

## Domestic Violence in Arizona: Who & What

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Most people believe that [domestic violence](#) only applies to spouses. This is not true; you can be charged with domestic violence if the victim is:

- Your child's parent
- Pregnant with your child
- Your roommate
- Your girlfriend or boyfriend
- Your grandparent, parent, grandchild, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, step parent, or step child

The police officer who arrives on the scene doesn't need to witness the domestic violence; all he or she needs is probable cause that domestic violence took place. It is at the officer's discretion who is arrested for domestic violence, even if both parties were involved.

Domestic violence doesn't always mean physical violence. A person can be arrested for domestic violence without causing physical harm to the victim. If you commit one of the following acts, and you are in a domestic relationship with with victim, you could be arrested for domestic violence:

- Assault
- Threats
- Harassment
- [Criminal damage](#)
- Criminal trespass
- [Kidnapping](#)
- Disorderly conduct

Penalties for domestic violence depend on the nature of the crime and whether it's a first offense or not. Some possible punishments include fines, domestic violence treatment programs, jail time, and probation.

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](http://www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law).

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