

# Domestic Violence Attorney

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As human beings, we have the capacity to do the most awful things, even to each other. Domestic violence, although it may not have the same battle cry or scars of other crimes, ***it is none the less a violation of our freedoms, a denial of human rights and in the simplest terms, an attack.*** Surviving this crime of this nature may be no easy feat. The support, expertise and integrity in dealing with domestic violence Utah residents have come to rely on can be found here, in the legal team of [Schmidt & Gladstone](#).

## What is Domestic Violence?

In the state of Utah, ***domestic violence is an act of or attempted act of violence toward a cohabitant, this includes even the threat of such an act.*** Cohabitant can be defined as current or ex-spouse, blood relation and relationships that resemble marriage or those sharing a residence. Examples of domestic violence may be but are not limited to:

- **Harassment:** This is any badgering, threatening or intimidating action.
- **Stalking:** The act of watching, tracking or following someone are examples.
- **Assault:** One of the most serious of domestic violence offenses, and almost always pertains to injury.
- **Violation of Protective Order:** Any violation of any type of protection order may result in additional charges, or multiple counts.

These are some of the common causes for charges being filed, and, as the list says, these offenses can be wide ranging from verbal to physical. It is important to understand what rights you have, what options are available and what to do first.

## Consequences of Domestic Violence Charges

Not surprisingly, the safety and protection of the victim is paramount, and this is reflected by the laws governing the consequences of domestic violence. ***It is one of the few non-felony situations where an arrest is considered the appropriate action, this directive is based on the efforts to provide safety and security for the victim.*** The degree of consequence will rely on the particulars of the offense, while multiple convictions are subject to increased terms of punishment, such as time of incarceration.

[Ex parte](#) orders illuminate this safety first action perhaps more than any other laws pertaining to domestic violence. ***An ex parte order simply is an order that dictates that the accused must avoid contact, either phone, workplace visits and so on,*** and does not require the defendant to be notified of the order before issuing.

Protection orders can also be obtained for extended periods of time following the hearing, or even have existing protection orders extended. With these types of protection orders, the defendant must be notified.

**Criminal Law Experts Schmidt & Gladstone**

Getting help is the first step. The [Utah Domestic Violence Coalition](#) is a good source to get some information and more details, but we here at Schmidt & Gladstone encourage you to contact us for detailed and accurate information. If there has been an accusation of domestic violence or other issues like [divorce](#), [custody](#) or [criminal defense](#), we have more than 18 years of experience, specializing but not limited to family law.

***Let us help you to find the best resolution, navigate the often confusing legal jargon and unfamiliar legal process while affording compassion, integrity and the best counsel possible. Contact us here, or call 801-895-3113 to get on the road to getting through and past this with the best results.***