

Fight Domestic Violence Charges | Utah Defense Lawyers

W wasatchdefenselawyers.com/practice-areas/utah-domestic-violence-defense

September 20, 2016



Strategic Legal Defense for Domestic Violence Charges in Utah

If you've been arrested or accused of **domestic violence in Utah**, your future, your family, and your freedom are at risk. At **Wasatch Defense Lawyers**, we are the **top-rated criminal defense attorneys** in Salt Lake City with a powerful track record of protecting our clients' rights in high-stakes domestic violence cases. With **over 650 trials under our belt** and the **most 5-star reviews of any defense firm in Utah**, we are here to stand between you and the full weight of the legal system.

Our team includes both **domestic violence defense attorneys and lawyers in Utah**, serving Salt Lake and surrounding areas with proven legal strategies. We serve clients throughout **Salt Lake County**, as well as the broader **Wasatch Front region**, ensuring every client gets experienced, aggressive, and personalized defense.

Serving Salt Lake City, the Wasatch Front, and Communities Across Utah

[Get a Free Case Review](#) [Call 24/7 for Help](#)

AV-Rated Firm 650+ Trials Completed 5-Star Reviews in Utah Award-Winning Legal Team

Why Ignoring a Domestic Violence Charge Costs More Than You Think

A domestic violence conviction in Utah isn't just a legal problem—it can destroy your personal and professional life. You could face **jail time**, **a permanent criminal record**, **loss of child custody**, and **a lifetime stigma** that follows you everywhere.

Waiting too long to act—or hiring the wrong attorney—can put your future in danger. The legal system moves fast, and prosecutors are already building a case against you. Don't make the mistake of assuming it'll go away.

Learn more about [5 common false beliefs about domestic abuse and sexual violence](#).

How We Protect You: Our Defense Strategy Delivers Results

Trial-Tested Legal Team	Our attorneys have tried over 650 cases—giving you courtroom experience most firms can't match.
Fast Legal Action	We respond immediately to your arrest or accusations. The sooner we act, the more we can do.
Customized Defense Plans	Every case is different. We tailor your defense around the facts, not one-size-fits-all arguments.
Confidential, Non-Judgmental Support	We know this is personal. You'll get compassionate service with zero judgment—just results.

Why Choose Wasatch Defense Lawyers?

Trusted Across Salt Lake City, the Wasatch Front, and Utah

1. 20+ Years of Criminal Law Experience
2. 650+ Jury and Bench Trials
3. 24/7 Emergency Consultations
4. Named "Best Criminal Defense Firm in Utah"
5. AVVO Superb Rating & AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell
6. [5-Star Google, Yelp, and Avvo Reviews](#)

Our Domestic Violence Defense Services

1. Defense Against False Allegations
2. Protective Order Defense
3. Case Dismissal & Record Expungement

4. Child Custody & Family Impact Strategy
5. Trial Representation in Salt Lake County Courts
6. Legal Advice for First-Time Offenders

If you need a **domestic violence defense attorney in Salt Lake** or a reliable **domestic violence defense lawyer in Salt Lake**, our experienced team is here for you.

Each service links to a detailed page for deeper information and SEO interlinking.

Understanding Utah's Domestic Violence Laws

Domestic violence in Utah is defined under **Utah Code Section 77-36-1**, which outlines a broad scope of criminal behaviors between cohabitants, including:

1. Assault or aggravated assault
2. Harassment or stalking
3. Unlawful detention
4. [Criminal mischief](#) (damaging property)



Utah follows a **mandatory arrest policy**, meaning law enforcement is required to arrest someone if they have probable cause to believe domestic violence occurred—regardless of whether the victim wants to press charges.

Understanding these laws is critical when building a strong defense. Our attorneys analyze every detail of your case to ensure your rights are fully protected.

Types of Domestic Violence Charges We Defend in Utah

Threat of Violence

Threatening injury, death, or property damage to frighten a victim. A Class B misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and \$1,000 in fines.

Violation of Protective Order

Occurs when an individual disobeys terms of a protective order. Arrest is mandatory if law enforcement believes a violation occurred.

Violation of No Contact Order

Issued during a criminal case to prevent contact with the alleged victim. Violations may result in new charges and additional penalties.



Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child

Each child present during an act of domestic violence can result in separate charges. The child does not need to witness the act directly.

