



Definitions of Domestic Violence

The definition of domestic violence varies depending on the context in which the term is used. A clinical or behavioral definition is “a pattern of assaultive and/or coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.”¹ Legal definitions across the States generally describe specific conduct or acts that are subject to civil and criminal actions, and the specific language used may vary depending on whether the definition is found in the civil or criminal sections of the State’s code.

¹ Susan Schechter and Jeffrey Edelson, *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice* (Reno, NV: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 1999), 122–123.

To find statute information for a particular State, go to https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/



Civil Laws

Approximately 47 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands define domestic violence in their civil statutes.² These statutes typically are found in domestic relations laws but also may be found in family or social services laws, and they provide a means for victims of domestic violence to obtain civil orders of protection and other protective services.

Domestic violence can be defined as “attempting to cause or causing bodily injury to a family or household member or placing a family or household member by threat of force in fear of imminent physical harm.”³ Other terms used across the States include “abuse,” “domestic abuse,” and “family violence.” While the specific language used by States to define domestic violence varies considerably, 26 States, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands define domestic violence as the occurrence of any of the following acts:⁴

- Causing or attempting to cause physical or mental harm to a family or household member
- Placing a family or household member in fear of physical or mental harm
- Causing or attempting to cause a family or household member to engage in involuntary sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress
- Engaging in activity toward a family or household member that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested⁵

² The word “approximately” is used to stress the fact that States frequently amend their laws. This information is current only through August 2013. States that do not define domestic violence in their civil laws include Massachusetts and New Jersey. Delaware defines domestic violence only within the context of title 13, chapter 7A, Child Protection from Domestic Violence and Sex Offenders Act.

³ See, for example, Arizona Rev. Stat. § 36-3001.

⁴ Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

⁵ See, for example, Michigan Comp. Laws § 400.1501.

Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

Approximately 40 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands list in their statutes specific acts that constitute domestic violence.⁶ Most common among these are sexual assault, assault or battery, causing physical harm or serious injury, threatening or placing a victim in fear of harm, harassment, stalking, trespassing, damage to property, kidnapping, and unlawful restraint. Approximately 11 States and Puerto Rico include child abuse in their civil definitions of domestic violence.⁷ The civil definitions in Colorado include violence or threatened violence against an animal that is owned by a victim of domestic violence, and injuring or killing an animal as a means of harassing a person is considered domestic violence in Nevada.

Most States do not address the issue of domestic violence within their child abuse and neglect reporting laws. Montana includes “commission of acts of violence against another person residing in the child’s home” in its definition of psychological abuse or neglect.⁸ Arizona and West Virginia define an abused child, in part, as a child whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened by domestic violence.⁹ Approximately 23 States and Puerto Rico address the issue of children exposed to domestic violence in their homes in civil or criminal codes other than child protection laws.¹⁰

⁶ Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

⁷ Alabama, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Vermont.

⁸ See Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-102.

⁹ See Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 8-801 and West Va. Code Ann. § 49-1-3(a)(4).

¹⁰ As of August 2013, the States included Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, and Washington. For more information, including citations and summaries of laws, see the Information Gateway publication, Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence: https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/witnessdv.cfm.

Criminal Laws

Approximately 38 States, American Samoa, Guam, and Puerto Rico define domestic violence in their criminal or penal codes.¹¹ These definitions generally describe acts that can lead to arrest and misdemeanor or felony prosecution.

In criminal laws, domestic violence may be defined as “any criminal offense involving violence or physical harm or threat of violence or physical harm” committed by one family or household member against another.¹² Other terms used across the States include “domestic assault,” “domestic battery,” “domestic abuse,” or “assault against a family or household member.” The specific language and terminology used by States in criminally defining domestic violence varies considerably.

Approximately 18 States, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico list in their statutes specific acts that constitute domestic violence.¹³ Most common among these are assault or battery, sexual assault, harassment, stalking, trespassing, kidnapping, and burglary or robbery. Arizona, Utah, and American Samoa include child abuse in their criminal definitions of domestic violence. Animal cruelty is included in the criminal definitions in Arkansas and Colorado.

Persons Included in the Definitions

In all States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories, the statutes specify that only persons who have some sort of personal relationship are protected by the domestic violence laws. The most common relationships listed include spouses and former spouses, persons who are currently living together, who have previously lived together, are involved or were previously involved in a dating or intimate relationship, or who have a child in common, whether or not they have ever lived together.

¹¹ Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

¹² See, for example, Utah Ann. Code § 77-36-1.

¹³ Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Approximately 36 States, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands include children as a class of protected persons within their definitions of domestic violence.¹⁴ Most commonly, a child who is a member of the household or a child of either adult in the relationship is protected. Seven States and Puerto Rico specifically include grandchildren as protected persons.¹⁵ Four States include foster children.¹⁶ Foster parents are included as protected persons in six States.¹⁷

This publication is a product of the State Statutes Series prepared by Child Welfare Information Gateway. While every attempt has been made to be complete, additional information on these topics may be in other sections of a State's code as well as agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures.

Suggested Citation

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¹⁴ Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

¹⁵ Arizona, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

¹⁶ Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, and Texas.

¹⁷ Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Alabama**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ala. Code § 30-5-2**

In this chapter [concerning the issuance of civil protection orders], the term 'abuse' means the occurrence of conduct directed at a plaintiff as defined by this chapter, including the following:

- Arson, as defined under §§ 13A-7-40 to 13A-7-43
- Assault, as defined under §§ 13A-6-20 to 13A-6-22
- Attempt, which means the intent to commit any crime under this section or any other criminal act under the laws of this State or performing any overt act towards the commission of the offense
- Child abuse, as defined under title 26, chapter 15
- Criminal coercion, as defined under § 13A-6-25
- Criminal trespass, which means entering or remaining in the dwelling or on the premises of another after having been warned not to do so either orally or in writing by the owner of the premises or other authorized person
- Harassment, as defined under § 13A-11-8
- Kidnapping, as defined under §§ 13A-6-43 and 13A-6-44
- Menacing, as defined under § 13A-6-23
- Any other conduct directed toward a plaintiff covered by this chapter that could be punished as a criminal act under the laws of this State
- Reckless endangerment, as defined under § 13A-6-24
- Any sexual offenses, as defined under title 13A, chapter 6, article 4
- Stalking, as defined under §§ 13A-6-90 to 13A-6-94
- Theft, which means knowingly obtaining or exerting unauthorized control or obtaining control by deception over property owned by or jointly owned by the plaintiff and another
- Unlawful imprisonment, as defined under §§ 13A-6-41 and 13A-6-42

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ala. Code §§ 15-10-3; 13A-11-8**

'Domestic violence' means any incident resulting in the abuse, assault, harassment, or the attempt or threats thereof, between family, household, or dating or engagement relationship members.

'Harassment' means any offense under § 13A-11-8.

A person commits the crime of harassment if, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm another person, he or she:

- Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise touches a person or subjects him or her to physical contact
- Directs abusive or obscene language or makes an obscene gesture toward another person

For purposes of this section, harassment shall include a threat, verbal or nonverbal, made with the intent to carry out the threat that would cause a reasonable person who is the target of the threat to fear for his or her safety.

A person commits the crime of 'harassing communications' if, with intent to harass or alarm another person, he or she does any of the following:

- Communicates with a person, anonymously or otherwise, by telephone, telegraph, mail, or any other form of written or electronic communication in a manner likely to harass or cause alarm
- Makes a telephone call, whether or not a conversation ensues, with no purpose of legitimate communication
- Telephones another person and addresses to or about such other person any lewd or obscene words or language

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ala. Code §§ 15-10-3; 30-5-2**

In criminal law: 'Family, household, or dating or engagement relationship members' includes a spouse, former spouse, parent, child, or any other person related by marriage or common law marriage, a person with whom the victim has a child in common, a present or former household member, or a person who has or had a dating or engagement relationship.

In civil law: For the purposes of this chapter, the term 'plaintiff' is a person in need of protection from domestic violence who is age 18 or older, is or has been married or is emancipated, and has one of the following relationships:

- Is related by marriage to the defendant, including a common law marriage
- Had a former marriage or common law marriage with the defendant
- Has a child in common with the defendant
- Has a dating relationship with the defendant
- Is a current or former household member

A dating relationship means a recent, frequent, intimate association, primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate or sexual involvement within the last 6 months. A dating relationship does not include a casual or business relationship.

A household member is a person maintaining or having maintained a living arrangement with the defendant where he or she is in, or was engaged in, a romantic or sexual relationship.

Alaska**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Alaska Stat. § 18.66.990**

'Domestic violence' and 'crime involving domestic violence' mean one or more of the following offenses or an offense under a law or ordinance of another jurisdiction having elements similar to these offenses, or an attempt to commit the offense, by a household member against another household member:

- A crime against the person, under chapter 11.41
- Burglary, under §§ 11.46.300 to 11.46.310
- Criminal trespass, under §§ 11.46.320 to 11.46.330
- Arson or criminally negligent burning, under §§ 11.46.400 to 11.46.430
- Criminal mischief, under §§ 11.46.475 to 11.46.486
- Terrorist threatening, under §§ 11.56.807 or 11.56.810
- Violating a protective order, under § 11.56.740(a)(1)
- Harassment, under § 11.61.120(a)(2)-(4)

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Alaska Stat. § 11.81.900**

The term 'crime involving domestic violence' has the meaning given in § 18.66.990.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Alaska Stat. § 18.66.990**

'Household member' includes:

- Adults or minors who are current or former spouses
- Adults or minors who live together or who have lived together
- Adults or minors who are dating or who have dated
- Adults or minors who are engaged in or who have engaged in a sexual relationship
- Adults or minors who are related to each other up to the fourth degree of consanguinity, whether of the whole-blood or half-blood or by adoption, computed under the rules of civil law
- Adults or minors who are related or formerly related by marriage
- Persons who have a child of the relationship
- Minor children of a person in a relationship that is described above

American Samoa**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****A.S. Code § 47.0102**

'Domestic or family violence' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts by a family or household member, but does not include acts of self-defense:

- Attempting to cause or causing physical harm to another family or household member
- Placing a family or household member in fear of physical harm
- Causing a family or household member to engage involuntarily in sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**A.S. Code § 47.0401**

A 'crime involving domestic or family violence' occurs when a family or household member, as defined in § 47.0102, commits one or more of the following crimes against another family or household member:

- Arson
- Assault and harassment
- Burglary, robbery, or tampering
- Homicide offenses (murder, manslaughter, or negligent homicide)
- Kidnapping, felonious restraint, or false imprisonment
- Sex offenses (rape, sexual assault, deviate sexual assault, sexual abuse, or child molesting)
- Stealing and related offenses
- Weapon law violations (unlawful use of weapons, possessing a defaced firearm, unlawfully transferring a weapon, unlawful possession of firearms and firearm ammunition)
- Offenses against public order (disturbing public peace or disbursing private peace)
- Family offenses (bigamy, incest, abandonment of a child, criminal nonsupport, endangering the welfare of a child, or abuse of a child)
- Property damage and trespass
- Any other crimes that the attorney general deems relevant and necessary

Persons Included in the Definitions**A.S. Code § 47.0102**

'Family or household members' include:

- Adults or minors who are current or former spouses
- Adults or minors who live together or who have lived together
- Adults or minors who are dating or who have dated
- Adults or minors who are engaged in or who have engaged in a sexual relationship
- Adults or minors who are related by blood or adoption
- Adults or minors who are related or formerly related by marriage
- Persons who have a child in common
- Minor children of a person in a relationship that is described above

Arizona**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Rev. Stat. § 36-3001**

'Domestic violence' means attempting to cause or causing bodily injury to a family or household member or placing a family or household member by threat of force in fear of imminent physical harm.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws**Rev. Stat. §§ 8-801; 13-705**

In civil law: In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, 'criminal conduct allegation' means an allegation of conduct by a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child that, if true, would constitute any of the following:

- A violation of § 13-3623 involving child abuse
- A felony offense that constitutes domestic violence, as defined in § 13-3601
- Sexual abuse or assault of a minor
- Sexual conduct with a minor or molestation of a child
- Any other act of abuse that is classified as a felony
- An offense that constitutes domestic violence as defined in § 13-3601 and that involves a minor who is a victim of or was in imminent danger during the domestic violence

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws (Continued)**Rev. Stat. §§ 8-801; 13-705**

In criminal law: 'Dangerous crime against children' means any of the following that is committed against a minor who is under age 15:

