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DWD Statement Regarding Wisconsin's Child Labor Law and Festivals

The Department of Workforce Development enforces the state child labor law to ensure the health, safety and welfare of Wisconsin's children. The law has drawn media attention recently because of the section that prohibits individuals under the age of 18 from performing in a "roadhouse, cabaret, dance hall, night club, tavern or other similar place." This has led to some confusion about aspects of the law.

DWD wants to state clearly that individuals under the age of 18 *can* perform at Summerfest, other community festivals and county fairs, and that the child labor law does not prohibit them from doing so. As noted above, however, the law does prohibit individuals under the age of 18 from performing in a "roadhouse, cabaret, dance hall, night club, tavern or other similar place."

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