

Jim Crow Laws: Florida

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Enacted 19 Jim Crow segregation laws between 1865 and 1967. Florida also imposed some of the harshest penalties on record. Blacks or whites who entered a railroad car reserved for the other race could be sentenced to the pillory or whipped 39 times, or both. Florida also rewarded informers for reporting cases of miscegenation, who would receive half of the \$1,000 fine. A law barring segregation of public facilities was passed in 1873, but was overturned by 1885. As late as 1967, the city of Sarasota passed a city ordinance requiring segregated beaches.

1865: Railroad [Statute]

Negroes or mulattoes who intruded into any railroad car reserved for white persons would be found guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, sentenced to stand in the pillory for one hour, or to be whipped, not exceeding 39 stripes, or both, at the discretion of the jury." Whites faced the same penalty for entering a car reserved for persons of color.

1873: Barred public accommodation segregation [Statute]

Prohibited discrimination on account of race in the full and equal enjoyment of public accommodations such as inns, public transportation, theaters, schools, cemeteries and places of public amusement. Did not include private schools or cemeteries established exclusively for white or colored persons.

1881: Miscegenation [Statute]

Unlawful for any white person to intermarry with any Negro person. Penalty: Performing such a ceremony punishable by a fine of \$1,000, "of which one-half shall be paid to the informer."

1885: Education [Constitution]

White and colored children shall not be taught in the same school.

1885: Miscegenation [Constitution]

"Forever" prohibited marriages between whites and blacks, or between a "white person and a person of Negro descent to the fourth generation inclusive."

1887: Railroads [Statute]

"All respectable Negro persons" to be sold first-class tickets at the same rates as white passengers and shall be provided a separate car "equally as good and provided with the same facilities for comfort as for white persons." Penalty: Conductors and railroad companies violating the provisions of the law faced a fine up to \$500.

1887: Education [Constitution]

White and colored children prohibited from being taught in the same schools.

1895: Education [Statute]

Penal offense for any persons to conduct any school, any grade, either public or private where whites and blacks are instructed or boarded in the same building, or taught in the same class by the same teachers. Penalty: Between \$150 and \$500 fine, or imprisonment in the county jail between three and six months.

1903: Miscegenation [Statute]

Intermarriage with a Negro, mulatto, or any person with one-eighth Negro blood shall be punished. Penalty: Imprisonment up to ten years or a fine not more than \$1,000.

1905: Streetcars [Statute]

Separation of races required on all streetcars. Gave Caucasian mistresses the right to have their children attended in the white section of the car by an African nurse, but withheld from an African woman the equal right to have her child attended in the African section by its Caucasian nurse.

1907: Railroads [Statute]

Separate waiting rooms for each race to be provided at railroad depots along with separate ticket windows. Also called for separation of the races on streetcars. Signs in plain letters to be marked "For White" and "For Colored" to be displayed. Penalties: Railroad companies that refused to comply with the provision could be fined up to \$5,000.

1909: Railroads [Statute]

Separate accommodations required by race. Penalty: Passengers who failed to comply with law would be fined up to \$500.

1913: Education [Statute]

Unlawful for white teachers to teach Negroes in Negro schools, and for Negro teachers to teach in white schools. Penalty:

Violators subject to fines up to \$500, or imprisonment up to six months.

1927: Education [Statute]

Criminal offense for teachers of one race to instruct pupils of the other in public schools.

1927: Race classification [Statute]

Defined the words "Negro" or "colored person" to include persons who have one eighth or more Negro blood.

1941: Voting rights protected [Statute]

Poll tax repealed.

1944: Miscegenation [Statute]

Illegal for whites and Negroes to live in adultery. Penalty: up to \$500, or up to two years imprisonment.

1945: Antidefamation [Statute]

Unlawful to print, publish, distribute by any means, any publications, handbills, booklets, etc. which tends to expose any individual or any religious group to hatred, contempt, ridicule, or abuse unless the name and address of those doing so is clearly printed on the written material.

1958: Education [Statute]

County boards of education may adopt regulation for closing schools during emergencies. Schools to close automatically when federal troops used to prevent violence.

1958: Public Carrier [Statute]

Races to be segregated on public carriers.

1967: Public accommodations [City Ordinance]

Sarasota passed a city ordinance stating that "Whenever members of two or more races shall be upon any public bathing beach within the corporate limits of the City of Sarasota, it shall be the duty of the Chief of police or other officer in charge of the public forces of the City...with the assistance of such police forces, to clear the area involved of all members of all races present."