

## JIM CROW LAWS IN OKLAHOMA

Like many other states in the region, Oklahoma, which bordered the Confederacy, supported the separation of races. This was demonstrated through 18 laws called Jim Crow laws which were passed and enforced between 1890 and 1957.

### 1890: Education (Statute)

An election will be held every 3 years to vote for or against separation of schooling by race.

### 1897: Education (Statute)

Where there are at least 8 black children, a separate district will be established. White children may not attend these schools and vice versa.

### 1907: Education (Constitution)

Legislature will provide separate school institutions for “white and colored children.”

### 1907: Voting Rights (Statute)

Anyone living in a poorhouse at the expense of the public is unable to vote (excluding Veterans: Federal, Confederate, and Spanish-American).

### 1907: Voting Rights (Statute)

Electors must read and write any section of the state’s Constitution, unless enfranchised on January 1, 1866, or a lineal descendant of such. *While this was deemed unconstitutional in 1915, associated literacy provision was upheld.*

### 1908: Education (Statute)

Oklahoma’s public schools are meant to separate “white and colored races”, and “white students attending colored schools could be fined between \$5-\$20 daily.” A \$10-\$50 fine and potential one-year certification loss for teachers who violated the law. Larger entities or corporations that ran schools without compliance could be fined \$100-\$500.

### 1908: Railroads (Statute)

Streetcar and railroads must provide separate coaches for white and black passengers that are “equal in all parts of comfort and convenience.” Passengers could be charged with a misdemeanor and \$5-\$25 fine. Conductors could be charged \$50-\$500. Companies that failed to enforce the law could be required to pay \$100-\$500.

### **1908: Miscegenation (Statute)**

Any person of African descent must not marry any person not of African descent. This could result in a felony punishable by 1-5 years imprisoned in the penitentiary and up to \$500 fine.

### **1915: Public Accommodations (Statute)**

Telephone companies must provide separate booths for “white and colored” use.

### **1921: Miscegenation (Statute)**

“Marriage between Indians and Negroes” is prohibited.

### **1921: Education (Statute)**

Teachers instructing “white and colored children in the same school” will face a misdemeanor charge with the cancelation of certification without renewal for one year.

### **1921: Public Accommodations (Statute)**

In cities where the colored population exceeds 1,000, public libraries must have separate accommodations

### **1925: Entertainment (City Ordinance)**

Black bands may not march with white bands in parades. Golden Gloves boxers may not spar against black boxers.

### **1937: Public Carriers (Statute)**

Public carriers must be separate for races.

### **1949: Health Care (Statute)**

Required a “consolidated Negro institution to care for blind, deaf and orphans.”

### **1954: Public Accommodations (Statute)**

Mines must have separate restrooms.

### **1955: Miscegenation (Statute)**

Marriage between any African descendant and white person is punishable up to \$500 and 1-5 years of imprisonment.

### **1957: Adoption (Statute)**

Adoption petitions must include the state race of both petitioner and child.

*Americans All. (n.d.). Jim Crow Laws: North Dakota, Ohio and Oklahoma. <https://americansall.org/legacy-story-group/jim-crow-laws-north-dakota-ohio-and-oklahoma>*