

Canadian Juvenile May Face Charges for Threatening to Kill Sheriff Joe Arpaio

By: Jeremy Geigle, Attorney at Law

JacksonWhite, P.C.

Sheriff of Arizona's Maricopa County, Joe Arpaio is no stranger to death threats. In the past several months alone he has received at least three threats against his life from suspects in Arizona and California. Most recently, however, a 16-year-old Canadian boy [sent the Sheriff an email stating that he is planning to kill Arpaio and his entire family](#), including his grandchildren.

Though this is not the first time Arpaio has been threatened by a Canadian—he received a similar email from 37-year-old Canadian Matthew Carl Sanderson in the past—it may be the first time he has ever been bullied by a juvenile.

After a two month long investigation by Canadian police, the Alberta teen confessed to sending the threatening email. While it is unclear exactly why the boy despises Arpaio, he probably disagrees with his stance on illegal immigration, like most other Sheriff Joe haters before him.

Threatening or Intimidating in Arizona

Had the teen sent his email from a computer in AZ, it is likely he would be facing charges for threatening or intimidating, which is defined in [A.R.S. 13-1202](#):

A person commits threatening or intimidating in Arizona if they threaten or intimidate by word or conduct to do any of the following:

1. Cause physical injury to another person or serious damage to the property of another
2. Cause serious public inconvenience including, but not limited to, the evacuation of a place of assembly, building, or transportation facility
3. Cause physical injury to another or damage to the property of another in order to further, assist in the interests of, promote, or solicit another person to participate in a criminal street gang or racketeering enterprise.

Charges for Threatening or Intimidating in AZ

Threatening or intimidating pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of the above statute is typically charged as a class 1 misdemeanor in Arizona, except if the offense is committed in retaliation for the victim's reporting criminal activity, or the defendant is a criminal street gang member, in which case it is charged as a class 6 felony.

Threatening or intimidating pursuant to paragraph 3 of the above statute is typically charged as a class 3 felony in AZ.

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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