- Second-degree murder
- Aggravated assault resulting in serious physical injury or involving the discharge, use, or threatening exhibition of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument
- Sexual assault
- Molestation of a child
- Sexual conduct with a minor
- Sexual exploitation or commercial sexual exploitation of a minor
- Child abuse, as described in § 13-3623(A)(1)
- Kidnapping
- Sexual abuse
- Taking or luring a child for the purpose of prostitution or child prostitution
- Involving or using minors in drug offenses
- Continuous sexual abuse of a child
- Attempted first-degree murder
- Sex trafficking
- Manufacturing methamphetamine under circumstances that cause physical injury to a minor
- Bestiality
- Luring a minor for sexual exploitation
- Aggravated luring a minor for sexual exploitation
- Unlawful age misrepresentation

Defined in Criminal Laws**Rev. Stat. § 13-3601**

'Domestic violence' means any act that constitutes one of the following offenses:

- A dangerous crime against children
- Homicide, murder, or manslaughter
- Endangerment
- A threatening or intimidating act
- Assault
- Custodial interference
- Unlawful imprisonment or kidnapping
- Sexual assault
- Criminal trespass
- Criminal damage
- Interfering with judicial proceedings
- Disorderly conduct
- Cruelty to animals
- Intentionally preventing the use of a telephone by another person during an emergency
- Use of an electronic communication to terrify, intimidate, threaten, harass, annoy, or offend
- Harassment
- Aggravated harassment
- Stalking

Defined in Criminal Laws (Continued)**Rev. Stat. § 13-3601**

- Aggravated domestic violence
- Surreptitious photographing, videotaping, or filming
- Child or vulnerable adult abuse
- Emotional abuse

Persons Included in the Definitions**Rev. Stat. §§ 13-3601; 36-3001**

In criminal law: An act listed above is considered domestic violence if any of the following applies:

- The relationship between the victim and the defendant is one of marriage or former marriage or of persons residing or having resided in the same household.
- The victim and the defendant have a child in common.
- The victim or the defendant is pregnant by the other party.
- The victim is related to the defendant or the defendant's spouse by blood or court order as a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, or sister, or by marriage as a parent-in-law, grandparent-in-law, stepparent, stepgrandparent, stepchild, stepgrandchild, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law.
- The victim is a child who resides or has resided in the same household as the defendant and is related by blood to a former spouse of the defendant or to a person who resides or who has resided in the same household as the defendant.
- The relationship between the victim and the defendant is currently or was previously a romantic or sexual relationship. The following factors may be considered in determining whether the relationship between the victim and the defendant is currently or was previously a romantic or sexual relationship:
 - » The type of relationship
 - » The length of the relationship
 - » The frequency of the interaction between the victim and the defendant
 - » If the relationship has terminated, the length of time since the termination

In civil law: 'Family or household member' means a spouse, a former spouse, a parent, a child, or other adult person related by consanguinity or affinity who is residing or has resided in the household, or has a child or children in common with the person committing the domestic violence, and dependents of such persons.

Arkansas**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code § 9-15-103**

'Domestic abuse' means:

- Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault between family or household members
- Any sexual conduct between family or household members, whether minors or adults, that constitutes a crime under the laws of this State

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Code §§ 5-26-303 through 5-26-309**

'First-degree domestic battering' means:

- Causing serious physical injury to a family member with a deadly weapon
- Seriously and permanently disfiguring a family member or destroying, amputating, or permanently disabling a part of his or her body
- Causing serious physical injury under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life
- Causing serious physical injury to a family member who is age 60 or older or age 12 or younger
- Committing two or more acts of domestic battering within the past 10 years

'Second-degree domestic battering' means:

- Causing serious physical injury to a family member
- Causing or recklessly causing physical injury with a deadly weapon
- Causing physical injury to a family member who is age 60 or older or age 12 or younger

'Third-degree domestic battering' means:

- Causing or recklessly causing physical injury to a family member
- Negligently causing physical injury to a family member with a deadly weapon
- Causing stupor, unconsciousness, or physical or mental impairment to a family member by administering any drug or other substance

A person commits 'aggravated assault on a family or household member' if, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life, the person purposely:

- Engages in conduct that creates a substantial danger of death or serious physical injury
- Displays a firearm in a manner that creates a substantial danger of death or serious physical injury
- Impedes the breathing of a family or household member

A person commits 'first-degree assault on a family or household member' if the person recklessly engages in conduct that creates a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury.

A person commits 'second-degree assault on a family or household member' if the person recklessly engages in conduct that creates a substantial risk of physical injury.

A person commits 'third-degree assault on a family or household member' if the person purposely creates apprehension of imminent physical injury.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code §§ 9-15-103; 5-26-302**

In civil law: 'Family or household members' means spouses, former spouses, parents, persons related by blood within the fourth degree of consanguinity, any children residing in the household, persons who presently or in the past have resided together or cohabited, persons who have or have had a child in common, and persons who are presently or in the past have been in a dating relationship together.

In criminal law: 'Family or household member' means:

- A spouse or former spouse
- A parent
- A child, including any minor residing in the household
- Persons related by blood within the fourth degree of consanguinity
- Persons who presently or in the past have resided or cohabited together
- Persons who have or have had a child in common
- Persons who are presently or in the past have been in a dating relationship together

The degree of consanguinity is computed pursuant to § 28-9-212.

California**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Fam. Code §§ 6203; 6320**

For purposes of this act, 'abuse' means any of the following:

- Intentionally or recklessly causing or attempting to cause bodily injury
- Sexual assault
- Placing a person in reasonable apprehension of imminent serious bodily injury to that person or to another
- Engaging in any behavior that has been or could be enjoined pursuant to § 6320

The court may issue an ex parte order enjoining a party from molesting; attacking; striking; stalking; threatening; sexually assaulting; battering; harassing; telephoning, including, but not limited to, making annoying telephone calls as described in § 653m of the Penal Code; destroying personal property; contacting, either directly or indirectly, by mail or otherwise; coming within a specified distance of; or disturbing the peace of the other party; and, in the discretion of the court, on a showing of good cause, of other named family or household members.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Penal Code § 273.5**

Any person who willfully inflicts corporal injury resulting in a traumatic condition upon a person who is his or her spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, former cohabitant, or the mother or father of his or her child is guilty of a felony.

As used in this section, the term 'traumatic condition' means a condition of the body, such as a wound or external or internal injury, including, but not limited to, injury as a result of strangulation or suffocation, whether of a minor or serious nature, caused by a physical force. For purposes of this section, 'strangulation' and 'suffocation' include impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of a person by applying pressure on the throat or neck.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Fam. Code § 6211**

In civil law: 'Domestic violence' is abuse perpetrated against any of the following persons:

- A spouse or former spouse
- A cohabitant or former cohabitant, as defined in § 6209
- A person with whom the respondent is having or has had a dating or engagement relationship
- A person with whom the respondent has had a child, where the presumption applies that the male parent is the father of the child of the female parent under the Uniform Parentage Act
- A child of a party or a child who is the subject of an action under the Uniform Parentage Act, where the presumption applies that the male parent is the father of the child to be protected
- Any other person related by consanguinity or affinity within the second degree

Colorado**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Rev. Stat. § 13-14-101**

'Contact' means any interaction or communication with another person, directly or indirectly through a third party, and electronic and digital forms of communication, including, but not limited to, communication through social media.

'Domestic abuse' means any act, attempted act, or threatened act of violence, stalking, harassment, or coercion that is committed by any person against another person to whom the actor is currently or was formerly related, or with whom the actor is living or has lived in the same domicile, or with whom the actor is involved or has been involved in an intimate relationship. A sexual relationship may be an indicator of an intimate relationship but is never a necessary condition for finding an intimate relationship.

The term 'coercion' includes compelling a person by force, threat of force, or intimidation to engage in conduct from which the person has the right or privilege to abstain, or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right or privilege to engage.

'Domestic abuse' also may include any act, attempted act, or threatened act of violence against:

- The minor children of either of the parties
- An animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by either of the parties or by a minor child of either of the parties when the threat, act, or attempted act is intended to coerce, control, punish, intimidate, or exact revenge upon either of the parties or a minor child of either of the parties

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Rev. Stat. § 18-6-800.3**

'Domestic violence' means an act or threatened act of violence upon a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship. 'Domestic violence' also includes any other crime against a person, or against property, including an animal, or any municipal ordinance violation against a person or against property, including an animal, when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Rev. Stat. § 18-6-800.3**

'Intimate relationship' means a relationship between spouses, former spouses, past or present unmarried couples, or persons who are both the parents of the same child regardless of whether the persons have been married or have lived together at any time.

Connecticut**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Gen. Stat. §§ 46b-38a; 46b-38h**

'Family violence' means an incident resulting in physical harm, bodily injury, or assault, or an act of threatened violence that constitutes fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault between family or household members. Verbal abuse or argument shall not constitute family violence unless there is present danger and the likelihood that physical violence will occur.

'Family violence crime' means a crime as defined in § 53a-24, other than a delinquent act, which, in addition to its other elements, contains as an element an act of family violence to a family or household member. 'Family violence crime' does not include acts by parents or guardians disciplining minor children, unless such acts constitute abuse.

If any person is convicted of a violation of the crimes listed below against a family or household member, as defined in § 46b-38a, or a person in a dating relationship, the court shall include a designation that such conviction involved domestic violence on the court record for the purposes of criminal history record information. The crimes include:

- Assault
- Assault on an elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person, or a person with an intellectual disability
- Assault on a pregnant woman resulting in a miscarriage
- Assault with a firearm
- Threatening
- Reckless endangerment
- Strangulation
- Sexual assault
- Aggravated sexual assault
- Sexual assault in a spousal or cohabiting relationship
- Aggravated sexual assault of a minor
- Sexual assault with a firearm
- Stalking
- Harassment
- Criminal violation of a protective order, a standing criminal restraining order, or a restraining order

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Gen. Stat. § 46b-38a**

'Family or household member' means:

- Spouses or former spouses
- Parents and their children
- Persons related by blood or marriage
- Persons, other than those persons listed above, presently residing together or who have resided together
- Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they are or have been married or have lived together at any time
- Persons in, or who have recently been in, a dating relationship

Delaware**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws**

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws**Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 703A**

'Domestic violence' includes, but is not limited to, physical or sexual abuse or threats of physical or sexual abuse and any other offense against the person.

'Domestic violence' does not include reasonable acts of self-defense by one parent for self-protection or in order to protect the child from abuse or threats of abuse by the other parent or other adult living in the child's home.

'Perpetrator of domestic violence' means any individual who has been convicted of committing any of the following criminal offenses in the State, or any comparable offense in another jurisdiction, against the child at issue in a custody or visitation proceeding, against the other parent of the child, or against any other adult or minor child living in the home:

- Any felony-level offense
- Assault in the third degree
- Reckless endangering in the second degree
- Reckless burning or exploding
- Unlawful imprisonment in the second degree
- Unlawful sexual contact in the third degree
- Criminal contempt of a family court protective order based on an assault or other physical abuse, threat of assault or other physical abuse, or any other actions placing the petitioner in immediate risk or fear of bodily harm

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 703A**

The act of domestic violence may be committed by one parent against the other parent, against any child living in either parent's home, or against any other adult living in the child's home.

District of Columbia**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code § 16-1001**

The term 'interpersonal violence' means an act punishable as a criminal offense that is committed or threatened to be committed by an offender upon a person with whom the offender has a relationship.

The term 'intimate partner violence' means an act punishable as a criminal offense that is committed or threatened to be committed by an offender upon a person with whom the offender has a personal relationship.

The term 'intrafamily offense' means interpersonal, intimate partner, or intrafamily violence.

The term 'intrafamily violence' means an act punishable as a criminal offense that is committed or threatened to be committed by an offender upon a person to whom the offender is related.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code § 16-1001**

For interpersonal violence, the term applies when the victim is a person:

- With whom the offender shares or has shared a mutual residence
- Who is or was married to; in a domestic partnership with; divorced or separated from; or in a romantic, dating, or sexual relationship with the offender

For intimate partner violence, the term applies when the victim is a person:

- To whom the offender is or was married
- With whom the offender is or was in a domestic partnership
- With whom the offender is or was in a romantic, dating, or sexual relationship

For intrafamily violence, the term applies when the victim is related to the offender by blood, adoption, legal custody, marriage, or domestic partnership, or with whom the offender has a child in common.