Long-Term Consequences of a Domestic Violence Conviction in Utah

A conviction can lead to:

1. Loss of current or future employment
2. Firearm ownership restrictions
3. Child custody and visitation complications
4. Reputation damage in your community and personal life
5. Restricted freedom of movement and association



What Our Clients Say

These guys were the most intelligent and helpful lawyers I've spoken with, that's after searching for lawyers for months. If you are looking for a lawyer to get you the best bang for your buck call these guys



Mike Coltrin

8 months ago

Jen, Lane, and the rest of the team went out of their way to help us out in an urgent matter. All of the staff are professional, understanding, and pay attention to even the most minute details. We are so appreciative-Thanks everyone!



Scott Snyder

9 months ago

My paralegal Lane did a fantastic job at advocating for me and keeping communication open with my detective. I also had a great experience with Darrel York; it was always great speaking with him and he could always calm my nerves about concerns I had or answering my many questions. Thanks again Wasatch Defense!



Isaac Hundley

a day ago

I had Katelyn Webb help me with my case, she was very attentive, always answered my questions. We always had a call before all our court dates. She put so much work and dedication into my case and convinced the prosecutor to dismiss my case. Lane has been very generous and is now trying to help me with my expungement process free of charge. He really cares about my record being clean for my future and my beneficial.



Maria Rios

7 days ago

We worked with Wasatch Defense and they were able to help us know what decision we needed to make going forward with our case. They are very kind and all of the insight and valuable experience that they have is so great! I would love to work with them again!!



Ashley Speaker

8 days ago

Very positive, productive meeting, which was extremely valuable - very helpful and useful information. Highly professional staff. They receive my wholehearted recommendation.



Rob Speaker

10 days ago

A place of great respect. They were very courteous and answered my questions to my satisfaction



Rod Mueller

24 days ago

Wasatch defense lawyers are the best representation you will find. Reed, Scott, Lane, and Victoria are an incredible team that ensures every aspect of your case is done with the upmost care & detailed precision. They have everything covered from start to finish and never leave you feeling alone. They maintain excellent communication that is vital to reassure and instruct you on your case, which gives you the confidence needed at the most important time of your life. Highly recommend and couldn't be happier with not only the outcome but the entire process. THANK YOU WASATCH DEFENSE LAWYERS for coming to the rescue and REED for handling so much!



Tiffany

27 days ago

Since the moment I met with the fine people at Wasatch Defense Lawyer, they have treated me with dignity and respect. Big shoutout to Franklin, Lane and Mark! Thank you for your support and help through a difficult process.



Kelli Rexford

30 days ago

Great team! Very professional and thorough. Got my case dismissed rather than going to trial! Well worth it if you value your life or time



John

30 days ago

I used this group when I got very surprising news I had a legal issue. I met with Lane Clark who made me feel like I was very important and handled my case with care and getting me with an awesome Defense Attorney in Beau Blakely. From the first phone call with Lane and then meeting him in his office, he made me feel very important and that I was definitely with right group. Between Lane and his team and working closely with Beau Blakely, my case was handled professionally and with confidence that my case would be dismissed. They said they felt this should be the only outcome and Beau made this to be true. I can't recommend Wasatch Defense and Lane and Beau enough. I am forever grateful for them



Kerry Hyland

a month ago

From the moment I talked with them they assured me that they'd do everything possible get me out of my situation with as little damage possible. Their expertise and confidence made a potentially stressful situation more manageable, I am truly grateful to their assistance and would recommend them to anyone in need of legal support.



Alex Granda

a month ago

Scott Wilding was very knowledgeable and managed to keep me calm during this legal process. Professional and competent, would recommend!



Kevin Buttars

a month ago

Wasatch Defense is Highly Recommended! They are very professional, helpful & knowledgeable in so many areas. Lane has been a delight to work with. He is "on it" every time we have a question or concern. Mark Brian is very attentive to his clients & their concerns & Mark is an excellent attorney! All phone calls or texts are ALWAYS answered in a very timely manner. If you need help with Criminal Defense in or around Salt Lake City, I would absolutely recommend this law firm! JUST A FOLLOW UP a few years later. My son has told me how secure & safe he felt with this team! We worked mostly with Mark Brian and Lane & they were incredible at returning phone calls, getting the job done & making us all feel at Ease!!



Kathy Keltner

a month ago

Seems like good people work here, they helped me figure out I was getting scammed, and possibly saved my job. All without me paying them anything! Thanks guys !!



