

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & COVID-19:

How to Protect Yourself & Your Family from Legal Repercussions



Plus, Discover Why the Coronavirus Outbreak is the Best Time To Expunge Your Criminal Record

Powers Law Group

The impact of Coronavirus in the United States has been swift and severe. It has quickly affected the way we live, the way we interact, the way we shop and it even impacted our court system – so much so that if you are charged with a crime, you may have some concerns.

Contact an attorney at Powers Law Group to protect your rights. Our firm is a powerful legal advocate with the skills and experience to help you reach your goals in this difficult period.

These are certainly troubling times, and we want to be there for you to help you take the actions necessary to protect yourself and your family. We strive to be compassionate counselors and will work hard to achieve workable long-term solutions that protect you and your loved ones.

Right now, with the current panic over the Coronavirus, many clients are wondering how they should respond.

They are asking questions like:

- How do I avoid being the perpetrator or the victim of domestic violence?
- What happens if I'm arrested for domestic violence during the Coronavirus Outbreak?
- I'm stuck in quarantine, and I'm worried about being a victim of domestic violence... What can I do to protect myself and my kids?
- Is now a good time to try to get my criminal record expunged?

These are all very valid concerns, and we will address them all later

in this guide. But first, let's discuss the Coronavirus Outbreak a little more. We understand that even though many of us are staying home, life doesn't stop. There are concerns that must be dealt with, and the welfare of our families must be protected.

We are known for handling each contact and case with the utmost urgency and empathy. We created this guide to help you more easily get the answers you need to the Coronavirus Outbreak and its effect on criminal defense cases.



FACTS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS:

WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS?

Coronavirus, or COVID-19, is a newly identified type of virus that has caused a recent outbreak of respiratory illnesses. Coronavirus was first discovered in December of 2019 in Wuhan, China.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS?

People with Coronavirus may experience: tiredness, a dry cough, fever, and difficulty breathing (severe cases).

WHO IS AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS?

Anyone can catch Coronavirus, but elderly individuals who struggled with previous health issues like hypertension are particularly at risk.

HOW DOES CORONAVIRUS COMPARE TO THE FLU?

The CDC estimates that 38 million Americans got the flu this season, which led to over 23,000 deaths. In comparison, the Coronavirus has produced 566,654 cases so far, and at least 22,877 deaths. Those numbers are expected to continue rising.

That means the court system could be impacted even more than it has already been. There could be more closings, more delays, more uncertainty.

The Powers Law Group is here to help!



CORONAVIRUS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & RECORD EXPUNGEMENT TIPS

TIP 1

IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN A DANGEROUS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATION, CALL FOR HELP

We're finding that domestic violence is increasing due to people being stuck at home during the Coronavirus Outbreak. Don't hesitate to call for help if you think you are in a dangerous situation. If you're not in an actively violent situation, consider calling one of our lawyers as soon as possible to discuss your options.

Here's an example of what is often happening during the Coronavirus Pandemic – a spouse becomes angry about how other family

members are handling COVID-19. The ensuing arguments escalate into violence. Additionally, we are finding that many times other family members may be present and they don't realize that calling the police will result in an arrest.

Please keep this in mind: any time there is any violence in the home, even during COVID-19, and the police are called, it is the law that police must arrest the offender. In other words, any time the police are called to a domestic violence situation, someone IS going to be arrested.

Here are some tips for avoiding a domestic violence situation:

- When you're feeling emotionally elevated, walk away, it takes 20 minutes to calm down. You DO NOT have to try to solve an issue right then.
- Don't take things personally when people are angry; it's not about you, it's about them or the COVID-19 situation.
- Most of us are "pre-wired" to be extremely upset by what our spouses say. So when discussing an issue with a spouse, partner or family member, try to keep sentences short and be curious.
- Remember, the police are not there to help solve your situation, only end it.
- Do NOT text anything when communicating – you usually can't solve an issue or disagreement via writing, and what you say can be used against you.
- If you need help calming down or resolving your situation, call our team to help advise you.

Anyone can be the perpetrator or victim of domestic violence – you are not immune. Be aware of your emotions, ask for help, get counseling, and practice self-care. If you are the perpetrator or victim, there is nothing wrong with you. There is a path forward to get help and recover.

