry concealed weapons. 69 Atty. Gen. 66.

**941.235 Carrying firearm in public building. (1)** Any person who goes armed with a firearm in any building owned or leased by the state or any political subdivision of the state is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

(2) This section does not apply to peace officers or armed forces or military personnel who go armed in the line of duty or to any person duly authorized by the chief of police of any city, village or town, the chief of the capitol police or the sheriff of any county to possess a firearm in any building under sub. (1).

**History:** 1979 c. 221; 1991 a. 172; 1993 a. 246.

**941.237 Carrying handgun where alcohol beverages may be sold and consumed. (1)** In this section:

(a) “Alcohol beverages” has the meaning given in s. 125.02 (1).

(b) “Correctional officer” means any person employed by the state or any political subdivision as a guard or officer whose principal duties are the supervision and discipline of inmates.

(c) “Encased” has the meaning given in s. 167.31 (1) (b).

(cm) “Firearms dealer” means any person engaged in the business of importing, manufacturing or dealing in firearms and having a license as an importer, manufacturer or dealer issued by the U.S. department of the treasury.

(d) “Handgun” has the meaning given in s. 175.35 (1) (b).

(dm) “Hotel” has the meaning given in s. 254.61 (3).

(e) “Premises” has the meaning given in s. 125.02 (14m), but excludes any area primarily used as a residence.

(em) “Private security person” has the meaning given in s. 440.26 (1m) (h).

(f) “Target range” means any area where persons are allowed to use a handgun to fire shots at targets.

(fm) “Tavern” means an establishment, other than a private club or fraternal organization, in which alcohol beverages are sold for consumption on the premises.

(g) “Unloaded” means any of the following:

1. Having no shell or cartridge in the chamber of a handgun or in the magazine attached to a handgun.

2. In the case of a caplock muzzle-loading handgun, having the cap removed.

3. In the case of a flintlock muzzle-loading handgun, having the flashpan cleaned of powder.

(2) Whoever intentionally goes armed with a handgun on any premises for which a Class “B” or “Class B” license or permit has been issued under ch. 125 is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to any of the following:

(a) A peace officer.

(b) A correctional officer while going armed in the line of duty.

(c) A member of the U.S. armed forces or national guard while going armed in the line of duty.

(cm) A private security person meeting all of the following criteria:

1. The private security person is covered by a license or permit issued under s. 440.26.

2. The private security person is going armed in the line of duty.

3. The private security person is acting with the consent of the person specified in par. (d).

(d) The licensee, owner, or manager of the premises, or any employee or agent authorized to possess a handgun by the licensee, owner, or manager of the premises.

(e) The possession of a handgun that is unloaded and encased in a vehicle in any parking lot area.

(f) The possession or use of a handgun at a public or private gun or sportsmen’s range or club.

(g) The possession or use of a handgun on the premises if authorized for a specific event of limited duration by the owner or manager of the premises who is issued the Class “B” or “Class B” license or permit under ch. 125 for the premises.

(h) The possession of any handgun that is used for decoration if the handgun is encased, inoperable or secured in a locked condition.

(i) The possession of a handgun in any portion of a hotel other than the portion of the hotel that is a tavern.

(j) The possession of a handgun in any portion of a combination tavern and store devoted to other business if the store is owned or operated by a firearms dealer, the other business includes the sale of handguns and the handgun is possessed in a place other than a tavern.

(4) The state does not have to negate any exception under sub. (3). Any party that claims that an exception under sub. (3) is applicable has the burden of proving the exception by a preponderance of the evidence.

**History:** 1993 a. 95, 491; 1995 a. 461.

Sub. (3) does not allow going armed with a concealed handgun in violation of s. 941.23. *State v. Mata*, 199 Wis. 2d 315, 544 N.W. 2d 578 (Ct. App. 1996).

**941.24 Possession of switchblade knife.** (1) Whoever manufactures, sells or offers to sell, transports, purchases, possesses or goes armed with any knife having a blade which opens by pressing a button, spring or other device in the handle or by gravity or by a thrust or movement is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) Within 30 days after April 16, 1959, such knives shall be surrendered to any peace officer.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

**941.25 Manufacturer to register machine guns.** Every manufacturer shall keep a register of all machine guns manufactured or handled by him or her. This register shall show the model and serial number, date of manufacture, sale, loan, gift, delivery or receipt, of every machine gun, the name, address, and occupation of the person to whom the machine gun was sold, loaned, given or delivered, or from whom it was received; and the purpose for which it was acquired by the person to whom the machine gun was sold, loaned, given or delivered, or from whom received. Upon demand every manufacturer shall permit any marshal, sheriff or police officer to inspect his or her entire stock of machine guns, parts, and supplies therefor, and shall produce the register required under this section for inspection. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to a Class B forfeiture.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

**941.26 Machine guns and other weapons; use in certain cases; penalty.** (1) (a) No person may sell, possess, use or transport any machine gun or other full automatic firearm.