Josh Karrick

3 months ago

Lane and Paul were amazing. They responded to me on a SUNDAY night at 7:30 pm and attended court for my son at 8:45 am the next day. They are fast to respond. Extremely caring. They go above and beyond. They understand kids and how they are feeling. 10000%. Recommend.



Shannon Bacelis

4 months ago

I highly recommend Wasatch Defense. The entire team genuinely cares about their clients, taking the time to understand every detail and provide expert guidance. Their professionalism, dedication, and expertise are unmatched. They go above and beyond to ensure the best possible outcome, and their communication throughout the process is outstanding. If you're looking for a law firm that is compassionate, knowledgeable, and truly fights for you, Wasatch Defense Lawyers is the best choice.



Frances Helsten

4 months ago

Attorney Darrell York was very kind and helpful. Highly recommend!



Susan Welland

4 months ago

I called in today to ask some questions and Wasatch defense lawyers was not only professional and knowledgeable but also incredibly empathetic. They took the time to listen, understand my concerns, and provide reassurance throughout the process. Highly recommend Wasatch defense lawyers!



Ajay Gaucin

4 months ago

The team was amazing to work with! They were so informative and walked me through the process.



Toshi Hunter

4 months ago

I am incredibly grateful to Wasatch Defense Lawyers for their outstanding service. They played a crucial role in helping my son. From the start, their team was diligent and thorough in their pursuit of justice, demonstrating a deep understanding of the legal system and a strong commitment to their clients. They created a strategic plan of attack and provided us with clear and concise guidance throughout the entire process. Their professionalism, dedication, and support made a difficult situation much more manageable. I highly recommend Wasatch Defense Lawyers to anyone in need of exceptional legal representation.



Josh McPherron

5 months ago

Wasatch Defense Lawyers has been very helpful to me. I was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and got caught up in a serious criminal investigation. Never having been in a situation like this ever before, it was extremely stressful. Lane at Wasatch Defense Lawyers helped me get through it successfully. I highly recommend them!



Jack Baumann

6 months ago

When my son got tangled up in a SLC PD investigation I knew my family needed help. I put our trust in Wasatch Defense Lawyers. They immediately jumped into action, working to assess the situation, and quickly providing guidance. Their professionalism and knowledge helped to assure me that things were under control. I'm very grateful that, with the help of Wasatch Defense Lawyers, my son has been cleared of the investigation.



Steve Baumann

6 months ago

Dataexpungecom was a valuable resource for finding a skilled criminal lawyer. Their professionalism and intelligence were evident throughout the process, leading to a positive experience. It's crucial to have a strong legal advocate, and I found that in their services.



globex papers

6 months ago

EVERYTHING... IS THE ONLY WORD TO DESCRIBE THIS LAW FIRM! They are everything to my family and myself!!! From the very first phone call to them, Lane and

Paul were there for us! They stayed by our side through each and every step of the court process before the court process had even actually begun. They beat my criminal case, were able to get me home with my family and helped me to stay with my family! Lane was instantly so supportive and positive for my husband and myself! Ensuring us that it may take time but that we would get through this all. He really helped us to believe that and you could tell he genuinely cares. Paul was so genuine and positive from the first time we met. He worked so hard on my case, jumped through many hoops, fought tirelessly to beat my case, walked me through each process and gave the best advice throughout the entirety of the processes. Not to mention was very much on top of all information, laws and processes in defending my case. I can't thank Paul enough for everything! They helped us to achieve the very best possibility and outcome, we could have only wished for and WE GOT IT!!! They never hesitate to reach out and follow up with you, they are prompt and efficient!!! I can truly say... If you're in need of an attorney who will truly fight for you, believe in you, support you and your loved ones through the difficulties we all face in life for various reasons... Wasatch Defense Attorneys is where you want to go!!! Not only do I recommend them... I have the fullest of intentions to use them in the near future to make a long time coming family case a reality for us! I believe whole heartedly that there is not another firm that I would ever entrust with any matter I may come across in life again! Thank you Wasatch Defense Attorneys, Paul Johnson and Lane!!! You did everything and beyond what you told us you would do! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for keeping our family together and being part of moving us into such a positive direction in our lives! We look forward to working with you again!



