

Jim Crow Laws: Missouri

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Seven school segregation and five miscegenation statutes, a public accommodations statute and a law forbidding interracial adoptions were passed in Missouri between 1865 and 1952, characterizing the state's civil rights stance as typical of most other border states. No anti-segregation laws were passed during this period. The state's 1879 miscegenation law, which made marriage between any white person and a person with one-eighth Negro blood or more illegal, offers testament to the difficulty of determining an individual's racial lineage. The statute noted that a jury in a miscegenation trial would determine the amount of Negro blood from a person's appearance.

1865: Education [Constitution]

Separate free public schools are required for white and Negro children.

1865: Education [Statute]

Provides education for all children as long as white children are sent to separate schools from black children.

1866: Miscegenation [Statute]

Prohibited all marriages between whites and Negroes.

1875: Education [Constitution]

Separate free public schools shall be established for children of African descent.

1879: Miscegenation [Statute]

Persons with one-eighth or more Negro blood were prohibited from marrying white persons. Penalty: Two years in the penitentiary, or a fine up to \$100, or imprisonment in the county jail for three months, or both fine and imprisonment. "A jury could determine the amount of Negro blood from appearance."

1887: Education [Statute]

A school for Negro children to be established in districts where there are more than fifteen children of required age. In districts with less than fifteen children, they may attend school in another district with a separate school for Negro children.

1889: Education [Statute]

Unlawful for any black child to attend any white public school, or for any white child to attend a school for black children.

1909: Miscegenation [Statute]

Marriages between white persons and Negroes, or white persons and Asians prohibited.

1929: Education [Statute]

Required racially segregated schools.

1929: Public accommodations [Statute]

City boards of education authorized to establish and maintain separate libraries for whites and blacks.

1929: Miscegenation [Statute]

Miscegenation declared a felony. Also prohibited marriages between persons of the Caucasian and Asian races.

1949: Education [Statute]

Enabled Negroes to enroll in the University of Missouri in cases where the course they took were not available at Lincoln University (a black college).

1949: Miscegenation [Statute]

Prohibited marriage between white persons and Negroes or white persons and Asians. Penalty: Two years in penitentiary or not less than three months in county jail, fine not less than \$100, or both.

1952: Adoptions [Statute]

Forbid interracial adoptions.