
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2023 Wisconsin Act 238
[2023 Assembly Bill 976]

**Testimony of a Child in a
Criminal Proceeding for a
Human Trafficking Crime**

2023 WISCONSIN ACT 238

2023 Wisconsin Act 238 expands the circumstances in which a court may order that the testimony of a child witness in a criminal trial be taken in a room other than the courtroom and simultaneously televised in the courtroom by means of closed-circuit audiovisual equipment. Specifically, if the trial is for a prosecution for a violation of the crime of human trafficking or trafficking of a child, the court may make such an order if the trial in which the child may be called as a witness will commence prior to the child's 18th birthday and the court finds both of the following:

- The presence of the defendant during the taking of the child's testimony will result in the child suffering serious emotional distress such that the child cannot reasonably communicate.
- Taking the testimony of the child in a room other than the courtroom and simultaneously televising the testimony in the courtroom by means of closed-circuit audiovisual equipment is necessary to minimize the trauma to the child of testifying in the courtroom setting and to provide a setting more amenable to securing the child witness's uninhibited, truthful testimony.

Effective date: March 29, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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