(b) Except as provided in sub. (4), no person may sell, possess, use or transport any tear gas bomb, hand grenade, projectile or shell or any other container of any kind or character into which tear gas or any similar substance is used or placed for use to cause bodily discomfort, panic, or damage to property.

(1m) No person may take a firearm that is not designed to shoot more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger and modify the firearm so that it does shoot more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

(2) (a) Any person violating sub. (1) (a) is guilty of a Class E felony.

(b) Any person violating sub. (1m) is guilty of a Class C felony.

(c) Except as provided in par. (d), any person who violates sub. (1) (b) regarding the possession, noncommercial transportation or use of the bomb, grenade, projectile, shell or container under sub. (1) (b) is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) Any person who violates sub. (1) (b) regarding the possession, noncommercial transportation or use of the bomb, grenade, projectile, shell or container under sub. (1) (b) in self-defense or defense of another, as allowed under s. 939.48, is subject to a Class D forfeiture.

(e) Any person who violates sub. (1) (b) regarding the sale or commercial transportation of the bomb, grenade, projectile, shell or container under sub. (1) (b) is guilty of a Class E felony.

(f) Any person who violates sub. (1) (b) regarding the use of the bomb, grenade, projectile, shell or container under sub. (1) (b) to cause bodily harm or bodily discomfort to a person who the actor knows, or has reason to know, is a peace officer who is acting in an official capacity is guilty of a Class D felony.

(g) Any person who violates sub. (1) (b) regarding the use of the bomb, grenade, projectile, shell or container under sub. (1) (b) during his or her commission of another crime to cause bodily

harm or bodily discomfort to another or who threatens to use the bomb, grenade, projectile, shell or container during his or her commission of another crime to incapacitate another person is guilty of a Class E felony.

(3) This section does not apply to the sale, possession, modification, use or transportation of any weapons or containers under sub. (1) or (1m) to or by any armed forces or national guard personnel in the line of duty, any civil enforcement officer of the state or of any city or county. This section does not apply to the sale, possession, modification, use or transportation of weapons under sub. (1) (a) or (1m) to or by any person duly authorized by the chief of police of any city or the sheriff of any county. This section does not apply to the restoration of any weapon under sub. (1) (a) or (1m) by a person having a license to collect firearms as curios or relics issued by the U.S. department of the treasury. The restriction on transportation contained in this section does not apply to common carriers.

(4) (a) Subsections (1) to (3) do not apply to any device or container that contains a combination of oleoresin of capsicum and inert ingredients but does not contain any other gas or substance that will cause bodily discomfort.

(b) Whoever intentionally uses a device or container described under par. (a) to cause bodily harm or bodily discomfort to another is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(c) Paragraph (b) does not apply to any of the following:

1. Any person acting in self-defense or defense of another, as allowed under s. 939.48.

2. Any peace officer acting in his or her official capacity.

3. Any armed forces or national guard personnel acting in the line of duty.

(d) Whoever intentionally uses a device or container described under par. (a) to cause bodily harm or bodily discomfort to a person who the actor knows, or has reason to know, is a peace officer who is acting in an official capacity is guilty of a Class D felony.

(e) Whoever uses a device or container described under par. (a) during his or her commission of another crime to cause bodily harm or bodily discomfort to another or who threatens to use the device or container during his or her commission of another crime to incapacitate another person is guilty of a Class E felony.

(f) Any person who offers for sale a device or container described under par. (a) and who leaves in his or her place of business an unsold device or container in a place where customers have ready access to the device or container is subject to a Class C forfeiture.

(g) 1. Any person who sells or distributes a device or container described under par. (a) to a person who has not attained 18 years of age is subject to a Class C forfeiture.

2. A person who proves all of the following by a preponderance of the evidence has a defense to prosecution under subd. 1.:

a. That the purchaser or distributee falsely represented that he or she had attained the age of 18 and presented an identification card.

b. That the appearance of the purchaser or distributee was such that an ordinary and prudent person would believe that the purchaser or distributee had attained the age of 18.

c. That the sale was made in good faith, in reasonable reliance on the identification card and appearance of the purchaser or distributee and in the belief that the purchaser or distributee had attained the age of 18.

(h) Any person who intentionally offers for sale a device or container in a place where customers have direct access to the device or container is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(i) 1. Whoever intentionally sells a device or container described under par. (a) that does not meet the safety criteria provided in rules promulgated under subd. 2. is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.



2. The department of justice shall promulgate rules providing safety criteria for devices or containers described under par. (a). In promulgating the rules, the department shall do all of the following:

- a. Consider recommendations of law enforcement agencies, as defined in s. 165.83 (1) (b), and manufacturers of devices or containers described under par. (a).
- b. Provide allowable amounts of oleoresin of capsicum, inert ingredients and total ingredients for a device or container described under par. (a).
- c. Provide a maximum effective range for a device or container described under par. (a).
- d. Provide other requirements to ensure that a device or container described under par. (a) is effective and appropriate for self-defense purposes.