Alyxandra Grimsdell

6 months ago

Highly recommend this group if you've been involved in a gun-related legal issue! I had an accidental incident during a hunting trip, and they successfully got my case dismissed. As a CCW holder, I deeply appreciated their expertise and dedication. Our attorney, Scott, was outstanding—he fought hard for me in court and truly understood the nuances of gun laws. When you work with them, be sure to ask any questions you have; they are true experts in their field and will fight tirelessly on your behalf.



Spencer Welch

6 months ago

Lane and his team, I've never met a better one and hope I never have to. They are hardworking and dedicated at what they do. They are brutally honest, no beating around

bush or gimmicks which I genuinely liked. Best of all, they will give you results! Thank you for everything!!!



Chad Andersen

6 months ago

Lane and his team are amazing! They work their hardest to ensure that their clients are represented fairly.



Lori Andersen

6 months ago

I want to say that what your firm did for my son was beyond amazing. He lost so much of his life over one false accusation that turned his life into a nightmare for 5 years. He was put into jail, and then on an ankle monitor for a long time. He lost his job that really put him into a financial bind. but anytime that he felt like giving up he would read over your reviews which gave him reassurance that you guys would pull through for him. Or he would call and talk to someone regarding his case and again got the reassurance that kept him fighting. My son didn't deserve all that he had to endure but he kept the fight and so did your firm. Your Attorney's brought in many professionals who testified in his behalf and who were top notch in their field of expertise. I was so glad that he took his case to jury trial so that all could be revealed in truth. He was able to prove his innocents and now with the not guilty verdict my son can enjoy the best Christmas/ Birthday ever in his life. He gets to be the best father to my wonderful granddaughter and an awesome provider for his family. He got his life back and can finally become the successful man I knew he would always become. Thank you from the most inner side of my heart and hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and may your New year bring many more successful wins to many others needing your guidance and expertise so that they can also gain their life back. Your firm was totally amazing. I would definitely recommend your firm to anyone needing a defense lawyer.



moonpinnday powerson

7 months ago

5 stars isn't enough! I was accused of one of the worst things you could imagine and when I walked into their office I immediately felt at peace. Not one person in their office judged me and better yet they believed in me. I've been dealing with my allegation for five years. I went in within a week of being accused. The next two years I hadn't heard a thing. Then I was charged. Lane remembered everything about my case right away, offered me support and the best advice possible. Lane was my literal savior many times. Lane was always quick to answer my calls and texts and offered so much reassurance and guidance. Even when I was beyond emotional he was able to talk me off the ledge. Paul Johnson was instrumental in getting me out of jail when I was a no bond hold. Craig Chlarson attended my civil hearing and couldn't believe what they were trying to do to me. I spent 447 days on an ankle monitor with house arrest. Then Lane put Jennie Wingad and Beau Blackley on my case. Beau quickly fought to get the ankle monitor removed. Despite a hard fight from the other parties, we won that battle. From then on I knew I was in the right hands. We fought for two more years before the state was ready for trial. Leading up to trial the prosecutor offered me a terrible plea deal. I denied it and went in fighting. Lane reassured me once again. Beau and Jennie prepped my case and brought in many expert witnesses. They poked so many holes in the states case. After a four day grueling trial over one charge. I can finally say I WON!! I get my life back! I couldn't recommend Wasatch Defense Lawyers enough. I personally used these reviews to get me through the dark days. I used these reviews to find them. I hope that if anyone is unfortunate enough to be in my situation that you give Wasatch Defense Lawyers your case. You will not regret it. I want to give a special thank you to Lane Clark, Scot Wilding, Paul Johnson, Beau Blackley, Jennie Wingad and Stephen Florence. You all have saved my life and I will forever be thankful!



James P

7 months ago

Amazing, amazing, amazing! Thank you guys so much for all your did for our family. We are very happy with the results and outcome of a case we were dealing with. Wasatch defense was there for us every step of the way and it was more than just doing business. We can't thank you guys enough for the outcome we received in our trial! 10/10 recommend ❤️



Shelby H.

7 months ago

If you're looking for an amazing law firm Wasatch Defense Lawyers is your team! And I mean TEAM! I had 6 very serious charges on me that would have ruined my life for the rest of it! After my wife and I hired them they immediately went to work for me. All but 1 small charge was dropped and a couple classes. My attorney Tyler Ayers was absolutely amazing today!! From day one I told Lane Clark , and soon Tyler that I wanted to take it all the way and we did! Tyler went in and absolutely chewed the prosecuting attorney up!! Long happy story short, hire this team your money will not be wasted!! Thank you again Wasatch Defense Lawyers for all you hard work!



