

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark skin and hair, looking over the top edge of an open book. The child's eyes are focused on the pages. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with light coming through. The entire image is framed by a thick magenta border.

## Child Care Vehicle Safety Alarm



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families

Updated February 2025

# Learning Points

- Background of the Child Safety Alarm Bill and what the law requires
- Identify examples of child safety alarms
- Provide situational examples of violations



# §48.658

## Child Care Vehicle Safety Alarm



- A child care provider or contractor of a child care provider that is the owner or lessee of the child care vehicle shall have an alarm system that prompts the driver of the vehicle to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting
- Drivers and child care providers who knowingly transport children in vehicles without alarms or with alarms that are not properly maintained or in good working order may face criminal penalties of up to a year in jail and \$1,000 in fines.
- Individuals and child care providers who remove, disconnect, tamper with, or turn off the alarm without checking the vehicle may be charged with a felony punishable by up 3.5 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.



# Definitions



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**Child care provider:** A child care program that is licensed under Wis. Stat. [48.65](#), a child care provider that is certified under Wis. Stat. [48.651](#), or a child care program that is established or contracted for under Wis. Stat. [120.13 \(14\)](#).

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**Child care vehicle:** A vehicle that has a seating capacity of 6 or more passengers in addition to the driver, that is owned or leased by a child care provider or a contractor of a child care provider, and that is used to transport children in care.

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**Child safety alarm:** An alarm system that prompts the driver of a child care vehicle to inspect the child care vehicle for children before exiting the child care vehicle.

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# Types of Safety Alarms & Devices



Devices hardwired into a vehicle's electrical system and activated when the ignition is turned on



Wireless devices



Reminder systems\*



Child sensing or tracking systems\*

# Hardwired Alarm Systems



Child Check-Mate System™

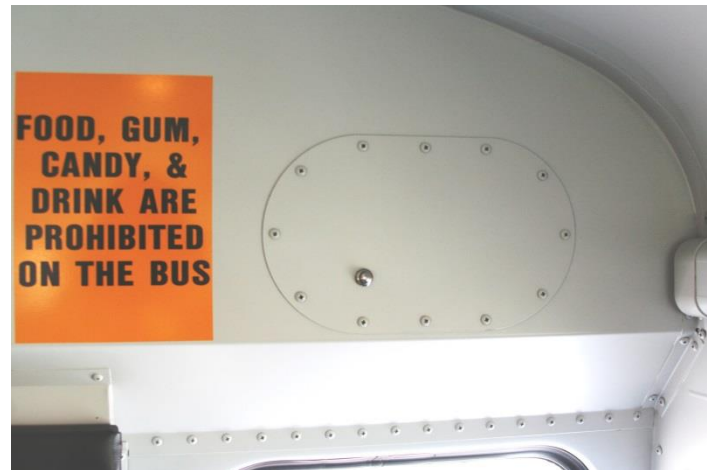


# Hardwired Alarm Systems



# Hardwired Alarm Reset Methods

**School Bus & Mini Bus** - Reset button located in the back of the bus or reset by lifting the emergency door handle.







## Hardwired Alarm Reset Methods

**Passenger Van** - Reset button located in the center of the van (opposite of side passenger doors) or in the back of the van



# Hardwired Alarm Reset Methods

**Minivan/SUVs** - Reset button located in the center or in the back of the vehicle.

What's wrong with  
this picture?



# Systems That Do Not Meet Intent of the Law

- **Reminder systems**
- **Child sensing or tracking systems**



# How the Child Care Vehicle Safety Alarm Rule is Monitored

## **Licensed Family Child Care**

[DCF 250.08\(5\)\(e\) & 250.08\(8\)](#)

## **Group Child Care**

[DCF 251.08\(5\)\(c\) & 251.08\(8\)](#)

## **Day Camps**

[DCF 252.09\(5\)\(c\) & 252.09\(8\)](#)

## **Certified Family Child Care**

[DCF 202.08\(9\)\(p\) – \(s\)](#)



# **Types of Child Safety Alarm Violations**

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Alarm present but not turned on and no transportation being provided

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Alarm present but is broken, not working properly or has been disabled and/or tampered and no transportation is being provided

# **Types of Child Safety Alarm Violations**

No alarm present and  
transportation is being  
provided

# **Types of Child Safety Alarm Violations**

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Deliberately not using or disabling the alarm and transportation is being provided – no harm to child

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Deliberately not using or disabling the alarm and transportation is being provided – a child was harmed

# Questions | Considerations

Consult with your  
Licensing Specialist or  
Certification Worker for  
questions or  
considerations related to  
the Child Care Vehicle  
Safety Alarm rules



**Licensing:** <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cclicensing/contacts>

**Certification:**

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/ccregulation/cccertification/certifiers.pdf>