Florida**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. § 741.28**

'Domestic violence' means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. § 741.28**

'Family or household member' means:

- Spouses or former spouses
- Persons related by blood or marriage
- Persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family
- Persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married

With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

Georgia**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code § 19-13-10**

As used in this article, the term 'family violence' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between any of the individuals listed below:

- Any felony
- Commission of offenses of battery, simple battery, simple assault, assault, stalking, criminal damage to property, unlawful restraint, or criminal trespass

The term 'family violence' shall not be deemed to include reasonable discipline administered by a parent to a child in the form of corporal punishment, restraint, or detention.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code § 19-13-10**

Individuals subject to the provisions of this section include:

- Past or present spouses
 - Persons who are parents of the same child
 - Parents and children
 - Stepparents and stepchildren
 - Foster parents and foster children
 - Other persons living or formerly living in the same household
-

Guam**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code Tit. 19, § 14101**

Terms used in this chapter shall have the same meaning as set forth in title 9, chapter 30.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Code Tit. 9, § 30.10**

'Family violence' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts by a family or household member:

- Attempting to cause or causing bodily injury to another family or household member
- Placing a family or household member in fear of bodily injury

'Family violence' does not include acts of self-defense or acts in defense of others.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code Tit. 9, § 30.10**

'Family or household members' include:

- Adults or minors who are current or former spouses
- Adults or minors who live together or who have lived together
- Adults or minors who are dating or who have dated
- Adults or minors who are engaged in or who have engaged in a sexual relationship
- Adults or minors who are related by blood or adoption to the fourth degree of affinity
- Adults or minors who are related or formerly related by marriage
- Persons who have a child in common
- Minor children of a person in a relationship described above

Hawaii

Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws

Rev. Stat. § 586-1

'Domestic abuse' means:

- Physical harm, bodily injury, or assault; the threat of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault; extreme psychological abuse; or malicious property damage between family or household members
- Any act that would constitute an offense under § 709-906 (abuse of family or household members), or under part V (sexual offenses), or VI (child abuse) of chapter 707 committed against a minor family or household member by an adult family or household member

'Extreme psychological abuse' means an intentional or knowing course of conduct directed at an individual that seriously alarms or disturbs consistently or continually bothers the individual, and that serves no legitimate purpose; provided that such course of conduct would cause a reasonable person to suffer extreme emotional distress.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

Rev. Stat. § 709-906

It shall be unlawful for any person, singly or in concert, to physically abuse a family or household member or to refuse compliance with the lawful order of a police officer.

Persons Included in the Definitions

Rev. Stat. §§ 586-1; 709-906

In civil law: 'Family or household member' means spouses or reciprocal beneficiaries, former spouses or former reciprocal beneficiaries, persons who have a child in common, parents, children, persons related by consanguinity, persons jointly residing or formerly residing in the same dwelling unit, and persons who have or have had a dating relationship.

'Dating relationship' means a romantic, courtship, or engagement relationship, which is often, but not necessarily, characterized by actions of an intimate or sexual nature, but does not include a casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context.

In criminal law: 'Family or household member' means spouses or reciprocal beneficiaries, former spouses or former reciprocal beneficiaries, persons in a dating relationship as defined under § 586-1, persons who have a child in common, parents, children, persons related by consanguinity, and persons jointly residing or formerly residing in the same dwelling unit.

Idaho

Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws

Ann. Stat. § 39-6303

'Domestic violence' means the physical injury, sexual abuse, or forced imprisonment or threat thereof of a family or household member, or of a minor child by a person with whom the minor child has had or is having a dating relationship, or of an adult by a person with whom the adult has had or is having a dating relationship.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. § 18-918**

'Traumatic injury' means a condition of the body, such as a wound or external or internal injury, whether of a minor or serious nature, caused by physical force.

Any household member who, in committing a battery as defined in § 18-903, inflicts a traumatic injury upon any other household member is guilty of a felony.

A household member who commits an assault, as defined in § 18-901, against another household member that does not result in traumatic injury is guilty of a misdemeanor domestic assault.

A household member who commits a battery, as defined in § 18-903, against another household member that does not result in traumatic injury is guilty of a misdemeanor domestic battery.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. §§ 39-6303; 18-918**

In civil law: 'Family member' means spouses, former spouses, and persons related by blood, adoption, or marriage.

'Household member' means persons who reside or have resided together and persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time.

'Dating relationship,' for the purposes of this chapter, is defined as a social relationship of a romantic nature. Factors that the court may consider in making this determination include:

- The nature of the relationship
- The length of time the relationship has existed
- The frequency of interaction between the parties
- The time since termination of the relationship, if applicable

In criminal law: 'Household member' means a person who is a spouse, former spouse, or a person who has a child in common regardless of whether they have been married, or a person with whom a person is cohabiting, whether or not they have married or have held themselves out to be husband or wife.

Illinois**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Cons. Stat. Ch. 750, § 60/103**

'Abuse' means physical abuse, harassment, intimidation of a dependent, interference with personal liberty, or willful deprivation but does not include reasonable direction of a minor child by a parent or person in loco parentis.

'Domestic violence' means abuse, as above.

'Harassment' means knowing conduct that is not necessary to accomplish a purpose that is reasonable under the circumstances, would cause a reasonable person emotional distress, and does cause emotional distress to the petitioner. Unless the presumption is rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence, the following types of conduct shall be presumed to cause emotional distress:

- Creating a disturbance at the petitioner's place of employment or school
- Repeatedly telephoning the petitioner's place of employment, home, or residence
- Repeatedly following the petitioner about in a public place or places
- Repeatedly keeping the petitioner under surveillance by remaining present outside his or her home, school, place of employment, vehicle, or other place occupied by the petitioner or by peering in the petitioner's windows
- Improperly concealing a minor child from the petitioner, repeatedly threatening to improperly remove a minor child of the petitioner, repeatedly threatening to conceal a minor child from the petitioner, or making a single such threat following an actual or attempted improper removal or concealment, unless respondent was fleeing an incident or pattern of domestic violence
- Threatening physical force, confinement, or restraint on one or more occasions

Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws (Continued)**Cons. Stat. Ch. 750, § 60/103**

'Interference with personal liberty' means committing or threatening physical abuse, harassment, intimidation, or willful deprivation so as to compel another to engage in conduct from which he or she has a right to abstain or to refrain from conduct in which he or she has a right to engage.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Cons. Stat. Ch. 720, §§ 5/12-3.2 & 3.3; Ch. 725, § 5/112A-3**

A person commits 'domestic battery' if he or she intentionally or knowingly without legal justification by any means:

- Causes bodily harm to any family or household member
- Makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with any family or household member

A person who, in committing a domestic battery, intentionally or knowingly causes great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement commits aggravated domestic battery. A person who, in committing a domestic battery, strangles another individual commits aggravated domestic battery. For the purposes of this subsection, 'strangle' means intentionally impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of an individual by applying pressure on the throat or neck of that individual or by blocking the nose or mouth of that individual.

'Abuse,' 'domestic violence,' and 'harassment' have the same meaning as defined in chapter 750, § 60/103, above.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Cons. Stat. Ch. 750, § 60/103; Ch. 725, § 5/112A-3**

In civil and criminal law: 'Family or household members' include:

- Spouses, former spouses, parents, children, stepchildren, and other persons related by blood or by present or prior marriage
- Persons who share or formerly shared a common dwelling
- Persons who have or allegedly have a child in common
- Persons who share or allegedly share a blood relationship through a child
- Persons who have or have had a dating or engagement relationship
- Persons with disabilities and their personal assistants
- Caregivers, as defined in chapter 720, § 5/12-21 or § 5/12-4.4a

For purposes of this paragraph, neither a casual acquaintanceship nor ordinary fraternization between two individuals in business or social contexts shall be deemed to constitute a dating relationship.

Indiana**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. §§ 31-9-2-29.5; 31-9-2-42**

'Crime involving domestic or family violence' means a crime that occurs when a family or household member commits, attempts to commit, or conspires to commit any of the following against another family or household member:

- A homicide offense
- A battery offense
- Kidnapping or confinement
- A sex offense
- Robbery
- Arson or mischief
- Burglary or trespass
- Disorderly conduct
- Intimidation or harassment
- Voyeurism
- Stalking
- An offense against the family under §§ 35-46-1-2 through 35-46-1-8, 35-46-1-12, or 35-46-1-15.1
- Human and sexual trafficking crimes
- A crime involving animal cruelty and a family or household member

'Domestic or family violence' means, except for an act of self-defense, the occurrence of one or more of the following acts committed by a family or household member:

- Attempting to cause, threatening to cause, or causing physical harm to another family or household member without legal justification
- Placing a family or household member in fear of physical harm without legal justification
- Causing a family or household member to involuntarily engage in sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress
- Beating, torturing, mutilating, or killing an animal without justification with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family or household member

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. § 35-31.5-2-78**

'Crime of domestic violence' means an offense or the attempt to commit an offense that:

- Includes the use of physical force or threatened use of a deadly weapon
- Is committed against a:
 - » Current or former spouse, parent, or guardian of the defendant
 - » Person with whom the defendant has a child in common
 - » Person who was cohabiting with or had cohabited with the defendant as a spouse, parent, or guardian
 - » Person who was or had been similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the defendant

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code § 31-9-2-44.5**

In civil law: An individual is a 'family or household member' of another person if the individual:

- Is a current or former spouse of the other person
- Is dating or has dated the other person
- Is engaged or was engaged in a sexual relationship with the other person
- Is related by blood or adoption to the other person
- Is or was related by marriage to the other person
- Has or previously had an established legal relationship:
 - » As a guardian of the other person
 - » As a ward of the other person
 - » As a custodian of the other person
 - » As a foster parent of the other person
 - » In a capacity with respect to the other person similar to those listed above
- Has a child in common with the other person

An individual is a 'family or household member' of both persons listed above if the individual is a minor child of one of the persons.

Iowa**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. § 236.2**

'Domestic abuse' means committing assault, as defined in § 708.1, under any of the following circumstances:

- The assault is between family or household members who resided together at the time of the assault.
- The assault is between separated spouses or persons divorced from each other and not residing together at the time of the assault.
- The assault is between persons who are parents of the same minor child regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time.
- The assault is between persons who have been family or household members residing together within the past year and are not residing together at the time of the assault.
- The assault is between persons who are in an intimate relationship or have been in an intimate relationship and have had contact within the past year of the assault.

In determining whether persons are or have been in an intimate relationship, the court may consider the following nonexclusive list of factors:

- The duration of the relationship
- The frequency of interaction
- Whether the relationship has been terminated
- The nature of the relationship, characterized by either party's expectation of sexual or romantic involvement

A person may be involved in an intimate relationship with more than one person at a time.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. § 708.2A**

'Domestic abuse assault' means an assault, as defined in § 708.1, that is domestic abuse, as defined in § 236.2.

On a first offense of domestic abuse assault, the person commits:

- A simple misdemeanor for a domestic abuse assault, except as otherwise provided
- A serious misdemeanor if the domestic abuse assault causes bodily injury or mental illness
- An aggravated misdemeanor if:
 - » The domestic abuse assault is committed with the intent to inflict a serious injury upon another.
 - » The person uses or displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the assault.
 - » The domestic abuse assault is committed by knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of another by applying pressure to the throat or neck of the other person or by obstructing the nose or mouth of the other person.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. § 236.2**

'Family or household members' means spouses, persons cohabiting, parents, or other persons related by consanguinity or affinity. 'Family or household members' does not include children under age 18 of persons listed.

'Intimate relationship' means a significant romantic involvement that need not include sexual involvement. An intimate relationship does not include casual social relationships or associations in a business or professional capacity.

Kansas**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. § 60-3102**

'Abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between intimate partners or household members:

- Intentionally attempting to cause bodily injury, or intentionally or recklessly causing bodily injury
- Intentionally placing, by physical threat, another in fear of imminent bodily injury
- Engaging in any of the following acts with a minor under age 16 who is not the spouse of the offender:
 - » The act of sexual intercourse
 - » Any lewd fondling or touching of the person of either the minor or the offender, done or submitted to with the intent to arouse or to satisfy the sexual desires of either the minor or the offender, or both

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. § 21-5414**

'Domestic battery' is:

- Recklessly causing bodily harm by a family or household member against a family or household member
- Knowingly causing physical contact with a family or household member by a family or household member when done in a rude, insulting, or angry manner

Persons Included in the Definition**Ann. Stat. §§ 21-5414; 60-3102**

In criminal law: 'Family or household member' means persons age 18 or older who are:

- Spouses or former spouses
- Parents or stepparents and children or stepchildren
- Persons who are residing together or who have resided together in the past
- Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time

'Family or household member' also includes a man and woman if the woman is pregnant and the man is alleged to be the father regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time.

In civil law: 'Intimate partners or household members' means persons who are or have been in a dating relationship, persons who reside together or who have formerly resided together, or persons who have had a child in common.