3. Subdivisions 1. and 2. do not apply to sales of devices or containers described under par. (a) for use by peace officers or armed forces or national guard personnel.

(j) 1. Whoever intentionally sells a device or container described under par. (a) without providing the purchaser with all of the following is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor:

- a. A proper label on the device or container.
- b. Written safety instructions for using the device or container.
- c. A package that contains a clear, highlighted message to the purchaser cautioning him or her to read and follow the safety instructions.

2. The department of justice shall promulgate rules providing the requirements for labeling, packaging and written safety instructions under subd. 1.

(k) Any person who has not attained the age of 18 years and who possesses a device or container described under par. (a) is subject to a Class E forfeiture.

(L) Any person who has been convicted of a felony in this state or has been convicted of a crime elsewhere that would be a felony if committed in this state who possesses a device or container described under par. (a) is subject to a Class A misdemeanor. This paragraph does not apply if the person has received a pardon for the felony or crime.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1987 a. 234; 1991 a. 137; 1993 a. 91; 1995 a. 25.

**941.27 Machine guns. (1) DEFINITION.** In ss. 941.25 and 941.26, “machine gun” means any of the following:

- (a) Any weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot or can be readily restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.
- (b) The frame or receiver of any weapon described under par. (a) or any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a weapon described under par. (a).
- (c) Any combination of parts from which a weapon described under par. (a) can be assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.

(2) EXCEPTIONS. Sections 941.25 and 941.26 shall not prohibit or interfere with the manufacture for, and sale of, machine guns to the military forces or the peace officers of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof, or the transportation required for that purpose; the possession of a machine gun for scientific purpose, or the possession of a machine gun not usable as a weapon and possessed as a curiosity, ornament or keepsake; or the possession of a machine gun other than one adapted to use pistol cartridges for a purpose manifestly not aggressive or offensive.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1991 a. 137; 1999 a. 85.

**941.28 Possession of short-barreled shotgun or short-barreled rifle. (1)** In this section:

(a) “Rifle” means a firearm designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder or hip and

designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of a propellant in a metallic cartridge to fire through a rifled barrel a single projectile for each pull of the trigger.

(b) “Short-barreled rifle” means a rifle having one or more barrels having a length of less than 16 inches measured from closed breech or bolt face to muzzle or a rifle having an overall length of less than 26 inches.

(c) “Short-barreled shotgun” means a shotgun having one or more barrels having a length of less than 18 inches measured from closed breech or bolt face to muzzle or a shotgun having an overall length of less than 26 inches.

(d) “Shotgun” means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder or hip and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of a propellant in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.

(2) No person may sell or offer to sell, transport, purchase, possess or go armed with a short-barreled shotgun or short-barreled rifle.

(3) Any person violating this section is guilty of a Class E felony.

(4) This section does not apply to the sale, purchase, possession, use or transportation of a short-barreled shotgun or short-barreled rifle to or by any armed forces or national guard personnel in line of duty, any peace officer of the United States or of any political subdivision of the United States or any person who has complied with the licensing and registration requirements under 26 USC 5801 to 5872. This section does not apply to the manufacture of short-barreled shotguns or short-barreled rifles for any person or group authorized to possess these weapons. The restriction on transportation contained in this section does not apply to common carriers. This section shall not apply to any firearm that may be lawfully possessed under federal law, or any firearm that could have been lawfully registered at the time of the enactment of the national firearms act of 1968.

(5) Any firearm seized under this section is subject to s. 968.20 (3) and is presumed to be contraband.

**History:** 1979 c. 115.

The intent in sub. (1) (d) is that of the fabricator; that the gun is incapable of being fired or not intended to be fired by the possessor is immaterial. *State v. Johnson*, 171 Wis. 2d 175, 491 N.W. 2d 110 (Ct. App. 1992).

“Firearm” means a weapon that acts by force of gunpowder to fire a projectile, regardless of whether it is inoperable due to disassembly. *State v. Rardon*, 185 Wis. 2d 701, 518 N.W. 2d 330 (Ct. App. 1994).

**941.29 Possession of a firearm. (1)** A person is subject to the requirements and penalties of this section if he or she has been:

- (a) Convicted of a felony in this state.
- (b) Convicted of a crime elsewhere that would be a felony if committed in this state.
- (bm) Adjudicated delinquent for an act committed on or after April 21, 1994, that if committed by an adult in this state would be a felony.
- (c) Found not guilty of a felony in this state by reason of mental disease or defect.
- (d) Found not guilty of or not responsible for a crime elsewhere that would be a felony in this state by reason of insanity or mental disease, defect or illness.

(e) Committed for treatment under s. 51.20 (13) (a) and ordered not to possess a firearm under s. 51.20 (13) (cv).

