

## **Understanding Arizona Domestic Violence**

To be convicted of domestic violence is a serious crime with long-reaching ramifications, and depending on the severity of the charge, your future may be looking pretty unsure. The first step in any domestic violence case is to understand your charges by hiring an Arizona domestic violence attorney. Let's take a look at some of the aspects of domestic violence law.

### **Overview**

Domestic violence, also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, or intimate partner violence (IPV), is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship. It can take many forms, including physical violence (kicking, hitting, throwing objects), emotional abuse, stalking, and economic deprivation.

Though domestic violence is typically thought of as occurring between a husband and wife, it can happen in any relationship in which two people live under the same roof. What's more, many people associate men with being the violent aggressors, but a report done in the United Kingdom states that there has been a "fourfold increase in the number of women convicted of attacking their partners over the past four years." Attributed to the "growing culture of violence among women", both sexes are becoming as likely to instigate domestic violence, though men are still the main offenders.

### **Penalties**

If you've been convicted of domestic violence in Arizona, it is imperative that you hire a good Arizona domestic violence attorney in order to ensure that your rights are properly fought for. Domestic violence laws vary by state, but across the board any individual convicted of this crime is likely to face jail time, fines, and other penalties. Not hiring an attorney as soon as possible may result in you missing out on the chance to lessen your sentence.

Penalties of domestic violence charges can be classified as a misdemeanor or felony, depending on their severity. A case becomes a felony if the victim was either killed or seriously injured; a misdemeanor charge, on the other hand, typically includes stalking, breaking and entering, or when the victim has little or no injuries.

The length of time you have to serve and the amount of money you have to pay varies depending on the circumstances of your case and how well your Arizona domestic violence attorney argues your rights. A possible defense your attorney can use when faced with domestic violence charges is self defense, but everything is circumstantial until the details of your case are shared with your attorney.

### **What to do**

Make sure that the immediate step you take following a domestic violence conviction is to contact an experienced Arizona domestic violence attorney. Only then will your case have a fighting chance at having its charges reduced or even dismissed.

For more information, visit Guy's website at <http://www.azlawguy.com/contact> or call him at 602.396.7114.