'Dating relationship' means a social relationship of a romantic nature. A dating relationship shall be presumed if a plaintiff verifies that such relationship exists. In addition to any other factors the court deems relevant, the court shall consider the following factors in making a determination of whether a relationship exists or existed:

- The nature of the relationship
- The length of time the relationship existed
- The frequency of interaction between the parties
- The time since termination of the relationship, if applicable

Kentucky**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. § 403.720**

'Domestic violence and abuse' means physical injury, serious physical injury, sexual abuse, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical injury, serious physical injury, sexual abuse, or assault between family members or members of an unmarried couple.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. § 508.032**

If a person commits a third or subsequent offense of assault in the fourth degree under § 508.030 within 5 years, and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim in each of the offenses meets the definition of family member or member of an unmarried couple, as defined in § 403.720, then the person may be convicted of a Class D felony.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. § 403.720**

'Family member' means a spouse, including a former spouse, a grandparent, a parent, a child, a stepchild, or any other person living in the same household as a child if the child is the alleged victim.

'Member of an unmarried couple' means each member of an unmarried couple that allegedly has a child in common, any children of that couple, or members of an unmarried couple who are living together or have formerly lived together.

Louisiana**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Rev. Stat. § 9:362; Ch. Code Art. 1565**

'Family violence' includes, but is not limited to, physical or sexual abuse and any offense against the person, as defined in the Criminal Code of Louisiana, except negligent injuring and defamation, committed by one parent against the other parent or against any of the children. Family violence does not include reasonable acts of self-defense utilized by one parent to protect himself or herself or a child in the family from the family violence of the other parent.

'Domestic abuse' includes, but is not limited to, physical or sexual abuse and any offense against the person as defined in chapter 1 of title 14 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, except negligent injury and defamation, committed by one family or household member against another.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Rev. Stat. §§ 14:35.3; 14:2(B)**

'Domestic abuse battery' is the intentional use of force or violence committed by one household member upon the person of another household member.

Any crime of violence, as defined in Rev. Stat. § 14:2(B), against a person committed by one household member against another household member shall be designated as an act of domestic violence.

The term 'crime of violence' means an offense that has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another and that, by its very nature, involves a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may be used in the course of committing the offense or an offense that involves the possession or use of a dangerous weapon. 'Crimes of violence' include:

- Solicitation for murder
- Murder or manslaughter
- Battery, aggravated assault, or aggravated assault with a firearm
- Rape or sexual battery
- Intentional exposure to the AIDS virus
- Kidnapping
- Aggravated arson
- Aggravated criminal damage to property
- Burglary or armed robbery
- Assault by driveby shooting
- Aggravated crime against nature or incest
- Illegal use of weapons or dangerous instrumentalities
- Terrorism
- Stalking
- Second degree cruelty to juveniles
- Trafficking of children for sexual purposes
- Human trafficking
- Home invasion

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ch. Code Art. 1565; Rev. Stat. § 14:35.3**

In civil law: ‘Family or household member’ means spouses, former spouses, parents and children, stepparents, stepchildren, foster parents, foster children, and any person living in the same residence with the defendant as a spouse, whether married or not, if a child or children also live in the residence, who are seeking protection under this chapter.

In criminal law: ‘Household member’ means:

- Any person of the opposite sex presently living in the same residence or living in the same residence within 5 years of the occurrence of the domestic abuse battery with the defendant as a spouse, whether married or not
- Any minor child presently living in the same residence or living in the same residence within 5 years immediately prior to the occurrence of domestic abuse battery
- Any child of the offender regardless of where the child resides

Maine**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Rev. Stat. Tit. 19-A, § 4002**

‘Abuse’ means the occurrence of the following acts between family or household members or dating partners or by a family or household member or dating partner upon a minor child of a family or household member or dating partner:

- Attempting to cause or causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact, including sexual assaults
- Attempting to place or placing another in fear of bodily injury through any course of conduct, including, but not limited to, threatening, harassing, or tormenting behavior
- Compelling a person by force, threat of force, or intimidation to engage in conduct from which the person has a right or privilege to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage
- Knowingly restricting substantially the movements of another person without that person’s consent or other lawful authority by:
 - » Removing that person from that person’s residence, place of business, or school
 - » Moving that person a substantial distance from the vicinity where that person was found
 - » Confining that person for a substantial period either in the place where the restriction commences or in a place to which that person has been moved
 - » Communicating to a person a threat to commit, or to cause to be committed, a crime of violence dangerous to human life against the person to whom the communication is made or another, and the natural and probable consequence of the threat, whether or not that consequence in fact occurs, is to place the person to whom the threat is communicated or the person against whom the threat is made in reasonable fear that the crime will be committed
 - » Repeatedly and without reasonable cause following the plaintiff or being at or in the vicinity of the plaintiff’s home, school, business, or place of employment

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Rev. Stat. Tit. 17-A, §§ 207-A; 209-A; 210-B; 210-C; 211-A**

A person is guilty of ‘domestic violence assault’ if the person commits an act of assault, and the victim is a family or household member as defined in title 19-A, § 4002.

A person is guilty of ‘domestic violence criminal threatening’ if the person commits an act of criminal threatening, and the victim is a family or household member.

Defined in Criminal Laws (Continued)**Rev. Stat. Tit. 17-A, §§ 207-A; 209-A; 210-B; 210-C; 211-A**

A person is guilty of 'domestic violence terrorizing' if the person commits an act of terrorizing, and the victim is a family or household member.

A person is guilty of 'domestic violence stalking' if the person commits an act of stalking, and the victim is a family or household member.

A person is guilty of 'domestic violence reckless conduct' if the person commits an act of reckless conduct, and the victim is a family or household member.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Rev. Stat. Tit. 19-A, § 4002**

'Family or household members' means:

- Spouses or domestic partners and former spouses or former domestic partners
- Individuals presently or formerly living together as spouses
- Natural parents of the same child
- Adult household members related by consanguinity or affinity
- Minor children of a household member when the defendant is an adult household member

For the purposes of title 15, § 1023(4)(B-1); this chapter; and title 17-A, §§ 15, 207-A, 209-A, 210-B, 210-C, 211-A, 1201, 1202, and 1253 only, the term includes individuals presently or formerly living together and individuals who are or were sexual partners. Holding oneself out to be a spouse is not necessary to constitute 'living as spouses.'

For purposes of this subsection, 'domestic partners' means two unmarried adults who are domiciled together under long-term arrangements that evidence a commitment to remain responsible indefinitely for each other's welfare.

'Dating partners' means individuals currently or formerly involved in dating each other, whether or not the individuals are or were sexual partners.

Maryland**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Fam. Law § 4-501**

'Abuse' means any of the following acts:

- An act that causes serious bodily harm
- An act that places a person eligible for relief in fear of imminent serious bodily harm
- Assault in any degree
- Rape or sexual offense under §§ 3-303 through 3-308 of the Criminal Law Article, or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree
- False imprisonment
- Stalking under § 3-802 of the Criminal Law Article

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws**Fam. Law § 4-501**

If the person for whom relief [from domestic violence] is sought is a child, 'abuse' also may include abuse of a child, as defined in title 5, subtitle 7 of this article. Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to prohibit reasonable punishment, including reasonable corporal punishment, in light of the age and condition of the child, from being performed by a parent or stepparent of the child.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Fam. Law §§ 4-501; 4-513**

'Person eligible for relief' includes:

- The current or former spouse of the respondent
- A cohabitant of the respondent
- A person related to the respondent by blood, marriage, or adoption
- A parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild of the respondent or the person eligible for relief who resides or resided with the respondent or person eligible for relief for at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition
- A vulnerable adult
- An individual who has a child in common with the respondent

'Cohabitant' means a person who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent and resided with the respondent in the home for a period of at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition.

'Victim of domestic violence' means an individual who has received deliberate, severe, and demonstrable physical injury, or is in fear of imminent deliberate, severe, and demonstrable physical injury from a current or former spouse or a current or former cohabitant.

Massachusetts**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws**

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Laws Ch. 209A, § 1**

'Abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members:

- Attempting to cause or causing physical harm
- Placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm
- Causing another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat, or duress

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Laws Ch. 209A, § 1**

'Family or household members' includes persons who:

- Are or were married to one another
- Are or were residing together in the same household
- Are or were related by blood or marriage
- Have a child in common regardless of whether they have ever married or lived together
- Are or have been in a substantive dating or engagement relationship

A substantive dating relationship shall be adjudged by district, probate, or Boston municipal courts in consideration of the following factors:

- The length of time of the relationship
- The type of relationship
- The frequency of interaction between the parties
- If the relationship has been terminated by either person, the length of time elapsed since the termination of the relationship

Michigan**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Comp. Laws § 400.1501**

'Domestic violence' means the occurrence of any of the following acts by a person that is not an act of self-defense:

- Causing or attempting to cause physical or mental harm to a family or household member
- Placing a family or household member in fear of physical or mental harm
- Causing or attempting to cause a family or household member to engage in involuntary sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress
- Engaging in activity toward a family or household member that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Comp. Laws §§ 750.81; 750.81a**

An individual who assaults or assaults and batters his or her spouse or former spouse, an individual with whom he or she has or has had a dating relationship, an individual with whom he or she has had a child in common, or a resident or former resident of his or her household is guilty of a misdemeanor.

An individual who commits an assault or an assault and battery and who has two or more previous convictions for assaulting or assaulting and battering his or her spouse or former spouse, an individual with whom he or she has or has had a dating relationship, an individual with whom he or she has had a child in common, or a resident or former resident of his or her household is guilty of a felony.

An individual who assaults his or her spouse or former spouse, an individual with whom he or she has or has had a dating relationship, an individual with whom he or she has had a child in common, or a resident or former resident of the same household without a weapon and inflicts serious or aggravated injury upon that individual without intending to commit murder or to inflict great bodily harm less than murder is guilty of a misdemeanor.

An individual who commits an aggravated assault and battery and who has one or more previous convictions for assaulting or assaulting and battering his or her spouse or former spouse, an individual with whom he or she has or has had a dating relationship, an individual with whom he or she has had a child in common, or a resident or former resident of the same household is guilty of a felony.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Comp. Laws § 400.1501**

'Family or household member' includes any of the following:

- A spouse or former spouse
- An individual with whom the person resides or has resided
- An individual with whom the person has or had a dating relationship
- An individual with whom the person is or has engaged in a sexual relationship
- An individual to whom the person is related or was formerly related by marriage
- An individual with whom the person has a child in common
- The minor child of an individual described above

'Dating relationship' means frequent, intimate associations primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional involvement. 'Dating relationship' does not include a casual relationship or an ordinary fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context.

Minnesota**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. § 518B.01, subd. 2**

'Domestic abuse' means the following if committed against a family or household member by a family or household member:

- Physical harm, bodily injury, or assault
- The infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault
- Terroristic threats, as defined by § 609.713, subdivision 1
- Criminal sexual conduct, as defined by §§ 609.342, 609.343, 609.344, 609.345, or 609.3451
- Interference with an emergency call, as defined by § 609.78, subdivision 2

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. § 609.2242**

'Domestic assault' occurs when a person commits an assault, defined as any of the acts listed below, against a family or household member, as defined in § 518B.01, subdivision 2. A domestic assault occurs when the person:

- Commits an act with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death
- Intentionally inflicts or attempts to inflict bodily harm upon another

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. § 518B.01, subd. 2**

'Family or household members' means:

- Spouses and former spouses
- Parents and children
- Persons related by blood
- Persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past
- Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time
- A man and woman if the woman is pregnant and the man is alleged to be the father regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time
- Persons involved in a significant romantic or sexual relationship

In determining whether persons are or have been involved in a significant romantic or sexual relationship, the court shall consider the length of time of the relationship; type of relationship; frequency of interaction between the parties; and, if the relationship has terminated, length of time since the termination.

