

**2163 ABDUCTION OF ANOTHER'S CHILD: DETAINING BY FORCE OR THREAT OF FORCE — § 948.30(2)(b)****Statutory Definition of the Crime**

Abduction of another's child, as defined in § 948.30(2)(b) of the Criminal Code of Wisconsin, is committed by one who for any unlawful purpose, and by force or threat of imminent force, detains any child who is not his or her own by birth or adoption and who is away [from the child's home] [from the custody of the child's (parent) (guardian) (legal custodian)].

**State's Burden of Proof**

Before you may find the defendant guilty of this offense, the State must prove by evidence which satisfies you beyond a reasonable doubt that the following four elements were present.

**Elements of the Crime That the State Must Prove**

1. The defendant detained (name of victim) who was away [from (his) (her) home] [from the actual physical custody<sup>1</sup> of (his) (her) (parent) (guardian) legal custodian)].
2. At the time of the alleged detention, (name of victim) was a child under the age of 18 years who was not the defendant's child by birth or adoption.

Knowledge of (name of victim)'s age is not material<sup>2</sup> and mistake regarding (name of victim)'s age is not a defense.<sup>3</sup>

3. The defendant detained (name of victim) by force or threat of imminent force.

The term “imminent” means “near at hand” or “on the point of happening.”<sup>4</sup>

4. The defendant detained (name of victim) for an unlawful purpose.

The defendant need not know that (his) (her) purpose is unlawful; it is sufficient if, in fact, the purpose is an unlawful one.<sup>5</sup>

The State alleges that the defendant’s unlawful purpose was to commit the crime of (name of crime). (Name of crime) is committed by one who

LIST THE ELEMENTS OF THE ALLEGED CRIME AS IDENTIFIED IN THE UNIFORM INSTRUCTION. ADD DEFINITIONS FROM THE UNIFORM INSTRUCTION AS NECESSARY.<sup>6</sup>

### **Deciding About Purpose**

You cannot look into a person’s mind to find purpose. Purpose must be found, if found at all, from the defendant’s acts, words, and statements, if any, and from all the facts and circumstances in this case bearing upon purpose.

### **Jury’s Decision**

If you are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that all four elements of this offense have been proved, you should find the defendant guilty.

If you are not so satisfied, you must find the defendant not guilty.

### **COMMENT**

Wis JI-Criminal 2163 was originally published in 1989 and was revised in 2010. The 2010 revision

involved adoption of a new format and changes in how the first and fourth elements are defined. This revision was approved by the Committee in October 2022; it removed a reporter's note from the comment concerning "embedded crimes."

This instruction is for a violation of § 948.30(2)(b), created by 1987 Wisconsin Act 332 as part of the revision of the criminal statutes relating to crimes against children. It applies to offenses committed on or after July 1, 1989. It replaces Wis JI-Criminal 1287 which applied to violations of § 940.32(3) 1985-86 Wis. Stats., a statute repealed by 1987 Wisconsin Act 332.

See the Comment to Wis JI-Criminal 2162 for an explanation of how this offense relates to "abduction" under former § 940.32.

1. In place of a definition of "custody," the instruction refers to detaining a child who is away from the "actual physical custody" of the parent, guardian, or custodian. The broader definition of "custody" provided in § 948.30(3) applies only "for purposes of subs. (1)(a) and (2)(a)."

2. Section 939.23(6).

3. Section 939.43(2).

4. The definition is the one used in the instruction for armed robbery [Wis JI-Criminal 1480]; it was originally adapted from the one used in Black's Law Dictionary, p. 884 (4th ed. 1951).

5. While the statute does not specifically refer to an intent on the part of the defendant, it does require an unlawful purpose for the act. This is the mental element of the crime and is limited to the requirement that there be an unlawful purpose for the taking.

6. The instruction is drafted for a case where the alleged "unlawful purpose" is a crime. The Committee recommends that a complete listing of the elements of the "embedded crime" be provided. Decisions of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals have reached this conclusion with respect to bail jumping under § 946.49 [State v. Henning, 2003 WI App 54, ¶25, 261 Wis.2d 664, 660 N.W.2d 698], and intimidation of a victim under § 940.44 [State v. Thomas, 161 Wis.2d 616, 624, 468 N.W.2d 729 (Ct. App. 1991)].

If an unlawful purpose is alleged that is not a crime, the instruction would need to be changed, using a statement like the following:

The State alleges that the defendant's unlawful purpose was to (identify the alleged unlawful purpose).