

## **What is Domestic Violence?**

By: Timothy Durkin, Attorney at Law  
JacksonWhite, P.C.

In a recent blog, I discussed Orders of Protection and how to obtain one if you are a victim of domestic violence. But what is considered an act of “domestic violence”? Some forms of domestic violence are obvious, such as hitting, pushing, or otherwise physically striking another person. Other forms of domestic violence may be less obvious, such as verbal threats, intimidation, harassment and stalking.

Because domestic violence most frequently happens within families, an Arizona family law attorney can be invaluable in helping protect victims of domestic violence. Likewise, an experienced family law attorney can protect an individual who has been falsely accused of an act of domestic violence.

Pursuant to Arizona statutes, the following conduct falls within the broad field of domestic violence:

- Dangerous crimes against children,
- Reckless endangerment,
- Threatening or intimidating a person,
- Threatening to cause injury to a person or threatening to cause serious damage to property,
- Assault (intentional or reckless),
- Intentionally placing another person in reasonable apprehension (fear) of injury,
- Knowingly touching another person with intent to injure, insult, or to provoke,
- Custodial interference without lawful right to keep a child from the other party (exceptions may apply),
- Unlawful imprisonment (knowingly restraining a person from leaving),
- Criminal trespass (breaking in or refusing to leave another’s property),
- Intentionally damaging someone else’s property,
- Disorderly conduct,
- Recklessly displaying a weapon,
- Use of a telephone or other communication to terrify, intimidate, threaten, harass, annoy or offend (may include obscene language),
- Anonymous telephone calls,
- Stalking or following a person with no legitimate purpose,
- Surveillance of another person for no legitimate purpose, and
- Making false reports to a law enforcement or social service agency.

If you have been the victim of one of these acts then by law you are a victim of domestic violence, and I urge you to get in contact with a family law attorney immediately.



Timothy Durkin joined JacksonWhite in 2010, and quickly established himself as a highly effective family law attorney with the perfect balance of assertiveness and compassion. Tim is often complimented for his dedication to professional service, as he works closely with his clients to keep them informed, listen to their needs and involve them in the decision making process.

Tim handles all types of family law, including divorces, paternity actions, child custody, child support, relocation and jurisdiction issues, adoptions, termination of parental rights and parental severance actions, title 8 guardianships, spousal maintenance cases, division of marital property and debts, pre-nuptial agreements, post decree modifications and enforcement of custody and divorce orders, mediation services, grandparent visitation cases, and domestic violence issues. He is licensed to practice law in all Arizona State Courts, as well as the United States District Court, District of Arizona, and serves clients throughout the Phoenix metro area. To read more

about what former clients are saying about hiring Tim, or to set up a free consultation, please visit [www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law](http://www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law).

Founded in 1983, JacksonWhite P.C. offers a full -range of services to assist individuals, families and businesses with their legal needs. Since its inception, the Mesa firm has grown steadily to include 22 highly experienced attorneys and over 40 paralegals, legal assistants and staff. At this size, the firm is large enough to offer the efficiency and technical expertise of larger firms, yet small enough to provide clients with individualized, personalized attention. JacksonWhite has multiple offices around the state of Arizona including a Mesa, Casa Grande and Peoria locations. For more information on a specific attorney or area of practice, please visit [www.jacksonwhitelaw.com](http://www.jacksonwhitelaw.com), or [www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law](http://www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law).

---