Mississippi**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code § 93-21-3**

'Abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between any individuals listed below:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury or serious bodily injury with or without a deadly weapon
- Placing, by physical menace or threat, another in fear of imminent serious bodily injury
- Criminal sexual conduct committed against a minor, as defined by § 97-5-23
- Stalking, as defined by § 97-3-107
- Cyberstalking, as defined by § 97-45-15
- Sexual offenses, as defined by §§ 97-3-65 or 97-3-95

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Code § 97-3-7**

A person is guilty of simple domestic violence who:

- Attempts to cause or purposely, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to another
- Negligently causes bodily injury to another with a deadly weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm
- Attempts by physical menace to put another in fear of imminent serious bodily harm when the offense is committed against a current or former spouse of the defendant or a child of that person; a person living as a spouse or who formerly lived as a spouse with the defendant or a child of that person; a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, or someone similarly situated to the defendant; a person who has a current or former dating relationship with the defendant; or a person with whom the defendant has had a biological or legally adopted child

A person is guilty of aggravated domestic violence who:

- Attempts to cause serious bodily injury to another or causes such an injury purposely, knowingly, or recklessly under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life
- Attempts to cause or purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to another with a deadly weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm
- Strangles or attempts to strangle a current or former spouse of the defendant or a child of that person; a person living as a spouse or who formerly lived as a spouse with the defendant or a child of that person; a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, or someone similarly situated to the defendant; a person who has a current or former dating relationship with the defendant; or a person with whom the defendant has had a biological or legally adopted child

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code § 93-21-3**

The following individuals are included:

- Spouses, former spouses, or persons living as spouses or who formerly lived as spouses
- Persons having a child or children in common
- Other individuals related by consanguinity or affinity who reside together or who formerly resided together
- Individuals who have a current or former dating relationship

'Dating relationship' means a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature between two individuals. It does not include a casual relationship or ordinary fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context. Whether a relationship is a 'dating relationship' shall be determined by examining the following factors:

- The length of the relationship
- The type of relationship
- The frequency of interaction between the two individuals involved in the relationship

Missouri**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. § 455.010**

'Abuse' includes, but is not limited to, the occurrence of any of the following acts, attempts, or threats against a person who may be protected pursuant to this chapter:

- 'Assault,' which means purposely or knowingly placing or attempting to place another in fear of physical harm
- 'Battery,' which means purposely or knowingly causing physical harm to another with or without a deadly weapon
- 'Coercion,' which means compelling another by force or threat of force to engage in conduct from which the latter has a right to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage
- 'Harassment,' which means engaging in a purposeful or knowing course of conduct involving more than one incident that alarms or causes distress to an adult or child, serves no legitimate purpose, and causes a reasonable adult or child to suffer substantial emotional distress, including, but not limited to:
 - » Following another about in a public place or places
 - » Peering in the window or lingering outside the residence of another; but does not include constitutionally protected activity
- 'Sexual assault,' which means causing or attempting to cause another to engage involuntarily in any sexual act by force, threat of force, or duress
- 'Unlawful imprisonment,' which means holding, confining, detaining, or abducting another person against that person's will
- 'Domestic violence,' which means abuse or stalking committed by a family or household member, as such terms are defined in this section

'Stalking' is when any person purposely and repeatedly engages in an unwanted course of conduct that causes alarm to another person when it is reasonable in that person's situation to have been alarmed by the conduct.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. §§ 565.072; 565.073; 565.074**

A person commits the crime of 'domestic assault in the first degree' if he or she attempts to kill or knowingly causes or attempts to cause serious physical injury to a family or household member, including any child who is a member of the family or household, as defined in § 455.010.

A person commits the crime of 'domestic assault in the second degree' if the act involves a family or household member, including any child who is a member of the family or household, as defined in § 455.010, and he or she:

- Attempts to cause or knowingly causes physical injury to such person by any means, including, but not limited to, by use of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument, or by choking or strangulation
- Recklessly causes serious physical injury to such person
- Recklessly causes physical injury to such person by means of any deadly weapon

A person commits the crime of 'domestic assault in the third degree' if the act involves a family or household member, including any child who is a member of the family or household, as defined in § 455.010, and:

- The person attempts to cause or recklessly causes physical injury to such person.
- With criminal negligence, the person causes physical injury by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.
- The person purposely places the other person in apprehension of immediate physical injury by any means.
- The person recklessly engages in conduct that creates a grave risk of death or serious physical injury.
- The person knowingly causes physical contact with the family or household member knowing the other person will regard the contact as offensive.
- The person knowingly attempts to cause or causes the isolation of the other person by unreasonably and substantially restricting or limiting his or her access to other persons, telecommunication devices, or transportation for the purpose of isolation.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. §§ 455.010; 565.063**

In civil law: ‘Family’ or ‘household member’ means spouses, former spouses, any person related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together or have resided together in the past, any person who is or has been in a continuing social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, and anyone who has a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have resided together at any time.

In criminal law: ‘Family’ or ‘household member’ means spouses, former spouses, adults related by blood or marriage, adults who are presently residing together or have resided together in the past, and adults who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have resided together at any time.

Montana**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code § 40-15-102**

A person may file a petition for an order of protection if:

- The petitioner is in reasonable apprehension of bodily injury by the petitioner’s partner or family member, as defined in § 45-5-206.
- The petitioner is a victim of one of the offenses listed below committed by a partner or family member:
 - » Assault or aggravated assault
 - » Intimidation
 - » Partner or family member assault
 - » Criminal or negligent endangerment
 - » Assault on a minor
 - » Assault with a weapon
 - » Unlawful restraint
 - » Kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping
 - » Arson

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws**Ann. Code § 41-3-102**

‘Psychological abuse or neglect’ means severe maltreatment through acts or omissions that are injurious to the child’s emotional, intellectual, or psychological capacity to function, including the commission of acts of violence against another person residing in the child’s home.

The term may not be construed to hold a victim responsible for failing to prevent the crime against the victim.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Code § 45-5-206**

A person commits the offense of ‘partner or family member assault’ when the person:

- Purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to a partner or family member
- Negligently causes bodily injury to a partner or family member with a weapon
- Purposely or knowingly causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in a partner or family member

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code § 45-5-206**

‘Family member’ means mothers, fathers, children, brothers, sisters, and other past or present family members of a household. These relationships include relationships created by adoption and remarriage, including stepchildren, stepparents, in-laws, and adoptive children and parents. These relationships continue regardless of the ages of the parties and whether the parties reside in the same household.

‘Partners’ means spouses, former spouses, persons who have a child in common, and persons who have been or are currently in a dating or ongoing intimate relationship.

Nebraska

Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws

Rev. Stat. § 42-903

'Abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between household members:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally and knowingly causing bodily injury with or without a dangerous instrument
- Placing, by means of credible threat, another person in fear of imminent bodily injury
- Engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration without consent, as defined in § 28-318

For purposes of this subdivision, 'credible threat' means a verbal or written threat, including a threat performed through the use of an electronic communication device or a threat implied by a pattern of conduct or a combination of verbal, written, or electronically communicated statements and conduct that is made by a person with the apparent ability to carry out the threat, so as to cause the person who is the target of the threat to reasonably fear for his or her safety or the safety of his or her family. It is not necessary to prove that the person making the threat had the intent to actually carry out the threat. The present incarceration of the person making the threat shall not prevent the threat from being deemed a credible threat under this section.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

Rev. Stat. § 28-323

A person commits the offense of 'domestic assault in the third degree' if he or she:

- Intentionally and knowingly causes bodily injury to his or her intimate partner
- Threatens an intimate partner with imminent bodily injury
- Threatens an intimate partner in a menacing manner

A person commits the offense of 'domestic assault in the second degree' if he or she intentionally and knowingly causes bodily injury to his or her intimate partner with a dangerous instrument.

A person commits the offense of 'domestic assault in the first degree' if he or she intentionally and knowingly causes serious bodily injury to his or her intimate partner.

Persons Included in the Definitions

Rev. Stat. §§ 42-903; 28-323

In civil law: 'Family or household members' includes:

- Spouses or former spouses
- Children
- Persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past
- Persons who have a child in common whether or not they have been married or have lived together at any time
- Other persons related by consanguinity or affinity
- Persons who are presently or who have been involved in a dating relationship with each other

'Dating relationship' means frequent, intimate associations primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional or sexual involvement but does not include a casual relationship or an ordinary association between persons in a business or social context.

In criminal law: 'Intimate partner' means:

- A spouse or former spouse
- Persons who have a child in common whether or not they have been married or lived together at any time
- Persons who are or were involved in a dating relationship

'Dating relationship' means frequent, intimate associations primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional or sexual involvement but does not include a casual relationship or an ordinary association between persons in a business or social context.

Nevada**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Rev. Stat § 33.018**

'Domestic violence' occurs when a person commits one of the following acts against or upon any person listed below:

- Assault or battery
- Compelling the other by force or threat of force to perform an act from which he or she has the right to refrain or to refrain from an act that he or she has the right to perform
- Sexual assault
- A knowing, purposeful, or reckless course of conduct intended to harass the other, including, but not limited to:
 - » Stalking
 - » Arson
 - » Trespassing
 - » Larceny
 - » Destruction of private property
 - » Carrying a concealed weapon without a permit
 - » Injuring or killing an animal
 - » False imprisonment
 - » Unlawful entry into the other's residence or forcible entry against the other's will if there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to the other from the person's entry

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws**Rev. Stat. § 432B.330(3)**

A child may be in need of protection if the death of a parent of the child is or may be the result of an act by the other parent that constitutes domestic violence pursuant to § 33.018.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Rev. Stat. § 217.400**

'Domestic violence' means:

- The attempt to cause or the causing of bodily injury to a family or household member or the placing of the member in fear of imminent physical harm by threat of force
- Any of the following acts committed by a person against a family or household member, a person with whom he or she had or is having a dating relationship or with whom he or she has a child in common, or upon his or her minor child or a minor child of that person:
 - » Assault or battery
 - » Compelling the other by force or threat of force to perform an act from which he or she has the right to refrain or to refrain from an act which he or she has the right to perform
 - » Sexual assault
 - » A knowing, purposeful, or reckless course of conduct intended to harass the other, including, without limitation:
 - Stalking
 - Arson
 - Trespassing
 - Larceny
 - Destruction of private property
 - Carrying a concealed weapon without a permit
 - False imprisonment
 - Unlawful entry into the other's residence or forcible entry against the other's will if there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to the other person from the entry

Persons Included in the Definitions**Rev. Stat. §§ 33.018; 217.400**

In civil law: The following persons are eligible for protection:

- A spouse or former spouse
- Any person related by blood or marriage
- A person with whom the abuser is or was actually residing
- Persons who have had or are having a dating relationship
- Persons who have a child in common
- The minor child of any of those persons
- A minor child of the abuser or any person who has been appointed the custodian or legal guardian for his or her minor child

'Dating relationship' means frequent, intimate associations primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional or sexual involvement. The term does not include a casual relationship or an ordinary association between persons in a business or social context.

In criminal law: 'Family or household member' means:

- A spouse or former spouse
- A parent or other adult person who is related by blood or marriage or is or was actually residing with the person committing the act of domestic violence

'Dating relationship' means frequent, intimate associations primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional or sexual involvement. The term does not include a casual relationship or an ordinary association between persons in a business or social context.

'Victim of domestic violence' includes the dependent children of the victim.

New Hampshire**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Rev. Stat. § 173-B:1**

'Abuse' means the commission or attempted commission of one or more of the acts listed below by a family or household member or current or former sexual or intimate partner when such conduct constitutes a credible threat to the petitioner's safety. The court may consider evidence of such acts, regardless of their proximity in time to the filing of the petition, which, in combination with recent conduct, reflects an ongoing pattern of behavior that reasonably causes or has caused the petitioner to fear for his or her safety or well-being:

- Assault or reckless conduct, as defined in §§ 631:1 through 631:3
- Criminal threatening, as defined in § 631:4
- Sexual assault, as defined in §§ 632-A:2 through 632-A:5
- Interference with freedom, as defined in §§ 633:1 through 633:3-a
- Destruction of property, as defined in §§ 634:1 and 634:2
- Unauthorized entry, as defined in §§ 635:1 and 635:2
- Harassment, as defined in § 644:4

'Domestic violence' means abuse as defined above.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Rev. Stat. § 173-B:1**

'Family or household member' means:

- Spouses, ex-spouses, persons cohabiting with each other, and persons who cohabited with each other but no longer share the same residence
- Parents and other persons related by consanguinity or affinity, other than minor children who reside with the defendant

'Intimate partners' means persons currently or formerly involved in a romantic relationship, whether or not such relationship was ever sexually consummated.

New Jersey**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws**

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. § 2C:25-19**

'Domestic violence' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts inflicted upon a person protected under this act by an adult or an emancipated minor:

- Homicide
- Assault
- Terroristic threats
- Kidnapping
- Criminal restraint
- False imprisonment
- Sexual assault
- Criminal sexual contact
- Lewdness
- Criminal mischief
- Burglary
- Criminal trespass
- Harassment
- Stalking

When one or more of these acts is inflicted by an unemancipated minor upon a person protected under this act, the occurrence shall not constitute 'domestic violence' but may be the basis for the filing of a petition or complaint pursuant to the provisions of § 2A:4A-30 (Juvenile Justice Code).

