

The disorderly conduct law seeks to control intentional behavior that tends to disturb the public tranquility, or to alarm or provoke others. It forbids conduct involving the use of force or violence, as well as threats involving the immediate use of force or violence. The law also forbids tumultuous and highly agitated behavior, which may not involve physical violence, but that causes "riotous commotion" and excessively unreasonable noise, thereby creating a public nuisance. The law also prohibits any conduct that creates a hazard to public safety or a physically offensive condition by an act that serves no legitimate purpose of the defendant's. The disorderly conduct law cannot be applied to language and expressive conduct, even if offensive and abusive, unless the language falls within First Amendment protections. A 1st offense disorderly conduct conviction is punishable by a fine. Second and subsequent offenses are punishable by up to six months in jail.