

Can a Police Officer arrest me in Arizona, if they don't see the crime occur?

By: Jeremy Geigle, Attorney at Law
JacksonWhite, P.C.

Say you and your friends are out on the town, having a great time, when a police officer begins asking you questions, eventually leading to your arrest. Maybe someone at a bar accused you of assaulting them, or someone thought you stole their wallet or purse. If there is no visible evidence that you committed a crime, can a police officer arrest you?

The short answer to that question is yes. An officer may rely on the testimony of an alleged victim to determine probable cause if that police officer believes that the victim is telling the truth.

What if the alleged victim is lying?

Of course, this is always a possibility. The person claiming to be the victim may be straight out lying, or they may simply be misinterpreting the events they believed occurred.

How can I prove they are lying?

Corroborating evidence is the best way to disprove the falsity of an untrue statement given by an alleged victim or a witness. An experienced criminal defense attorney will have the knowledge and experience to challenge an officer's determination of probable cause, as well as the facts of the case during trial.

Even if your case has not yet been filed, it is highly recommended that you hire a defense attorney as soon as a criminal accusation has been brought against you. A criminal lawyer may be able to prevent charges from being filed, thus keeping your record clear from any or further criminal violations.

An attorney will be able to speak with the responding officer to point out the potential issues and additional evidence in the case before the officer submits their paperwork to the court or prosecutor.

Jeremy Geigle is a criminal defense attorney and shareholder at JacksonWhite. He has been practicing over 8 years and has handled thousands of felony and misdemeanor counts. He works in both adult and juvenile court handling DUIs, aggravated felonies and sex crimes in Arizona. He works in Federal, State and local jurisdictions including Phoenix, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Scottsdale, Glendale, Tempe and Peoria. Mr. Geigle is a 5-Star-Client-Rated Attorney on Avvo. To read more about what former clients are saying about hiring Mr. Geigle or to set up a free consultation, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law.

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