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. § 2C:25-19**

'Victim of domestic violence' means a person protected under this act and shall include any person who is age 18 or older or who is an emancipated minor and who has been subjected to domestic violence by a spouse, former spouse, or any other person who is a present or former household member.

'Victim of domestic violence' also includes any person, regardless of age, who has been subjected to domestic violence by a person with whom the victim has a child in common, or with whom the victim anticipates having a child in common, if one of the parties is pregnant. 'Victim of domestic violence' also includes any person who has been subjected to domestic violence by a person with whom the victim has had a dating relationship.

New Mexico

Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws

Ann. Stat. § 40-13-2

'Domestic abuse' means:

- An incident of stalking or sexual assault whether committed by a household member or not
- An incident by a household member against another household member consisting of or resulting in:
 - » Physical harm
 - » Severe emotional distress
 - » Bodily injury or assault
 - » A threat causing imminent fear of bodily injury by any household member
 - » Criminal trespass
 - » Criminal damage to property
 - » Repeatedly driving by a residence or work place
 - » Telephone harassment
 - » Harassment
 - » Harm or threatened harm to children

Domestic abuse does not mean the use of force in self-defense or in the defense of another.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

Ann. Stat. §§ 30-3-12 through 30-3-16

'Assault against a household member' consists of:

- An attempt to commit a battery against a household member
- Any unlawful act, threat, or menacing conduct that causes a household member to reasonably believe that he or she is in danger of receiving an immediate battery

'Aggravated assault against a household member' consists of:

- Unlawfully assaulting or striking at a household member with a deadly weapon
- Willfully and intentionally assaulting a household member with intent to commit any felony

'Assault against a household member with intent to commit a violent felony' consists of any person assaulting a household member with intent to kill or commit any murder; mayhem; criminal sexual penetration in the first, second, or third degree; robbery; kidnapping; false imprisonment; or burglary.

'Battery against a household member' consists of the unlawful, intentional touching or application of force to the person of a household member when done in a rude, insolent, or angry manner.

'Aggravated battery against a household member' consists of the unlawful touching or application of force to the person of a household member with intent to injure that person or another.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. §§ 40-13-2; 30-3-11**

In *civil law*: 'Household member' means:

- A spouse or former spouse
- A parent, present or former stepparent, or present or former parent-in-law
- A grandparent or grandparent-in-law
- A child, stepchild, or grandchild
- A coparent of a child
- A person with whom the petitioner has had a continuing personal relationship

Cohabitation is not necessary to be deemed a household member for purposes of this section.

'Coparents' means persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time.

In *criminal law*: 'Household member' means:

- A spouse or former spouse
- A parent, present or former stepparent, or present or former parent-in-law
- A grandparent or grandparent-in-law
- A coparent of a child
- A person with whom a person has had a continuing personal relationship
- Cohabitation is not necessary to be deemed a household member for the purposes of this section.

'Continuing personal relationship' means a dating or intimate relationship.

New York**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Soc. Serv. Law § 459-a**

The term 'victim of domestic violence' means any person over age 16, any married person, or any parent accompanied by his or her minor child or children in situations in which such person or such person's child is a victim of an act that would constitute a violation of the penal law, including, but not limited to acts constituting disorderly conduct, harassment, aggravated harassment, sexual misconduct, forcible touching, sexual abuse, stalking, criminal mischief, menacing, reckless endangerment, kidnapping, assault, attempted assault, attempted murder, criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, or strangulation; and:

- Such act or acts have resulted in actual physical or emotional injury or have created a substantial risk of physical or emotional harm to such person or such person's child.
- Such act or acts are or are alleged to have been committed by a family or household member.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Soc. Serv. Law § 459-a**

The term 'family or household members' means the following individuals:

- Persons related by consanguinity or affinity
- Persons legally married to one another
- Persons formerly married to one another regardless of whether they still reside in the same household
- Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether such persons are married or have lived together at any time
- Unrelated persons who are continually or at regular intervals living in the same household or who have in the past continually or at regular intervals lived in the same household
- Persons who are not related by consanguinity or affinity and who are or have been in an intimate relationship regardless of whether such persons have lived together at any time
- Any other category of individuals deemed to be a victim of domestic violence as defined by the Office of Children and Family Services in regulation

Factors that may be considered in determining whether a relationship is an 'intimate relationship' include, but are not limited to:

- The nature or type of relationship regardless of whether the relationship is sexual in nature
- The frequency of interaction between the persons
- The duration of the relationship

Neither a casual acquaintance nor ordinary fraternization between two individuals in business or social contexts shall be deemed to constitute an intimate relationship.

'Parent' means a natural or adoptive parent or any individual lawfully charged with a minor child's care or custody.

North Carolina**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Gen. Stat. § 50B-1**

'Domestic violence' means the commission of one or more of the following acts upon an aggrieved party or upon a minor child residing with or in the custody of the aggrieved party by a person with whom the aggrieved party has or has had a personal relationship, but does not include acts of self-defense:

- Attempting to cause bodily injury or intentionally causing bodily injury
- Placing the aggrieved party or a member of the aggrieved party's family or household in fear of imminent serious bodily injury or continued harassment, as defined in § 14-277.3A, that rises to such a level as to inflict substantial emotional distress
- Committing a sex offense, as defined in §§ 14-27.2 through 14-27.7

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Gen. Stat. § 50B-1**

The term 'personal relationship' means a relationship in which the parties involved:

- Are current or former spouses
- Are persons of the opposite sex who live together or have lived together
- Are related as parents and children, including others acting in loco parentis to a minor child, or as grandparents and grandchildren
- Have a child in common
- Are current or former household members
- Are persons of the opposite sex who are in a dating relationship or have been in a dating relationship

For purposes of this subdivision, a dating relationship is one in which the parties are romantically involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship. A casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context is not a dating relationship.

For purposes of this subdivision, an aggrieved party may not obtain an order of protection against a child or grandchild under age 16.

North Dakota**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Cent. Code § 14-07.1-01**

'Domestic violence' includes physical harm, bodily injury, sexual activity compelled by physical force, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, sexual activity compelled by physical force, or assault, not committed in self-defense, on the complaining family or household members.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Cent. Code § 12.1-17-13**

The sentence for an offense under § 12.1-17-01 (simple assault), 12.1-17-01.1 (assault), 12.1-17-02 (aggravated assault), 12.1-17-03 (reckless endangerment), 12.1-17-04 (terrorizing), or 12.1-17-05 (menacing) against an actor's family or household member, as defined in § 14-07.1-01, must include an order to complete a domestic violence offender treatment program, unless the court makes written findings for the record explaining why such an order would be inappropriate.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Cent. Code § 14-07.1-01**

'Family or household member' means:

- A spouse or former spouse
- Family member
- A parent or child
- Persons related by blood or marriage
- Persons who are in a dating relationship
- Persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past
- Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they are or have been married or have lived together at any time
- For the purpose of the issuance of a domestic violence protection order, any other person with a sufficient relationship to the abusing person, as determined by the court

Northern Mariana Islands**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws**
Commonwealth Code Tit. 8, ch. 9, § 101

'Domestic or family violence' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts by a family or household member but does not include acts of self-defense:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another family or household member
- Placing a family or household member in fear of bodily injury
- Attempting to cause or causing a family or household member to engage in coerced sexual activity by force, threat of force, or intimidation
- Engaging in a knowing and willful course of conduct that constitutes harassment

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Commonwealth Code Tit. 8, ch. 9, § 101**

'Family or household members' includes:

- Adults or minors who are current or former spouses
- Adults or minors who live together or who have recently lived together
- Adults or minors who are dating
- Adults or minors who are engaged in or who have recently engaged in a sexual relationship
- Adults or minors who are related by blood or adoption
- Adults or minors who are related by marriage or formerly related by marriage
- Persons who have a child in common
- Minor children of a person in a relationship described above

Ohio**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws**
Rev. Stat. § 3113.31

'Domestic violence' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts against a family or household member:

- Attempting to cause or recklessly causing bodily injury
- Placing another person by the threat of force in fear of imminent serious physical harm or committing a violation of § 2903.211 (menacing by stalking) or 2911.211 (aggravated trespass)
- Committing any act with respect to a child that would result in the child being an abused child, as defined in § 2151.031
- Committing a sexually oriented offense

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Rev. Stat. § 2919.25**

No person shall:

- Knowingly cause or attempt to cause physical harm to a family or household member
- Recklessly cause serious physical harm to a family or household member
- Knowingly, by threat of force, cause a family or household member to believe that the offender will cause imminent physical harm to the family or household member

Whoever violates this section is guilty of domestic violence.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Rev. Stat. § 3113.31**

'Family or household member' means any of the following:

- Any of the following who is residing with or has resided with the respondent:
 - » A spouse, a person living as a spouse, or a former spouse of the respondent
 - » A parent, a foster parent, or a child of the respondent, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to the respondent
 - » A parent or a child of a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the respondent, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the respondent
- The natural parent of any child of whom the respondent is the other natural parent or is the putative other natural parent

'Person living as a spouse' means a person who is living or has lived with the respondent in a common law marital relationship, who otherwise is cohabiting with the respondent, or who otherwise has cohabited with the respondent within 5 years prior to the date of the alleged occurrence of the act in question.

Oklahoma**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. Tit. 43, § 109**

'Domestic violence' means the threat of the infliction of physical injury, any act of physical harm or the creation of a reasonable fear thereof, or the intentional infliction of emotional distress by a parent or a present or former member of the household of the child against the child or another member of the household, including coercive control by a parent involving physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, economic, or financial abuse.

'Stalking' means the willful course of conduct by a person who repeatedly follows or harasses another person, as defined by title 21, § 1173.

'Harassment' means a knowing and willful course or pattern of conduct by a parent directed at another parent that seriously alarms or is a nuisance to the person and that serves no legitimate purpose, including, but not limited to, harassing or obscene telephone calls or conduct that would cause a reasonable person to have a fear of death or bodily injury.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. Tit. 21, §§ 641; 642; 644**

'Assault' is any willful and unlawful attempt or threat of force or violence to inflict corporal hurt upon another person.

'Battery' is any willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of another.

Any person who commits any assault and battery against any person listed below shall be guilty of 'domestic abuse.'

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. Tit. 21, § 644**

'Domestic abuse' occurs when an assault or battery is committed against any of the following:

- A current or former spouse
 - The present spouse of a former spouse
 - Parents
 - A foster parent
 - A child
 - A person otherwise related by blood or marriage
 - A person with whom the defendant is in a dating relationship, as defined by title 22, § 60. 1
 - An individual with whom the defendant has had a child
 - A person who formerly lived in the same household as the defendant
 - A person living in the same household as the defendant
-

Oregon**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Rev. Stat. §§ 107.705; 409.290**

'Abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury
- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly placing another in fear of imminent bodily injury
- Causing another to engage in involuntary sexual relations by force or threat of force

'Family violence' means the physical injury, sexual abuse, or forced imprisonment, or threat thereof, of a person by another who is related by blood, marriage, or intimate cohabitation at the present, or has been related at some time in the past, to the extent that the person's health or welfare is harmed or threatened thereby.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Rev. Stat. § 135.230**

'Abuse' means:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing physical injury
- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly placing another in fear of imminent serious physical injury
- Committing sexual abuse in any degree, as defined in §§ 163.415, 163.425, and 163.427

'Domestic violence' means abuse between family or household members.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Rev. Stat. §§ 107.705; 135.230**

In civil law: 'Family or household members' means any of the following:

- Spouses or former spouses
- Adult persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption
- Persons who are cohabiting or who have cohabited
- Persons who have been involved in a sexually intimate relationship with each other within 2 years immediately preceding the filing by one of them of a petition under § 107.710
- Unmarried parents of a child

In criminal law: 'Family or household members' means any of the following:

- Spouses or former spouses
- Adult persons related by blood or marriage
- Persons cohabiting with each other
- Persons who have cohabited or who have been involved in a sexually intimate relationship
- Unmarried parents of a minor child

Pennsylvania**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6102**

'Abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members, sexual or intimate partners, or persons who share biological parenthood:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury, serious bodily injury, rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, sexual assault, statutory sexual assault, aggravated indecent assault, indecent assault, or incest with or without a deadly weapon
- Placing another in reasonable fear of imminent serious bodily injury
- The infliction of false imprisonment pursuant to title 18, § 2903
- Physically or sexually abusing minor children, including such terms as defined in chapter 63 (relating to child protective services)
- Knowingly engaging in a course of conduct or repeatedly committing acts toward another person, including following the person, without proper authority, under circumstances that place the person in reasonable fear of bodily injury

The definition of this paragraph applies only to proceedings commenced under this title and is inapplicable to any criminal prosecutions commenced under title 18 (relating to crimes and offenses).

