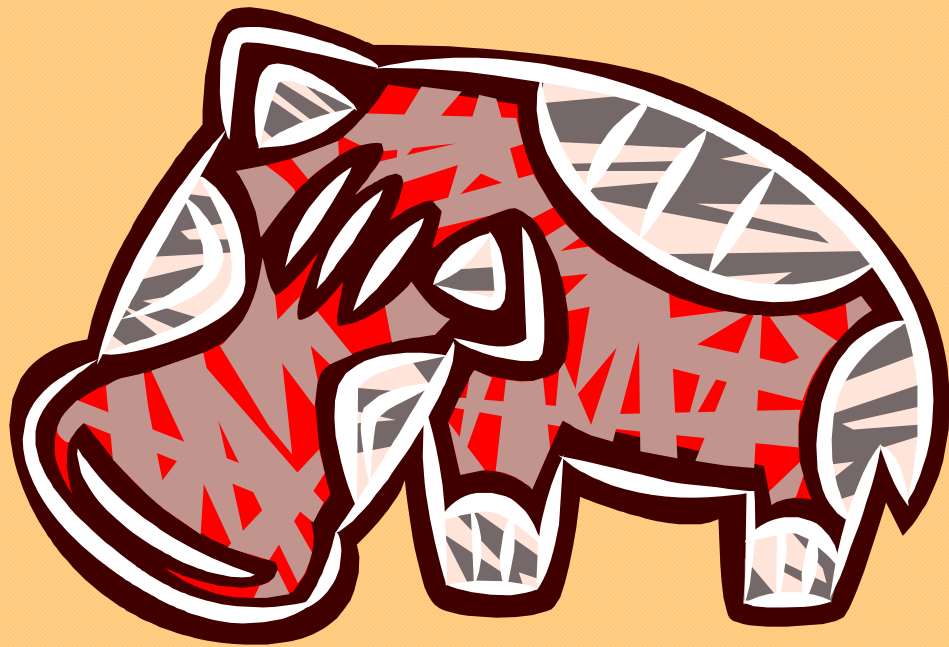


# Legal Assistance





# Legal Assistance

## Barking Dogs

Barking dogs can present a major problem within urban areas such as Phoenix. While some people are very tolerant of dog barking, other residents are sensitive to the disturbance. The ideal solution is to talk to your neighbor and resolve the issue. If the situation cannot be resolved, criminal charges may be filed against the dog owner. The complainant (person annoyed by the barking dog) will begin this process by filing a formal complaint.

You may call the Barking Dog Hotline at 602-262-6466 to have information sent to a barking dog owner in your neighborhood or to receive a **Barking Dog Petition** by mail.

## Court Systems Judiciary Organization

Three levels of court systems operate within the Arizona Judiciary. Each of those levels hears specific types of cases.

Limited Jurisdiction	General Jurisdiction Court	Appellate Court
Municipal Court	Arizona Superior Court	Court of Appeals
Justice of the Peace Court		

## Municipal and Justice of the Peace Courts

Justice of the Peace and Municipal courts have jurisdiction over a limited variety of cases. The Phoenix Municipal Court has jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes and petty offenses committed within the city. When a violation of state law is committed within Phoenix, the Municipal Court shares jurisdiction with the Justice of the Peace Court. In Arizona, the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace Court is determined by geographical boundaries.

### Municipal Court

- Hears criminal and civil traffic cases
- Hears violations of city ordinances and codes
- Issues orders of protection
- Issues injunctions prohibiting harassment
- Issues search warrants
- Handles domestic violence cases
- Handles harassment cases

**Justice of the Peace Court**

- Hears traffic cases
- Hears certain civil cases (\$5,000 or less)
- Hears certain criminal cases, including:
  - Petty offenses and misdemeanors with fines less than \$2,500
  - Assault or battery
- Issues search warrants
- Handles domestic violence cases
- Handles harassment cases
- Shares jurisdiction with Superior Court in cases of landlord/tenant disputes

**Arizona Superior Court**

The Arizona Superior Court is a statewide trial court and hears a wide variety of cases, including appeals from the Municipal and Justice of the Peace courts.