(f) Enjoined under an injunction issued under s. 813.12 or 813.122 or under a tribal injunction, as defined in s. 813.12 (1) (e), issued by a court established by any federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribe or band, except the Menominee Indian tribe of Wisconsin, that includes notice to the respondent that he or she is subject to the requirements and penalties under s. 941.29 and that has been filed under s. 806.247 (3).

(g) Ordered not to possess a firearm under s. 813.125 (4m).

(2) A person specified in sub. (1) is guilty of a Class E felony if he or she possesses a firearm under any of the following circumstances:

(a) The person possesses a firearm subsequent to the conviction for the felony or other crime, as specified in sub. (1) (a) or (b).

(b) The person possesses a firearm subsequent to the adjudication, as specified in sub. (1) (bm).

(c) The person possesses a firearm subsequent to the finding of not guilty or not responsible by reason of insanity or mental disease, defect or illness as specified in sub. (1) (c) or (d).

(d) The person possesses a firearm while subject to the court order, as specified in sub. (1) (e) or (g).

(e) The person possesses a firearm while the injunction, as specified in sub. (1) (f), is in effect.

(2m) Whoever violates this section after being convicted under this section is guilty of a Class D felony.

(3) Any firearm involved in an offense under sub. (2) is subject to s. 968.20 (3).

(4) A person is concerned with the commission of a crime, as specified in s. 939.05 (2) (b), in violation of this section if he or she knowingly furnishes a person with a firearm in violation of sub. (2).

(5) This section does not apply to any person specified in sub. (1) who:

(a) Has received a pardon with respect to the crime or felony specified in sub. (1) and has been expressly authorized to possess a firearm under 18 USC app. 1203; or

(b) Has obtained relief from disabilities under 18 USC 925 (c).

(6) The prohibition against firearm possession under this section does not apply to any correctional officer employed before May 1, 1982, who is required to possess a firearm as a condition of employment. This exemption applies if the officer is eligible to possess a firearm under any federal law and applies while the officer is acting in an official capacity.

(7) This section does not apply to any person who has been found not guilty or not responsible by reason of insanity or mental disease, defect or illness if a court subsequently determines both of the following:

(a) The person is no longer insane or no longer has a mental disease, defect or illness.

(b) The person is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety.

(8) This section does not apply to any person specified in sub. (1) (bm) if a court subsequently determines that the person is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety. In any action or proceeding regarding this determination, the person has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety.

(9) This section does not apply to a person specified in sub. (1) (e) if the prohibition under s. 51.20 (13) (cv) 1. has been canceled under s. 51.20 (13) (cv) 2. or (16) (gm).

(10) The prohibition against firearm possession under this section does not apply to a person specified in sub. (1) (f) if the person satisfies any of the following:

(a) The person is a peace officer and the person possesses a firearm while in the line of duty or, if required to do so as a condition of employment, while off duty.

(b) The person is a member of the U.S. armed forces or national guard and the person possesses a firearm while in the line of duty.

**History:** 1981 c. 141, 317; 1983 a. 269; 1985 a. 259; 1993 a. 195, 196, 491; 1995 a. 71, 77, 306, 417.

**NOTE:** See Chapter 141, laws of 1981, section 2, entitled “Initial applicability.”

If a defendant is willing to stipulate to being a convicted felon, evidence of the nature of the felony is irrelevant if offered only to support the felony conviction element. *State v. McAllister*, 153 Wis. 2d 523, 451 N.W. 2d 764 (Ct. App. 1989).

Failure to give the warning under s. 973.033 does not prevent a conviction under this section. *State v. Phillips*, 172 Wis. 2d 391, 493 N.W. 2d 238 (Ct. App. 1992).

Retroactive application of this provision did not violate the prohibition against ex post facto laws because the law is not intended to punish persons for a prior crime but to protect public safety. *State v. Thiel*, 188 Wis. 2d 695, 524 N.W. 2d 641 (1994).

A convicted felon’s possession of a firearm is privileged in limited enumerated circumstances. *State v. Coleman*, 206 Wis. 2d 198, 556 N.W. 2d 701 (1996).

Sub. (5) (a) has been invalidated by congressional action. Pardons granted after November 15, 1986, will give recipients the right to receive, possess or transport in commerce firearms unless the pardon expressly provides otherwise. 78 Atty. Gen. 22.

**941.295 Possession of electric weapon.** (1) Whoever sells, transports, manufactures, possesses or goes armed with any electric weapon is guilty of a Class E felony.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:

(a) Any peace officer.

(b) Any armed forces or national guard personnel while on official duty.

(c) Any corrections personnel in the department of corrections while on official duty.

(d) Any manufacturer or seller whose electric weapons are used in this state solely by persons specified in pars. (a) to (c).

(e) Any common carrier transporting electric weapons.

(3) During the first 30 days after May 7, 1982, the electric weapons may be surrendered to any peace officer. Peace officers shall forward electric weapons to the crime laboratories if the retention of those weapons is not necessary for criminal prosecution purposes.