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Cons. Stat. Tit. 18, § 2711**

A police officer shall have the same right of arrest without a warrant as in a felony whenever he or she has probable cause to believe the defendant has violated §§ 2504 (relating to involuntary manslaughter); 2701 (relating to simple assault); 2702(a)(3), (4) and (5) (relating to aggravated assault); 2705 (relating to recklessly endangering another person); 2706 (relating to terroristic threats); or 2709.1 (relating to stalking) against a family or household member, although the offense did not take place in the presence of the police officer. A police officer may not arrest a person pursuant to this section without first observing recent physical injury to the victim or other corroborative evidence. For the purposes of this subsection, the term 'family or household member' has the meaning given that term in title 23, § 6102.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6102**

'Family or household members' means:

- Spouses or persons who have been spouses
- Persons living as spouses or who lived as spouses
- Parents and children
- Other persons related by consanguinity or affinity
- Current or former sexual or intimate partners
- Persons who share biological parenthood

Puerto Rico**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Laws Tit. 8, §§ 602; 631; 632; 635**

'Domestic abuse' means a constant pattern of conduct involving physical force, psychological violence, intimidation, or persecution against a person by any person listed below to cause physical harm to their self, their property, or another's self, or to cause him or her grave emotional harm.

'Psychological abuse' means a constant pattern of conduct to dishonor, discredit, or scorn personal worth; unreasonably limit access to common property; blackmail; isolate; deprive access to adequate food or rest; threaten deprivation of custody of sons or daughters; or destroy objects held in esteem by the person, except those that privately belong to the offender.

'Abuse' means the employment of physical force, psychological abuse, intimidation, or persecution to cause physical harm to the person or the property held in esteem by him or her, or to cause grave emotional harm.

'Aggravated abuse' means abuse committed under one of the following circumstances:

- Spouses or cohabiters are separated or there is an order for protection excluding one of the parties from the residence.
- Grave bodily harm is inflicted on the person.
- It is committed with a lethal weapon under circumstances that do not indicate the intention of killing or maiming.
- It is committed in the presence of minors.
- It is committed after an order for protection or resolution has been issued against the person charged.
- The person is induced, incited, or forced to be drugged with controlled substances or to become intoxicated with alcoholic beverages.
- Child abuse is committed and simultaneously incurred.
- It is committed against a pregnant woman.
- It is committed against a person under age 16, and the aggressor is age 18 or older.

'Conjugal sexual assault' means to engage in a sexual relation without the consent of the spouse or former spouse.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws**Ann. Laws Tit. 8, § 444(s)**

Minors also will be considered to be victims of abuse if the father, mother, or person responsible for the minor has engaged in acts that constitute domestic violence in the presence of minors, as defined in §§ 601, et seq., of this title.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Laws Tit. 33, § 4013**

'Stalking' means a pattern of behavior of vigilance over a person; unwanted verbal or written communications sent repeatedly to a specific person; written, verbal, or implicit threats against a specific person; or repeated acts of vandalism directed to a specific person; or repeated harassment through words, gestures, or actions intended to intimidate, threaten, or pursue the victim or members of his or her family.

'Intimidate' means any repeated action or word that instills terror in the animus of a prudent and reasonable person, to the effect that he or she or any member of the family could suffer harm personally, or of his or her property, and/or exert moral pressure on the animus of the person to perform an act against his or her will.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Laws Tit. 8, §§ 602; 632; Tit. 33, § 4013**

In civil law: The definition applies to the following persons:

- A person's spouse or former spouse
- The individual with whom a person cohabitates or has cohabitated
- The individual with whom a person has or had a consensual relationship
- The individual with whom a person has procreated a son or daughter

In criminal law: 'Family' means:

- A spouse, son, daughter, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, or cousin of the victim
- Any other relative by consanguinity or affinity who is part of the family nucleus
- A person who lives or has formerly cohabited with the victim as a couple or has been involved in a relationship as a paramour or lover
- A person who resides or has resided in the same dwelling as the victim for at least 6 months before the acts constituting stalking are evident

Rhode Island**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Gen. Laws § 15-15-1**

'Domestic abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between present or former family members, parents, stepparents, or persons who are or have been in a substantive dating or engagement relationship within the past 1 year in which at least one of the persons is a minor:

- Attempting to cause or causing physical harm
- Placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm
- Causing another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat of force, or duress
- Stalking or cyberstalking

'Stalking' means harassing another person or willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly following another person with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear of bodily injury.

'Cyberstalking' means transmitting any communication by computer to any person or causing any person to be contacted for the sole purpose of harassing that person or his or her family.

'Harassing' means following a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person with the intent to seriously alarm, annoy, or bother the person, and which serves no legitimate purpose. The course of conduct must be such as would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress or be in fear of bodily injury.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Gen. Laws § 8-8.1-1**

'Domestic abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between cohabitants or against the minor child of a cohabitant, or the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between persons who are or have been in a substantive dating or engagement relationship within the past 1 year or against a minor child in the custody of the plaintiff. 'Domestic abuse' shall be determined by the court's consideration of the following factors:

- The length of time of the relationship
- The type of the relationship
- The frequency of the interaction between the parties
- Attempting to cause or causing physical harm
- Placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm
- Causing another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat of force, or duress
- Stalking or cyberstalking

'Stalking' means harassing another person or willfully, maliciously, and/or repeatedly following another person with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear of bodily injury.

'Cyberstalking' means transmitting any communication by computer to any person or causing any person to be contacted for the sole purpose of harassing that person or his or her family.

'Harassing' means following a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person with the intent to seriously alarm, annoy, or bother the person, and which serves no legitimate purpose. The course of conduct must cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress or to be in fear of bodily injury.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Gen. Laws §§ 15-15-1; 8-8.1-1**

In civil law: 'Parents' means persons who together are the legal parents of one or more children regardless of their marital status or whether they have lived together at any time.

'Present or former family member' means the spouse, former spouse, minor children, stepchildren, or persons who are related by blood or marriage.

'Substantive dating' or 'engagement relationship' means a significant and personal/intimate relationship that shall be adjudged by the court's consideration of the following factors:

- The length of time of the relationship
- The type of relationship
- The frequency of interaction between the parties

In criminal law: 'Cohabitants' means emancipated minors or persons age 18 or older, not related by blood or marriage, who together are not the legal parents of one or more children, and who have resided together within the preceding 3 years or who are residing in the same living quarters.

South Carolina**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code § 20-4-20**

'Abuse' means:

- Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the threat of physical harm
- Sexual criminal offenses, as otherwise defined by statute, committed against a family or household member by a family or household member

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Code § 16-25-20**

It is unlawful to:

- Cause physical harm or injury to a person's own household member
- Offer or attempt to cause physical harm or injury to a person's own household member with apparent present ability under circumstances reasonably creating fear of imminent peril

A person who violates the subsection above is guilty of the misdemeanor of 'criminal domestic violence.'

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code §§ 16-25-10; 20-4-20**

In civil and criminal law: 'Household member' means:

- A spouse or former spouse
 - Persons who have a child in common
 - A male and female who are cohabiting or formerly have cohabited
-

South Dakota**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. § 25-10-1**

'Domestic abuse' means physical harm, bodily injury, attempts to cause physical harm or bodily injury, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm or bodily injury between family or household members.

Any violation of § 25-10-13 (violation of a protection order) or chapter 22-19A (kidnapping), or any crime of violence as defined in § 22-1-2(9) constitutes domestic abuse if the underlying criminal act is committed between family or household members.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. § 25-10-1**

'Family or household members' means:

- Spouses or former spouses
- Persons related by consanguinity, adoption, or law
- Persons living in the same household
- Persons who have lived together
- Persons who have had a child together

Tennessee**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code § 36-3-601**

'Abuse' means:

- Inflicting or attempting to inflict physical injury on an adult or minor by other than accidental means
- Placing an adult or minor in fear of physical harm
- Physical restraint
- Malicious damage to the personal property of the abused party, including inflicting or attempting to inflict physical injury on any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by an adult or minor
- Placing an adult or minor in fear of physical harm to any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the adult or minor

'Domestic abuse' means committing abuse against a domestic abuse victim, as defined below.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Code § 39-13-111**

A person commits 'domestic assault' who commits an assault, as defined in § 39-13-101, against a domestic abuse victim.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code §§ 36-3-601; 39-13-111**

In civil and criminal law: 'Domestic abuse victim' means any person who falls within the following categories:

- Adults or minors who are current or former spouses
- Adults or minors who live together or who have lived together
- Adults or minors who are dating or who have dated or who have or had a sexual relationship
- Adults or minors related by blood or adoption
- Adults or minors who are related or were formerly related by marriage
- Adult or minor children of a person in a relationship that is described above

'Dating' and 'dated' do not include fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context.

Texas**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Fam. Code §§ 71.004; 71.0021**

'Family violence' means:

- An act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself
- Abuse, as that term is defined by § 261.001, by a member of a family or household toward a child of the family or household
- Dating violence

Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws (Continued)**Fam. Code §§ 71.004; 71.0021**

'Dating violence' means an act, other than a defensive measure to protect oneself, by an actor that:

- Is committed against a victim with whom the actor has or has had a dating relationship
- Is committed against a victim who is married to or in a dating relationship with an individual with whom the actor is or has been married or in a dating relationship
- Is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the victim in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Penal Code § 25.07**

A person commits an offense if, in violation of a condition of bond set in a family violence case and related to the safety of a victim or the safety of the community; an order issued under Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure; an order issued under Section 6.504, Family Code; Chapter 83, Family Code, if the temporary ex parte order has been served on the person; or Chapter 85, Family Code; or an order issued by another jurisdiction as provided by Chapter 88, Family Code, the person knowingly or intentionally:

- Commits family violence or an act in furtherance of an offense under §§ 22.011, 22.021, or 42.072
- Communicates:
 - » Directly with a protected individual or a member of the family or household in a threatening or harassing manner
 - » A threat through any person to a protected individual or a member of the family or household
 - » In any manner with the protected individual or a member of the family or household except through the person's attorney or a person appointed by the court, if the violation is of an order described by this subsection, and the order prohibits any communication with a protected individual or a member of the family or household
- Goes to or near any of the following places as specifically described in the order or condition of bond:
 - » The residence or place of employment or business of a protected individual or a member of the family or household
 - » Any child care facility, residence, or school where a child protected by the order or condition of bond normally resides or attends
- Possesses a firearm

'Sexual abuse' means any act as described by § 21.02 or 21.11. 'Sexual assault' means any act as described by § 22.011 or 22.021. 'Stalking' means any conduct that constitutes an offense under § 42.072.

'Family violence,' 'family,' 'household,' and 'member of a household' have the meanings assigned by Chapter 71, Family Code.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Fam. Code §§ 71.0021; 71.003; 71.005; 71.006**

'Dating relationship' means a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of:

- The length of the relationship
- The nature of the relationship
- The frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship

A casual acquaintanceship or ordinary fraternization in a business or social context does not constitute a 'dating relationship.'

Persons Included in the Definitions (Continued)**Fam. Code §§ 71.0021; 71.003; 71.005; 71.006**

'Family' includes individuals related by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under §§ 573.022 and 573.024, Government Code; individuals who are former spouses of each other; individuals who are the parents of the same child, without regard to marriage; and a foster child and foster parent, without regard to whether those individuals reside together.

'Household' means a unit composed of persons living together in the same dwelling, without regard to whether they are related to each other. 'Member of a household' includes a person who previously lived in a household.

Utah**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code § 78B-7-102**

'Abuse' means intentionally or knowingly causing or attempting to cause a cohabitant physical harm or intentionally or knowingly placing a cohabitant in reasonable fear of imminent physical harm.

'Domestic violence' means the same as that term is defined in § 77-36-1.

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Code § 77-36-1**

'Domestic violence' means any criminal offense involving violence or physical harm or threat of violence or physical harm or any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit a criminal offense involving violence or physical harm when committed by one cohabitant against another. 'Domestic violence' also means commission or attempt to commit any of the following offenses by one cohabitant against another:

- Assault or aggravated assault
- Criminal homicide
- Harassment
- Electronic communication harassment
- Kidnapping, child kidnapping, or aggravated kidnapping
- Mayhem
- Sexual offenses, as described in title 76, chapter 5, part 4, Sexual Offenses, and § 76-5b-201, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor
- Stalking
- Unlawful detention or unlawful detention of a minor
- Violation of a protective order or ex parte protective order
- Any offense against property, including property destruction, burglary, criminal trespass, or robbery
- Possession of a deadly weapon with intent to assault
- Discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, near a highway, or in the direction of any person, building, or vehicle
- Disorderly conduct
- Child abuse, as described in § 76-5-109.1

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code §§ 77-36-1; 78B-7-102**

In criminal law: 'Cohabitant' has the same meaning as in § 78B-7-102.