The Superior Court hears many different types of cases, including:

- Proceedings where no other jurisdiction is responsible
- Equity cases that involve property titles or the legality of certain monetary charges by a municipality, the state, or the federal government
- Cases where the value of a property in question is more than \$5,000
- Cases where a felony or misdemeanor is not heard in another court system
- Cases involving the eviction of renters
- Proceedings of insolvency (not bankruptcy)
- Determining measures to be taken to stop nuisances
- Matters of probate
- Dissolution or annulment of marriages
- Issuance of documents for naturalization

**Appeals Court**

The Court of Appeals has jurisdiction to review trials and decisions appealed to them, and hear most appeals from Superior Court. The Court of Appeals:

- Hears cases in three-judge panel
- Has jurisdiction over cases appealed from Superior Court
- Reviews all decisions appealed to it

**Federal Courts**

The Federal District Court has original jurisdiction over all civil actions arising under the U.S. Constitution, laws or treaties between citizens of two different states, civil matters of more than \$75,000 and civil rights.

**Phoenix Municipal Court**

300 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

**Maricopa County Superior Court**

111 S. Third Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

**U.S. District Court**

401 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85003



**Domestic Violence  
Family Advocacy Center**

To provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse – and their families; in a safe, comforting and supportive environment.

The Family Advocacy Center provides victims the opportunity to obtain a variety of services without having to travel to multiple locations. Individuals are able to meet with victim advocates, Police and community services workers who are available to answer questions and provide emotional support.

The center offers a comforting environment where medical exams for evidence collection are conducted in a private setting. Medical personnel will conduct timely exams in a compassionate, sensitive manner. Advocacy services are offered during all exams.

Legal Assistance

**The Family Advocacy Center provides the following services:**

- After-hour advocate response & victim assistance
- Safety planning
- Assistance with Orders of Protection
- Sexual assault examinations
- Crisis counseling
- Shelter access and emergency housing assistance
- Information and referral services
- Support at court
- Investigative services
- Support groups
- Legal advocacy referrals

Additional services may be available, depending on the eligibility of individuals and their families, availability of funds and severity of need.

**Important numbers**

- Community Information and Referral.....602-263-8856 or 1-800-352-3792
- Family Advocacy Center .....602-534-2120 or 1-888-246-0303
- Local Shelters - CONTACTS.....602-263-8900 or 1-800-799-7739
- National Domestic Violence Hotline ..... 1-800-786-SAFE(7380)
- National Sexual Abuse Hotline..... 1-800-656-HOPE(4673)

**For more information, contact:**

**Family Advocacy Center**  
 2120 N. Central Ave., Suite 250  
 Phoenix, AZ 85004  
 Phone: 602-534-2120 or 1-888-246-0303

**DVSTOP**

DVSTOP is a partnership between CIR, the city of Phoenix, Valley of the Sun United Way, Prehab of Arizona, American Red Cross and domestic violence shelters in Maricopa county. When the CONTACTS database shows all domestic violence shelters are full, callers are connected with caseworkers at Prehab who assess the situation. As appropriate, hotel/motel vouchers and transportation are provided through the American Red Cross until an opening is available at a domestic violence shelter.

**Eminent Domain/Condemnation**

**Eminent Domain**

Eminent Domain, also referred to as condemnation, is the right of the government to take private property for public use with the obligation of paying fair market price. The city's right to exercise eminent domain is set forth in various Arizona statutes including the Phoenix City Code.

**Condemnation**

Condemnation is the same as eminent domain except when it is used for blight elimination.

Blight is defined as unsightly conditions including accumulation of debris, landscaping that is dead and any other similar conditions of disrepair and deterioration of a property. Condemnation for the elimination of blight is an exercise of police power.

**Filing a Claim Against the City**

To file a claim against the city of Phoenix, contact Risk Management for the proper form. Complete and mail the form to the City Clerk's Office. The city will review the claim and contact the claimant.

**Risk Management**

251 W. Washington St., Eighth Floor 85003  
602-262-5054

**City Clerk**

200 W. Washington St., 15th Floor 85003  
602-262-6811