(4) In this section, “electric weapon” means any device which is designed, redesigned, used or intended to be used, offensively or defensively, to immobilize or incapacitate persons by the use of electric current.

**History:** 1981 c. 348; 1985 a. 29 s. 3200 (35); 1989 a. 31, 56.

**941.296 Use or possession of a handgun and an armor-piercing bullet during crime.** (1) In this section:

(a) “Armor-piercing bullet” means a bullet meeting any of the following criteria: any projectile or projectile core that may be fired from any handgun and that is constructed entirely, excluding the presence of traces of other substances, from one or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper or depleted uranium.

(b) “Handgun” has the meaning given in s. 175.35 (1) (b).

(2) Whoever uses or possesses a handgun during the commission of a crime under chs. 939 to 948 or 961 is guilty of a Class E felony under any of the following circumstances.

(a) The handgun is loaded with an armor-piercing bullet or a projectile or projectile core that may be fired from the handgun with a muzzle velocity of 1,500 feet per second or greater.

(b) The person possesses an armor-piercing bullet capable of being fired from the handgun.

(3) A court shall impose a sentence under this section consecutive to any sentence previously imposed or that may be imposed for the crime that the person committed while using or possessing the handgun.

**History:** 1993 a. 98; 1995 a. 448.

**941.2965 Restrictions on use of facsimile firearms.**

(1) In this section, “facsimile firearm” means any replica, toy, starter pistol or other object that bears a reasonable resemblance to or that reasonably can be perceived to be an actual firearm. “Facsimile firearm” does not include any actual firearm.

(2) No person may carry or display a facsimile firearm in a manner that could reasonably be expected to alarm, intimidate, threaten or terrify another person. Whoever violates this section is subject to a Class C forfeiture.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to any of the following:

(a) Any peace officer acting in the discharge of his or her official duties.

(b) Any person engaged in military activities, sponsored by the state or federal government, acting in the discharge of his or her official duties.

(c) Any person who is on his or her own real property, in his or her own home or at his or her own fixed place of business.

(d) Any person who is on real property and acting with the consent of the owner of that property.

**History:** 1993 a. 191; 1993 a. 491 s. 262; Stats. 1993 s. 941.2965.

**941.297 Sale or distribution of imitation firearms.**

(1) In this section, “look-alike firearm” means any imitation of any original firearm that was manufactured, designed and produced after December 31, 1897, including and limited to toy guns, water guns, replica nonguns, and air-soft guns firing nonmetallic projectiles. “Look-alike firearm” does not include any imitation, nonfiring, collector replica of an antique firearm developed prior to 1898, or any traditional beebie, paint-ball or pellet-firing air gun that expels a projectile through the force of air pressure.

(2) Beginning November 1, 1992, no person may sell or distribute any look-alike firearm. Whoever violates this subsection is subject to a Class A forfeiture.

(3) This section does not apply to the sale or distribution of a look-alike firearm that complies with the marking or waiver requirements under 15 USC 5001 (b).

**History:** 1991 a. 155.

**941.298 Firearm silencers.** (1) In this section, “firearm silencer” means any device for silencing, muffling or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for use in assembling or fabricating such a device, and any part intended only for use in that assembly or fabrication.

(2) Whoever sells, delivers or possesses a firearm silencer is guilty of a Class E felony.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to sales or deliveries of firearm silencers to or possession of firearm silencers by any of the following:

(a) Any peace officer who is acting in compliance with the written policies of the officer’s department or agency. This paragraph does not apply to any officer whose department or agency does not have such a policy.

(b) Any armed forces or national guard personnel, while in the line of duty.

(c) Any person who has complied with the licensing and registration requirements under 26 USC 5801 to 5872.

**History:** 1991 a. 39.

**941.299 Restrictions on the use of laser pointers.**

(1) In this section:

(a) “Correctional officer” has the meaning given in s. 941.237 (1) (b).

(b) “Laser pointer” means a hand-held device that uses light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation to emit a beam of light that is visible to the human eye.

(c) “Law enforcement officer” means a Wisconsin law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 175.46 (1) (g), or a federal law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 175.40 (7) (a) 1.

(2) No person may do any of the following:

(a) Intentionally direct a beam of light from a laser pointer at any part of the body of a correctional officer or law enforcement officer without the officer’s consent, if the person knows or has reason to know that the victim is a correctional officer or law enforcement officer who is acting in an official capacity.

(b) Intentionally and for no legitimate purpose direct a beam of light from a laser pointer at any part of the body of any human being.

(c) Intentionally direct a beam of light from a laser pointer in a manner that could reasonably be expected to alarm, intimidate, threaten or terrify another person.

(d) Intentionally direct a beam of light from a laser pointer in a manner that, under the circumstances, tends to disrupt any public or private event or create or provoke a disturbance.

(3) (a) Whoever violates sub. (2) (a) is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) Whoever violates sub. (2) (b), (c) or (d) is subject to a Class B forfeiture.

