

# “Kaity’s Law”



On September 30, 2009, ARS 13-3601.A6 was enacted bringing new legislation that adds “Romantic or Sexual Relationship” to the list of Domestic Violence relationship categories.

According to the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2009 Legislative Summary, 49th Legislature, 1st Regular Session, Arizona has one of the highest domestic violence related homicide rates in the country. In 2008, there were approximately 27 domestic violence related deaths involving persons in “dating relationships.”



“Kaity”, was only 17 years old and was walking home from school when her abusive ex-boyfriend shot and killed her before turning the gun on himself. Kaity's tragedy was the inspiration behind Senator Paton's bill (SB1088) and for whom the new law has been named.

The prevalence of dating violence is staggering: **1 in 5 high school students** experience physical or sexual violence in their relationships, and **young women ages 16 to 24 are three times** more likely than any other age group to be abused.

Under Arizona's three strikes law, a third or subsequent domestic violence misdemeanor can be tried as a felony, but prosecution's hands have been tied when it comes to cases of this nature, given **Arizona Statute did not previously recognize dating relationships under the law.** Without state laws to protect these young lives, **their safety is at significant risk.** *The purpose of this law is to help prevent Escalating Violence.*

## ARS 13-3601

6. 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:

- (a) The type of relationship.
- (b) The length of the relationship.
- (c) The frequency of the interaction between the victim and the defendant.
- (d) If the relationship has terminated, the length of time since the termination.

**Consult your Attorney before doing any evictions to make sure you are in compliance with the new Domestic Violence laws.**

### YOU CAN HELP!

**Report ALL Possible Domestic Violence Situations! The Mesa Police Department has trained professionals on staff to assist victims. Please do your part by reporting all incidents to get them help!**