Facing domestic violence charges? Domestic violence is a serious crime under state law. Those convicted of a domestic violence charge may face both severe penalties, including jail or prison time, and harm to their reputation. There are a lot of stigmas attached to domestic violence charges, and people often assume that a person facing such charges is guilty regardless of the facts of the situation.

If you are charged with a family violence offense, you need someone in your corner who could defend you against these charges in court. Jason Powers can protect your legal rights and can help protect your reputation from harm.

Contact us to discuss your case in a confidential setting – **Call 360-419-0809** or **email** us at frontdesk@skagitvalleylaw.com.

**TIP
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**IT'S A GREAT TIME TO SEEK
RECORD EXPUNGEMENT (VACATION
OF RECORD)**

If you were laid off due to Coronavirus and worry that a past

conviction will limit your employment prospects, NOW is the time to expunge your past convictions!

At The Powers Law Group, we have extensive experience getting convictions vacated, overturned or expunged. That's why if you believe a past conviction will hinder your job search you need to give us a call. Our post-conviction team is dedicated to obtaining relief for old convictions.

Why choose us? We have extensive knowledge and experience in post-conviction litigation. We have also built a strong reputation for working closely with clients and the court. Bottom line--you can count on us to investigate your case and to then prepare motions seeking to vacate past convictions that could keep you from working again.

We May be Able to Successfully Lobby for Expungement of Your Criminal Records.

Expungement, or Vacation of Record, refers to when the court dismisses your conviction. That vacation, or expungement, will allow you to tell potential employers that you were not convicted of a crime. The process involves a petitioner asking the courts to declare his or her records expunged or vacated.

When convictions are expunged or vacated, that means they shouldn't show up on background checks conducted by employers, landlords and, others. This can be very advantageous considering the

competition for good jobs, for good housing and for admittance to good schools. Now is a particularly good time to seek record expungement because there will likely be job opportunities after the COVID-19 crisis for you to apply.

Having a clean record could be just the thing you need to land that job of your dreams!



THE NEXT STEP...

Whether you are dealing with a domestic violence concern or want a record expungement so that you can start over, having a good attorney on your side can make all the difference. Even though there have been court closings and delays in proceedings, we want you to know that courts are specifically open for domestic violence and emergency protection orders during COVID-19.

If you are charged with a crime of domestic violence, you will get a hearing the next day either by video conference or in person.

Make sure you have the legal guidance that allows you to secure the best possible outcome.

Contact us today to schedule a free consultation and to learn much more about how we can help you. **Call 360-419-0809** or **email** us at frontdesk@skagitvalleylaw.com.

GET THE LEGAL ADVICE YOU NEED TO TAKE THE RIGHT NEXT STEPS!

And don't forget to take care of mental health as well. These are stressful times; just remember that whatever emotional storm you are going through will eventually pass. Things will get better.

To cut down on the level of stress you are feeling during the Coronavirus Outbreak:

- Try to keep your routine
- Exercise daily
- Take frequent breaks
- Communicate with friends and co-workers as much as possible for human connection

If you have to work during the Coronavirus Outbreak and it is causing you stress and anxiety that you are then bringing home, you should try to do all of the following at work:

- Disinfect everything you touch

- Use your own products (masks, disinfectant, gloves, etc.)
- Keep track of your temperature and log it.
- Frequently communicate to your employer how you are feeling.

Hiring a good attorney can help lower your stress as well. When selecting an attorney, look for one that can take advantage of the latest technology. This is essential for staying in contact with you and moving your case forward despite court closings and social distancing requirements.

At Powers Law Group, we are able to use the latest video conferencing and live streaming technology. That means we can meet with you remotely – you won't have to travel to our office. Instead, you can stay in the safety of your own home. We can also use this technology to continue working on your case and ensuring that it moves forward.

Call 360-419-0809 or **email** us at frontdesk@skagitvalleylaw.com to learn more.

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**GET THE LEGAL ADVICE YOU
NEED TO TAKE THE RIGHT
NEXT STEPS!**

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NEED THE RIGHT LEGAL ADVICE?



CONTACT US TODAY!



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