(c) A person may be charged with a violation of sub. (2) (a) or (b) or both for an act involving the same victim. If the person is charged with violating both sub. (2) (a) and (b) with respect to the same victim, the charges shall be joined. If the person is found guilty of both sub. (2) (a) and (b) for an act involving the same victim, the charge under sub. (2) (b) shall be dismissed and the person may be sentenced only under sub. (2) (a).

**History:** 1999 a. 157.

**OTHER DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTALITIES  
AND PRACTICES.**

**941.30 Recklessly endangering safety.** (1) **FIRST-DEGREE RECKLESSLY ENDANGERING SAFETY.** Whoever recklessly endangers another’s safety under circumstances which show utter disregard for human life is guilty of a Class D felony.

(2) **SECOND-DEGREE RECKLESSLY ENDANGERING SAFETY.** Whoever recklessly endangers another’s safety is guilty of a Class E felony.

**History:** 1987 a. 399.

**Judicial Council Note, 1988:** Sub. (1) is analogous to the prior offense of endangering safety by conduct regardless of life.

Sub. (2) is new. It creates the offense of endangering safety by criminal recklessness. See s. 939.24 and the NOTE thereto. [Bill 191–S]

Section 947.015, bomb scares, is not an included crime in recklessly endangering safety. *State v. Van Ark*, 62 Wis. 2d 155, 215 N.W.2d 41.

Section 941.30 is a lesser included offense of s. 940.01. *State v. Weeks*, 165 Wis. 2d 200, 477 N.W. 2d 642 (Ct. App. 1991).

A conviction under sub. (1) was proper when the defendant desisted from an attack, but showed no regard for the victim’s life or safety during the attack. *State v. Holtz*, 173 Wis. 2d 515, 496 N.W. 2d 668 (Ct. App. 1992).

**941.31 Possession of explosives.** (1) Whoever makes, buys, transports, possesses, or transfers any explosive compound or offers to do the same, either with intent to use such explosive to commit a crime or knowing that another intends to use it to commit a crime, is guilty of a Class C felony.

(2) (a) In this subsection, “improvised explosive device” means a destructive explosive device capable of causing bodily harm, great bodily harm, death or property damage; with some type of explosive material and a means of detonating the explosive material, directly, remotely, or with a timer either present or readily capable of being inserted or attached; which may include a pipe or similar casing, with the ends of the pipe or casing capped, plugged or crimped, and a fuse or similar object sticking out of the pipe or casing; and made by a person not engaged in the legitimate manufacture or legitimate use of explosives, or otherwise authorized by law to do so. “Improvised explosive device” does not include ammunition for any rifle, pistol or shotgun.

(b) Whoever makes, buys, sells, transports, possesses, uses or transfers any improvised explosive device, or possesses materials or components with intent to assemble any improvised explosive device, is guilty of a Class E felony.

(c) This subsection does not apply to the transportation, possession, use or transfer of any improvised explosive device by any armed forces or national guard personnel or to any peace officer in the line of duty or as part of a duty-related function or exercise. The restriction on transportation in this subsection does not apply to common carriers.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1987 a. 234; 1999 a. 32.

Sub. (1) is not unconstitutionally vague. An explosive is any chemical compound, mixture or device the primary purpose of which is to function by explosion. An explosion is a substantially instantaneous release of both gas and heat. *State v. Brulport*, 202 Wis. 2d 506, 551 N.W. 2d 824 (Ct. App. 1996).

**941.315 Possession, distribution or delivery of nitrous oxide.** (1) In this section:



(a) “Deliver” or “delivery” means the actual, constructive or attempted transfer of nitrous oxide or a substance containing nitrous oxide from one person to another.

(b) “Distribute” means to deliver, other than by administering.

**(2)** Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor:

(a) Possesses nitrous oxide or a substance containing nitrous oxide with the intent to inhale the nitrous oxide.

(b) Intentionally or otherwise inhales nitrous oxide.

**(3)** Whoever does any of the following is guilty of a Class D felony:

(a) Distributes or delivers, or possesses with intent to distribute or deliver, nitrous oxide to a person who has not attained the age of 21.

(b) Distributes or delivers, or possesses with intent to distribute or deliver, nitrous oxide or a substance containing nitrous oxide to a person aged 21 years or older knowing or having reason to know that the person will use the nitrous oxide in violation of sub. (2).

(c) Distributes or delivers to a person aged 21 years or older any object used, designed for use or primarily intended for use in inhaling nitrous oxide at the same time that he or she distributes or delivers nitrous oxide or a substance containing nitrous oxide to the person.

**(5)** (a) Subsection (2) does not apply to a person to whom nitrous oxide is administered for the purpose of providing medical or dental care, if the nitrous oxide is administered by a physician or dentist or at the direction or under the supervision of a physician or dentist.

