



# DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

## Law of the Month – July, 2020

As everyone knows, July means no school and more time for the water! When it comes to being on the water and being in the boat, there are many things to keep in mind. One should keep in mind the age restrictions when operating the boat and certain regulations when on the water.

Some boating safety tips are:

- Always wear a life jacket when on the boat (In 2013, 77% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned and of those who drowned, 84% were not wearing a life jacket.)
- Never drink alcohol while boating.
- Make sure you have completed your boating safety training.

Many people also do not know the age requirements when it comes to operating a motorboat. People should review the Wisconsin State Statue 30.678 that states the boating safety certificates, requirements, exemptions and operation by minors.

### **30.678 Boating safety certificates; requirements; exemptions; operation by minors.**

**(1)** Motorboats other than personal watercraft.

**(a)** No person under 10 years of age may operate a motorboat.

**(b)** No person who is at least 10 years of age but under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat unless he or she is accompanied in the motorboat by a parent or guardian or by a person who is at least 18 years of age and who is designated by a parent or guardian and the parent, guardian, or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate issued under s. 30.74 (1) (a) or a valid boating safety certificate that is honored under s. 30.74 (1) (c) or was born before January 1, 1989.

**(c)** No person who is at least 12 years of age but under 16 years of age may operate a motorboat unless one of the following applies:

1. The person holds a valid boating safety certificate issued under s. 30.74 (1) (a) or a valid boating safety certificate that is honored under s. 30.74 (1) (c).

2. The person is accompanied in the motorboat by a parent or guardian or by a person who is at least 18 years of age and who is designated by a parent or guardian and the parent, guardian, or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate issued under s. 30.74 (1) (a) or a valid boating safety certificate that is honored under s. 30.74 (1) (c) or was born before January 1, 1989.

**(d)** No person who was born on or after January 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older may operate a motorboat unless one of the following applies:

1. The person holds a valid boating safety certificate issued under s. 30.74 (1) (a) or a valid boating safety certificate that is honored under s. 30.74 (1) (c).

2. The person is accompanied in the motorboat by another person who is at least 18 years of age and that person holds a valid boating safety certificate issued under s. 30.74 (1) (a) or a valid boating safety certificate that is honored under s. 30.74 (1) (c) or was born before January 1, 1989.