

Tennessee Statutes Pertaining to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking

Domestic Violence

TCA 39-13-111 defines Domestic Assault.

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

TCA 39-13-111 states:

(a) A person commits assault who:

- (1)** Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another;
- (2)** Intentionally or knowingly causes another to reasonably fear imminent bodily injury; or
- (3)** Intentionally or knowingly causes physical contact with another and a reasonable person would regard the contact as extremely offensive or provocative.

TCA 39-13-111 states:

Domestic abuse victims are:

- (1)** Adults or minors who are current or former spouses;
- (2)** Adults or minors who live together or who have lived together;
- (3)** Adults or minors who are dating or who have dated or who have or had a sexual relationship, but does not include fraternization between two (2) individuals in a business or social context;
- (4)** Adults or minors related by blood or adoption;
- (5)** Adults or minors who are related or were formerly related by marriage; or
- (6)** Adult or minor children of a person in a relationship that is described in subdivisions

Therefore a person commits domestic assault who intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another; intentionally or knowingly causes another to reasonably fear imminent bodily injury; or intentionally or knowingly causes physical contact with another and a reasonable person would regard the contact as extremely offensive or provocative AND when victim of such crime is/are 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, but does not include fraternization between two (2) individuals in a business or social context; adults or minors related by blood or adoption; adults or minors who are related or were formerly related by marriage; or adult or minor children of a person in a relationship that is described in the previous categories.

Stalking

TCA 39-17-315 defines Stalking.

(4) Stalking means a willful course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another individual that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested, and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested;

There are additional degrees of stalking, as defined below.

(c) (1) A person commits **aggravated stalking** who commits the offense of stalking as prohibited by subsection (b), and:

(A) In the course and furtherance of stalking, displays a deadly weapon;

(B) The victim of the offense was less than eighteen (18) years of age at any time during the person's course of conduct, and the person is five (5) or more years older than the victim;

(C) Has previously been convicted of stalking within seven (7) years of the instant offense;

(D) Makes a credible threat to the victim, the victim's child, sibling, spouse, parent or dependents with the intent to place any such person in reasonable fear of death or bodily injury; or

(E) At the time of the offense, was prohibited from making contact with the victim under a restraining order or injunction for protection, an order of protection, or any other court-imposed prohibition of conduct toward the victim or the victim's property, and the person knowingly violates the injunction, order or court-imposed prohibition.

(d) (1) A person commits **especially aggravated stalking** who:

(A) Commits the offense of stalking or aggravated stalking, and has previously been convicted of stalking or aggravated stalking involving the same victim of the instant offense; or

(B) Commits the offense of aggravated stalking, and intentionally or recklessly causes serious bodily injury to the victim of the offense or to the victim's child, sibling, spouse, parent or dependent.

Sexual Assault

TCA 39-11-501 through 39-11-505 provide definitions for categories of sexual assault.

39-13-502. Aggravated rape.

(a) Aggravated rape is unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant or the defendant by a victim accompanied by any of the following circumstances:

(1) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the act and the defendant is armed with a weapon or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim reasonably to believe it to be a weapon;

(2) The defendant causes bodily injury to the victim;

(3) The defendant is aided or abetted by one (1) or more other persons; and

(A) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the act; or

(B) The defendant knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless.

39-13-503. Rape.

(a) Rape is unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant or of the defendant by a victim accompanied by any of the following circumstances:

(1) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the act;

(2) The sexual penetration is accomplished without the consent of the victim and the defendant knows or has reason to know at the time of the penetration that the victim did not consent;

(3) The defendant knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless; or

(4) The sexual penetration is accomplished by fraud.

39-13-504. Aggravated sexual battery.

(a) Aggravated sexual battery is unlawful sexual contact with a victim by the defendant or the defendant by a victim accompanied by any of the following circumstances:

(1) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the act and the defendant is armed with a weapon or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim reasonably to believe it to be a weapon;

(2) The defendant causes bodily injury to the victim;

(3) The defendant is aided or abetted by one (1) or more other persons; and

(A) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the act; or

(B) The defendant knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless; or

(4) The victim is less than thirteen (13) years of age.

39-13-505. Sexual battery.

(a) Sexual battery is unlawful sexual contact with a victim by the defendant or the defendant by a victim accompanied by any of the following circumstances:

(1) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the act;

(2) The sexual contact is accomplished without the consent of the victim and the defendant knows or has reason to know at the time of the contact that the victim did not consent;

(3) The defendant knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless; or

(4) The sexual contact is accomplished by fraud.

(b) As used in this section, "coercion" means the threat of kidnapping, extortion, force or violence to be performed immediately or in the future.

39-13-506. Mitigated statutory rape -- Statutory rape -- Aggravated statutory rape.

(a) Mitigated statutory rape is the unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant, or of the defendant by the victim when the victim is at least fifteen (15) but less than eighteen (18) years of age and the defendant is at least four (4) but not more than five (5) years older than the victim.

(b) Statutory rape is the unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant or of the defendant by the victim when:

(1) The victim is at least thirteen (13) but less than fifteen (15) years of age and the defendant is at least four (4) years but less than ten (10) years older than the victim; or

(2) The victim is at least fifteen (15) but less than eighteen (18) years of age and the defendant is more than five (5) but less than ten (10) years older than the victim.

(c) Aggravated statutory rape is the unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant, or of the defendant by the victim when the victim is at least thirteen (13) but less than eighteen (18) years of age and the defendant is at least ten (10) years older than the victim.