(b) Subsection (3) does not apply to the administration of nitrous oxide by a physician or dentist, or by another person at the direction or under the supervision of a physician or dentist, for the purpose of providing medical or dental care.

(c) Subsection (3) (c) does not apply to the sale to a hospital, health care clinic or other health care organization or to a physician or dentist of any object used, designed for use or primarily intended for use in administering nitrous oxide for the purpose of providing medical or dental care.

**History:** 1997 a. 336.

### 941.32 Administering dangerous or stupefying drug.

Whoever administers to another or causes another to take any poisonous, stupefying, overpowering, narcotic, or anesthetic substance with intent thereby to facilitate the commission of a crime is guilty of a Class C felony.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

**941.325 Placing foreign objects in edibles.** Whoever places objects, drugs or other substances in candy or other liquid or solid edibles with the intent to cause bodily harm to another person is guilty of a Class E felony.

**History:** 1971 c. 72; 1977 c. 173; 1995 a. 410.

“Edibles” includes solids and liquids. *State v. Timm*, 163 Wis. 2d 894, 472 N.W. 2d 593 (Ct. App. 1991).

**941.327 Tampering with household products.** (1) In this section:

(a) “Cosmetic” means articles intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled or sprayed on, introduced into or otherwise applied to the human body or any part thereof for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness or altering the appearance; and articles intended for use as a component of any such articles. “Cosmetic” does not include soap.

(b) “Device” means an instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant, in vitro reagent or other similar or related article, including any component, part or accessory which is recognized in the official national formulary, or the United States Pharmacopeia, or any supplement to them; intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions, or in the cure, miti-

gation, treatment or prevention of disease, in persons or other animals; or intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of persons or other animals; and which does not achieve any of its principal intended purposes through chemical action within or on the body of persons or other animals and which is not dependent upon being metabolized for the achievement of any of its principal intended purposes.

(c) “Drug” has the meaning described in s. 450.01 (10), but does not include a prescription drug.

(d) “Food” has the meaning described in s. 97.01 (6).

(e) “Household product” means any food, drug, device or cosmetic or any article, product or commodity of any kind or class which is customarily produced or distributed for sale through retail sales agencies or instrumentalities for consumption by individuals, or use by individuals for purposes of personal care or in the performance of services ordinarily rendered within the household, and which usually is consumed or expended in the course of that consumption or use.

(f) “Label” means a written, printed or graphic matter upon the immediate container of any household product.

(g) “Labeling” means all labels and other written, printed or graphic matter upon any household product or any of its containers or wrappers or accompanying any household product.

(h) “Prescription drug” has the meaning described in s. 450.01 (20).

**(2)** (a) Whoever, with intent to kill, injure or otherwise endanger the health or safety of any person or to cause significant injury or damage to the business of any person or entity, does either of the following may be punished under par. (b):

1. Tamper with any household product and thereby taints the product.

2. Tamper with any household product or its container and thereby renders the labeling of the product or its container materially false or misleading.

(b) 1. Except as provided in subds. 2. to 4., a person violating par. (a) is guilty of a Class E felony.

2. If the act under par. (a) creates a high probability of great bodily harm to another, a person violating par. (a) is guilty of a Class D felony.

3. If the act under par. (a) causes great bodily harm to another, a person violating par. (a) is guilty of a Class C felony.

4. If the act under par. (a) causes death to another, a person is guilty of a Class A felony.

**(3)** Whoever intentionally imparts or conveys false information, knowing the information to be false, concerning an act or attempted act which, if true, would constitute a violation of sub. (2) is guilty of a Class E felony.

**History:** 1987 a. 90.

**941.34 Fluoroscopic shoe-fitting machines.** Whoever uses, or possesses or controls with intent to so use, any fluoroscopic or X-ray machine for the purpose of shoe-fitting or attempting to fit shoes, or who knowingly permits such machine, whether in use or not, to remain on his or her premises, is subject to a Class B forfeiture. Each day of such use, possession or control shall constitute a separate violation of this section.

**History:** 1977 c. 173.

**941.35 Emergency telephone calls.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Emergency” means a situation in which property or human life are in jeopardy and the prompt summoning of aid is essential.

(b) “Party line” means a subscriber’s line telephone circuit, consisting of 2 or more main telephone stations connected therewith, each station with a distinctive ring or telephone number.

**(2)** Whoever intentionally refuses to yield or surrender the use of a party line to another person immediately upon being informed

by such other person that he or she wants to report a fire or summon police, medical or other aid in case of emergency, is subject to a Class B forfeiture.

(3) Whoever intentionally asks for or requests the use of a party line on the pretext that an emergency exists, knowing that no emergency in fact exists, is subject to a Class B forfeiture.

(4) Every telephone directory printed and distributed to the general public shall contain a notice prominently printed and displayed in bold-faced type, stating in substance the conduct prohibited by this section, and to be preceded by the word “Warning”. This subsection does not apply to directories distributed solely for business advertising purposes, commonly known as classified directories.

