



After an Assault

Pima County Attorney's Office Victim Services Division

Contact us Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(520) 740-5525

What is assault?

There are two types of assault: aggravated and simple. Aggravated assault is an unlawful attack on another person for the purpose of causing severe physical injury. It is usually called aggravated when it includes use of a weapon or some other means that could cause death or serious physical harm to the victim. A person can be convicted of aggravated assault even if the victim was not physically harmed. Simple assault is the attempt or threat to inflict less serious physical injury without a weapon.

Assault is the most common violent crime in the United States. The number of assaults is much higher than the number of homicides in the United States. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in 2009, one aggravated assault occurred every 39 seconds. Unlike other violent crimes, assaults are committed almost equally by strangers and non-strangers, which means that many victims know their attackers.

In aggravated assault, the threat of serious physical injury and possible death is substantial. Even when assault victims do not sustain extensive injury or loss, they are forced to suffer threats of violence and physical harm at the hands of their assailants. (*Criminal Victimization in the United States 2009. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010*)

If you are assaulted . . .

An assault is a violent, life-threatening situation. When you were assaulted, you faced death. Even if you were not seriously or permanently injured during the assault, you had to deal with the possibility of death and the fear of leaving loved ones behind. These and other aspects of the assault can have a great emotional impact on you, immediately and over the long-term.

No one has the right to assault another person, regardless of how angry the attacker is or whether the attacker feels the victim has wronged him or her. Even if you knew your attacker, the assault was not your fault.

You may have many feelings, thoughts, and reactions about what happened – from shock that this could happen to guilt about not being able to prevent it. You may feel that others believe the crime was somehow your fault. You may feel humiliated or rejected by family members or acquaintances. You may feel angry at the attacker or the police and court system for not doing enough about the assault. You may be fearful that you could be assaulted again. You may have nightmares or flashbacks about the assault. You may find

that you startle more easily at little noises or abrupt movements. You may be disturbed by new feelings of vulnerability and loss of control similar to how you felt during the assault.

The way victims react to an assault varies from person to person. Your reaction may be immediate or it may be delayed. You may feel as if you are the only one experiencing these feelings and that no one understands what you are going through. Your reactions are normal. Some feelings may subside within a few days, while others may continue for some time or resurface after being triggered by another event. It is important for you to deal with your emotions at your own pace and in your own way.

Where can you get help?

Remember, as a victim of assault, you are not alone. The Pima County Attorney's Victim Services Division has Victim Advocates, who can help you by providing assistance, information, services, and referrals. Victim Advocates also can help you find out about crime victims' rights in Arizona.

If the assault involved an injury or threat of injury, you may be eligible for reimbursement by Arizona's Crime Victim Compensation program for certain out-of-pocket expenses, such as medical and counseling expenses, or lost wages. To be eligible for these funds, you must report the assault to the police within 72 hours and cooperate with the criminal justice system. The Pima County Attorney's Office Victim Services Division can provide compensation applications and additional information.

It is important to keep a record of expenses you incur as a result of the assault. If the attacker is arrested and convicted, you may request restitution by completing a restitution affidavit and listing your losses and expected future expenses (such as necessary medical treatment).

Restitution for certain losses may be ordered by a judge as part of the sentence imposed on the attacker. However, in many cases, the defendant may not have sufficient assets or income to pay restitution. It is possible that even if an offender is convicted and ordered to pay restitution, you may receive no, or only partial, restitution for your losses.

Whether you have been assaulted by a stranger or someone you know, the best way to ensure your safety is to report the incident to local law enforcement immediately.

Facts about assault

- In 2009, there were an estimated 823,340 incidents of aggravated assault, accounting for 61% of the violent crime in the United States. (*National Crime Victimization Survey 2009*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010)
- In 2009, there were an estimated 2.9 million simple assaults in the United States (*National Crime Victimization Survey 2009*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010)
- In 2009, 21% of aggravated assault offenses were committed with firearms; 19% with knives or cutting instruments; 27% with hands, fists, or feet; and 33% with other

weapons. (*Crime in the United States 2009*. Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010)

- In 2009, fewer than 5 out of 10 aggravated assault victims knew their offenders as an acquaintance, friend, relative, or intimate partner. (*National Crime Victimization Survey 2009*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010)
- Juveniles (ages 12-19) constitute 42% of all aggravated assault victims and 47% of all simple assault victims. Simple assault is the most common crime committed against juveniles, constituting 67% of all offenses against juveniles known to police. (*National Crime Victimization Survey 2009*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010)

Important phone numbers

Emergency	911
Community Information & Referrals	1-800-352-3792
S.A.M.H.C. (24-hr. mental health)	(520) 622-6000
Proyecto VAWA (Asylum Program – Catholic Social Services)	(520) 623-4555
Crime Victim Compensation	(520) 740-5525
City Court Victim Services	(520) 791-5483

Tucson Police Department

TPD non-emergency	(520) 791-4444
TPD records	(520) 791-4461
Victim Notification	1-800-721-7937

Pima County Sheriff's Department Records	(520) 741-4600
Oro Valley Police Records	(520) 229-4937
Marana Police Records	(520) 382-2000
Sahuarita Police Records	(520) 344-7000
Pre-Trial Services	(520) 740-3310
Justice/Superior Court Calendar	(520) 740-4240



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