



Prosecutor's Office

To: Whom It May Concern
From: Tobin Sidles, Legal Services Director
Re: Social Contact

On March 11th, 2020 Arizona's Governor Ducey issued a Declaration of Emergency for the State of Arizona, and implemented broad emergency powers in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus as a public health emergency. (See Arizona Revised Statute 36-787). This directive calls for social distancing and minimizing contact.

The penalty for any violation of this emergency order is classified as a class one misdemeanor, with up to 6 months in jail, a fine of \$2500 plus surcharges and court fees, and probation (supervised or unsupervised) for up to 3 years.

In addition, a person can also be charged with a violation of A.R.S. 36-601 (A) for any action which involves a "nuisance dangerous to public health" outside of the Governor's Order as determined by a Judge.

While the issued orders allow citizens to congregate, the purpose behind the "shelter in place" order is to minimize contact with others.

Having parties and/or gatherings of neighbors and friends violates the very purpose of the order. Even if the Governor's Order limits gatherings to ten or less, you could still be charged and issued a citation under the public nuisance statutes which are not subject to the determinations of the Governor's Order. In case you did not know:

The virus is highly contagious, more so than a "normal" flu.

The virus can remain even outside on most surfaces for over twenty-four hours. If anyone infected breathed in the area you are occupying, you are at risk of infection. Many people do not know they are active carriers.

Because of this, the Oro Valley Police Department is asking all citizens to please not congregate unnecessarily. Failure to obey may result in the issuance of a citation as listed above. Please disperse if requested to do so and return to your own homes immediately.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.