**History:** 1977 c. 173; 1983 a. 189, 192.

**941.36 Fraudulent tapping of electric wires or gas or water meters or pipes.** (1) Whoever, without permission and for the purpose of obtaining electrical current, gas or water with intent to defraud any vendor of electricity, gas or water by doing any of the following, is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor:

(a) Connects or causes to be connected by wire or any other device with the wire, cables or conductors of any such vendor.

(b) Connects or disconnects the meters, pipes or conduits of the vendor or in any other manner tampers or interferes with the meters, pipes or conduits, or connects with the meters, pipes or conduits by pipes, conduits or other instruments.

(2) The existence of any of the conditions with reference to meters, pipes, conduits or attachments, described in this section, is presumptive evidence that the person to whom gas, electricity or water is at the time being furnished by or through the meters, pipes, conduits or attachments has, with intent to defraud, created or caused to be created the conditions. The presumption does not apply to any person furnished with gas, electricity or water for less than 31 days or until there has been at least one meter reading.

**History:** 1977 c. 311.

**941.37 Obstructing emergency or rescue personnel.**

(1) In this section:

(a) “Ambulance” has the meaning specified in s. 146.50 (1) (a).

(b) “Authorized emergency vehicle” has the meaning specified in s. 340.01 (3).

(c) “Emergency medical personnel” means an emergency medical technician licensed under s. 146.50, first responder certified under s. 146.50 (8), peace officer or fire fighter, or other person operating or staffing an ambulance or an authorized emergency vehicle.

(2) Any person who knowingly obstructs any emergency medical personnel in the performance of duties relating to an emergency or rescue is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) Any person who intentionally interferes with any emergency medical personnel in the performance of duties relating to an emergency or rescue and who has reasonable grounds to believe that the interference may endanger another’s safety is guilty of a Class E felony.

(4) Any person who violates sub. (3) and thereby contributes to the death of another is guilty of a Class C felony.

**History:** 1983 a. 515; 1989 a. 102; 1999 a. 56.

**941.38 Criminal gang member solicitation and contact.** (1) In this section:

(a) “Child” means a person who has not attained the age of 18 years.

(b) “Criminal gang activity” means the commission of, attempt to commit or solicitation to commit one or more of the following crimes, or acts that would be crimes if the actor were an adult, committed for the benefit of, at the direction of or in association with any criminal gang, with the specific intent to promote, further or assist in any criminal conduct by criminal gang members:

1. Manufacture, distribution or delivery of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog, as prohibited in s. 961.41 (1).

2. First-degree intentional homicide, as prohibited in s. 940.01.

3. Second-degree intentional homicide, as prohibited in s. 940.05.

4. Battery, substantial battery or aggravated battery, as prohibited in s. 940.19 or 940.195.

5. Battery, special circumstances, as prohibited in s. 940.20.

5m. Battery or threat to witness, as prohibited in s. 940.201.

6. Mayhem, as prohibited in s. 940.21.

7. Sexual assault, as prohibited in s. 940.225.

8. False imprisonment, as prohibited in s. 940.30.

9. Taking hostages, as prohibited in s. 940.305.

10. Kidnapping, as prohibited in s. 940.31.

11. Intimidation of witnesses, as prohibited in s. 940.42 or 940.43.

12. Intimidation of victims, as prohibited in s. 940.44 or 940.45.

13. Criminal damage to property, as prohibited in s. 943.01.

13m. Criminal damage to or threat to criminally damage the property of a witness, as prohibited in s. 943.011 or 943.017 (2m).

14. Arson of buildings or damage by explosives, as prohibited in s. 943.02.

15. Burglary, as prohibited in s. 943.10.

16. Theft, as prohibited in s. 943.20.

17. Taking, driving or operating a vehicle, or removing a part or component of a vehicle, without the owner’s consent, as prohibited in s. 943.23.

18. Robbery, as prohibited in s. 943.32.

19. Sexual assault of a child, as prohibited in s. 948.02.

20. Repeated acts of sexual assault of the same child, as prohibited in s. 948.025.

(2) Whoever intentionally solicits a child to participate in criminal gang activity is guilty of a Class E felony.

(3) Whoever intentionally violates, under all of the following circumstances, a court order to refrain from contacting a criminal gang member is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor:

(a) The court finds that the person who is subject to the court order is a criminal gang member.

(b) The court informs the person of the contact restriction orally and in writing.

(c) The order specifies how long the contact restriction stays in effect.

**History:** 1993 a. 98, 227; 1995 a. 448; 1997 a. 143, 295.

**NOTE:** See 1993 Wis. Act 98, s. 9159, for a statement of legislative intent.

The definition in sub. (1) (b) is sufficiently specific that when incorporated into a probation condition, it provides fair and adequate notice as to the expected course of conduct and provides an adequate standard of enforcement. *State v. Lo*, 228 Wis. 2d 531, 599 N.W.2d 659 (Ct. App. 1999).