In civil law: 'Cohabitant' means an emancipated person, pursuant to § 15-2-1, or a person who is age 16 or older who:

- Is or was a spouse of the other party
- Is or was living as if a spouse of the other party
- Is related by blood or marriage to the other party
- Has or had one or more children in common with the other party
- Is the biological parent of the other party's unborn child
- Resides or has resided in the same residence as the other party

'Cohabitant' does not include:

- The relationship of natural parent, adoptive parent, or stepparent to a minor
 - The relationship between natural, adoptive, step, or foster siblings who are under age 18
-

Vermont**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. Tit. 15, § 1101**

'Abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members:

- Attempting to cause or causing physical harm
- Placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm
- Abuse to children, as defined in subchapter 2 of chapter 49 of title 33
- Stalking, as defined in title 12, § 5131(6)
- Sexual assault, as defined in title 12, § 5131(5)

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. Tit. 13, §§ 1042; 1043; 1044**

Any person who attempts to cause, willfully or recklessly causes bodily injury to a family or household member, or willfully causes a family or household member to fear imminent serious bodily injury is guilty of 'domestic assault.'

A person commits the crime of 'first-degree aggravated domestic assault' if the person:

- Attempts to cause or willfully or recklessly causes serious bodily injury to a family or household member
- Uses, attempts to use, or is armed with a deadly weapon and threatens to use the deadly weapon on a family or household member
- Commits the crime of domestic assault and has been previously convicted of aggravated domestic assault

Defined in Criminal Laws (Continued)**Ann. Stat. Tit. 13, §§ 1042; 1043; 1044**

A person commits the crime of 'second-degree aggravated domestic assault' if the person:

- Commits the crime of domestic assault and such conduct violates:
 - » Specific conditions of a criminal court order in effect at the time of the offense imposed to protect that other person
 - » A final abuse prevention order issued under title 15, § 1103 or a similar order issued in another jurisdiction
 - » A final order against stalking or sexual assault issued under title 12, § 5133 or a similar order issued in another jurisdiction
 - » A final order against abuse of a vulnerable adult issued under title 33, § 6935 or a similar order issued in another jurisdiction
- Commits the crime of domestic assault and:
 - » Has a prior conviction within the last 10 years for violating an abuse protection order issued
 - » Has a prior conviction for domestic assault

For the purpose of this subsection, the term 'issued in another jurisdiction' means issued by a court in any other State, federally recognized Indian Tribe, territory or possession of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. Tit. 15, § 1101; Tit. 13, § 1041**

In civil law: 'Household members' means persons who, for any period of time:

- Are living or have lived together
- Are sharing or have shared occupancy of a dwelling
- Are engaged in or have engaged in a sexual relationship
- Are minors or adults who are dating or who have dated

'Dating' means a social relationship of a romantic nature. Factors that the court may consider when determining whether a dating relationship exists or existed include:

- The nature of the relationship
- The length of time the relationship has existed
- The frequency of interaction between the parties
- The length of time since the relationship was terminated, if applicable

'Family' shall include a reciprocal beneficiary.

In criminal law: As used in this subchapter, 'family or household members' means persons who are eligible for relief from abuse, as defined above.

Virgin Islands**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code Tit. 16, § 91**

'Domestic violence' means the occurrence of any of the following acts, attempts, or threats against a person who may be protected under this chapter:

- Assault
- Battery
- Burglary
- Kidnapping
- Unlawful sexual contact
- Rape
- Forcible or unlawful entry
- Coercion
- Destruction of property
- Harassment
- Threats
- False imprisonment
- Stalking
- Violation of a restraining order

'Coercion' means compelling another by force or threat of force to engage in conduct from which the latter has a right to abstain, or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage.

'Destruction of property' means causing damage to the property of another, or to property jointly owned by the perpetrator and another.

'Harassment' means engaging in a purposeful, knowing, or reckless course of conduct involving more than one incident that alarms or causes distress to another person and serves no legitimate purpose. The course of conduct must be such as would cause a reasonable person to suffer distress and must actually cause distress. Such conduct shall include, but not be limited to:

- Following another about in a public place or places with the intent to distress or intimidate the victim
- Peering in the window, trespassing, or coming upon or about the premises of the victim so as to intrude on privacy or create a menacing or threatening situation

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code Tit. 16, § 91**

'Cohabitants' means:

- Emancipated minors or persons age 18 or older of the opposite sex who have resided together or who currently are residing in the same living quarters
- Persons who together are the parents of one or more children regardless of their marital status or whether they have lived together at any time

Persons Included in the Definitions (Continued)**Ann. Code Tit. 16, § 91**

'Victim' includes any person who has been subjected to domestic violence by:

- A spouse or former spouse
- A parent or child
- Any other person related by blood or marriage
- A present or former household member
- A person with whom the victim has a child in common
- A person who is or has been in a sexual or otherwise intimate relationship with the victim

Virginia**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code §§ 16.1-228; 38.2-508(7)**

'Family abuse' means any act involving violence, force, or threat that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury and that is committed by a person against such person's family or household member. Such act includes, but is not limited to, any forceful detention; stalking; criminal sexual assault in violation of § 18.2-61, et seq.; or any criminal offense that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury.

The term 'domestic violence' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts by a current or former family or household member, as defined in § 16.1-228:

- Attempting to cause or causing or threatening another person with physical harm, severe emotional distress, psychological trauma, rape, or sexual assault
- Engaging in a course of conduct or repeatedly committing acts toward another person, including following the person without proper authority, under circumstances that place the person in reasonable fear of bodily injury or physical harm
- Subjecting another person to false imprisonment
- Attempting to cause or causing damage to property to intimidate or attempt to control the behavior of another person

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code § 16.1-228**

'Family or household member' means:

- The person's spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same home with the person
- The person's former spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same home with the person
- The person's parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters, grandparents, and grandchildren regardless of whether such persons reside in the same home with the person
- The person's mother-in-law, father-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the person
- Any individual who has a child in common with the person, whether or not the person and that individual have been married or have resided together at any time
- Any individual who cohabits or who, within the previous 12 months, cohabited with the person, and any children of either of them then residing in the same home with the person

Washington**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Rev. Code § 26.50.010**

'Domestic violence' means:

- Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault, between family or household members
- Sexual assault of one family or household member by another
- Stalking, as defined in § 9A.46.110, of one family or household member by another family or household member

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws**Rev. Code § 26.44.020(16)**

Poverty, homelessness, or exposure to domestic violence, as defined in § 26.50.010, that is perpetrated against someone other than the child does not constitute negligent treatment or maltreatment in and of itself.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Rev. Code § 10.99.020**

'Domestic violence' includes, but is not limited to, any of the following crimes when committed by one family or household member against another:

- Assault
- Driveby shooting
- Reckless endangerment
- Coercion
- Burglary
- Criminal trespass
- Malicious mischief
- Kidnapping
- Unlawful imprisonment
- Violation of the provisions of a restraining order, no-contact order, or protection order
- Rape
- Residential burglary
- Stalking
- Interference with the reporting of domestic violence

Persons Included in the Definitions**Rev. Code §§ 10.99.020; 26.50.010**

'Family or household members' means:

- Spouses, domestic partners, former spouses, former domestic partners, or persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time
- Adult persons related by blood or marriage
- Adult persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past
- Persons age 16 or older who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past and who have or have had a dating relationship
- Persons age 16 or older with whom a person age 16 or older has or has had a dating relationship
- Persons who have a biological or legal parent-child relationship, including stepparents and stepchildren, and grandparents and grandchildren

'Dating relationship' means a social relationship of a romantic nature. Factors that the court may consider in making this determination include:

- The length of time the relationship has existed
- The nature of the relationship
- The frequency of interaction between the parties

West Virginia**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Code § 48-27-202**

'Domestic violence' or 'abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing physical harm to another with or without dangerous or deadly weapons
- Placing another in reasonable apprehension of physical harm
- Creating fear of physical harm by harassment, stalking, psychological abuse, or threatening acts
- Committing either sexual assault or sexual abuse
- Holding, confining, detaining, or abducting another person against that person's will

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws**Ann. Code § 49-1-3(1)(D), (3)**

'Abused child' means a child whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened by domestic violence, as defined in § 48-27-202.

'Battered parent' means a parent, guardian, or other custodian who has been judicially determined not to have condoned the abuse or neglect and has not been able to stop the abuse or neglect of the child or children due to being the victim of domestic violence, as defined by § 48-27-202, and the domestic violence was perpetrated by the person or persons determined to have abused or neglected the child or children.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Code § 61-2-28**

'Domestic battery' means unlawfully and intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with a person's family or household member or unlawfully and intentionally causing physical harm to a person's family or household member.

'Domestic assault' means unlawfully attempting to commit a violent injury against a person's family or household member or unlawfully committing an act that places a person's family or household member in reasonable apprehension of immediately receiving a violent injury.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Code §§ 48-27-204; 61-2-28**

'Family or household members' means persons who:

- Are or were married to each other
- Are or were living together as spouses
- Are or were sexual or intimate partners
- Are or were dating
- Are or were residing together in the same household
- Have a child in common regardless of whether they have ever married or lived together
- Have the following relationships to another person:
 - » Parent or stepparent
 - » Brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother, or stepsister
 - » Father-in-law or mother-in-law
 - » Stepfather-in-law or stepmother-in-law
 - » Child or stepchild
 - » Daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepdaughter-in-law, or stepson-in-law
 - » Grandparent or stepgrandparent
 - » Aunt, aunt-in-law, or stepaunt
 - » Uncle, uncle-in-law, or stepuncle
 - » Niece or nephew
 - » First or second cousin
- Have a relationship listed above to a family or household member

Wisconsin**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. § 813.12**

'Domestic abuse' means any of the following engaged in by an adult family member or adult household member against another adult family member or adult household member, by an adult caregiver against an adult who is under the caregiver's care, by an adult against his or her adult former spouse, by an adult against an adult with whom the individual has or had a dating relationship, or by an adult against an adult with whom the person has a child in common:

- Intentional infliction of physical pain, physical injury, or illness
- Intentional impairment of physical condition
- A violation of § 940.225 (sexual assault)
- A violation of § 943.01 (damage to property) involving property that belongs to the individual
- A threat to engage in the conduct described above

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws**Ann. Stat. § 968.075**

'Domestic abuse' means any of the following engaged in by any person listed below:

- Intentional infliction of physical pain, physical injury, or illness
- Intentional impairment of physical condition
- A violation of § 940.225 (sexual assault)
- A physical act that may cause the other person reasonably to fear imminent engagement in the conduct described above

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. §§ 813.12; 968.075**

In civil law: Domestic abuse may be engaged in:

- By an adult family or household member against another adult family or household member
- By an adult caregiver against an adult who is under the caregiver's care
- By an adult against his or her adult former spouse
- By an adult against an adult with whom the individual has or had a dating relationship
- By an adult against an adult with whom the person has a child in common

'Caregiver' means an individual who is a provider of in-home or community care to an individual through regular and direct contact.

'Dating relationship' means a romantic or intimate social relationship between two adult individuals. It does not include a casual relationship or an ordinary fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context.

In criminal law: An adult person can engage in domestic abuse against his or her spouse or former spouse, against an adult with whom the person resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the person has a child in common

Wyoming**Defined in Domestic Violence Civil Laws****Ann. Stat. § 35-21-102**

'Domestic abuse' means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts by a household member, but does not include acts of self-defense:

- Physically abusing, threatening to physically abuse, attempting to cause or causing physical harm, or acts that unreasonably restrain the personal liberty of any household member
- Placing a household member in reasonable fear of imminent physical harm
- Causing a household member to engage involuntarily in sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress

Defined in Child Abuse Reporting and Child Protection Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Defined in Criminal Laws

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Persons Included in the Definitions**Ann. Stat. § 35-21-102**

'Household member' includes:

- Persons married to each other
- Persons living with each other as if married
- Persons formerly married to each other
- Persons formerly living with each other as if married
- Parents and their adult children
- Other adults sharing common living quarters
- Persons who are the parents of a child but who are not living with each other
- Persons who are or have been in a dating relationship



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