Cortley Maughan

7 months ago

By far the BEST law firm you could ever have on your side. I would definitely recommend them to EVERYONE. Tyler Ayres was our lawyer and he did an amazing job from start to finish. Absolutely appreciate everything they have done for us.



Sierria Ramey

7 months ago

Your law office defended my son today(12/12/24) Thank you for the great job you did in his defense! My biggest fear was he wouldn't walk back in the same door he walked out of this morning! My momma heart thanks you! ❤️



Gayle Maughan

7 months ago

My name is Kay Young, Jarad Youngs mother, I think that Scott Wilding did an amazing job with the defense for my son. I'm leaving a five star review because he was really helpful and answered all our questions. I would recommend your company to anyone.



Kay Young

7 months ago

Scott Wilding was my attorney and I think that he did a hell of a job on my defense and kept me out of prison. I am leaving a five star review for your company and would recommend you to anyone. Thank You so much 😊



Jarad Young

7 months ago

Scott was so great to work with. He always took the time to answers any questions I had.



Mary Drakos

7 months ago

They were able to get us in quickly. They demonstrated extensive subject matter knowledge and were able to resolve our concerns and most of our problems almost immediately during the consultation. We knew we were in good hands. Highly recommend.



Levi Slade

7 months ago

This was a great team of Attorneys, especially Tyler Ayers who assisted me with my case. What could have been a horrible outcome ended up being a fair resolution between myself and the City. Thank you, Tyler!



M Ramon

8 months ago

where do i begin...from day one wdl has worked so hard and gone above and beyond to go what is best for me. Lane is super attentive and always there to alleviate any worries

or stress. I genuinely could not ask for better support and representation. They are the BEST!!!



Mindy Tanner

8 months ago

These guys were the most intelligent and helpful lawyers I've spoken with, that's after searching for lawyers for months. If you are looking for a lawyer to get you the best bang for your buck call these guys



Mike Coltrin

8 months ago

Jen, Lane, and the rest of the team went out of their way to help us out in an urgent matter. All of the staff are professional, understanding, and pay attention to even the most minute details. We are so appreciative-Thanks everyone!



Scott Snyder

9 months ago

My paralegal Lane did a fantastic job at advocating for me and keeping communication open with my detective. I also had a great experience with Darrel York; it was always great speaking with him and he could always calm my nerves about concerns I had or answering my many questions. Thanks again Wasatch Defense!



Isaac Hundley

a day ago

I had Katelyn Webb help me with my case, she was very attentive, always answered my questions. We always had a call before all our court dates. She put so much work and dedication into my case and convinced the prosecutor to dismiss my case. Lane has

been very generous and is now trying to help me with my expungement process free of charge. He really cares about my record being clean for my future and my beneficial.



Maria Rios

7 days ago

Quick Checklist: What to Do Within 24 Hours of a Domestic Violence Arrest

1. **Do Not Contact the Alleged Victim** – Even if it feels necessary, violating no-contact or protective orders can result in new charges.
2. **Invoke Your Right to Remain Silent** – Anything you say can be used against you. Politely request an attorney before speaking to police.
3. **Contact a Defense Attorney Immediately** – Fast action can change the outcome. Legal guidance from the start is essential.
4. **Gather Evidence & Witnesses** – Make note of timelines, messages, and people who were present before or during the incident.
5. **Avoid Social Media** – Don't post about your case online, even if it seems harmless. Prosecutors can use it as evidence.

Review these [free legal tips from a criminal defense attorney](#) to stay protected.

In many cases, yes. We've had success challenging evidence, cross-examining credibility, and reducing charges drastically.

Our Service Area

Wasatch Defense Lawyers

299 South Main Street #1317
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Proudly defending clients across: Salt Lake City, West Valley, Provo, Ogden, South Jordan, Sandy, Layton, and all of Salt Lake, Utah, and Weber Counties.

Ready to Get Reliable Legal Defense?

Don't let a charge define your future.

A single accusation can impact your job, your relationships, and your reputation. But it doesn't have to define your life. With the right legal team by your side, you can fight back with confidence and move forward on your terms. Let us help you take the first step

toward clearing your name and protecting your rights.

[Get Your Free Case Evaluation](#)

Proudly Serving Salt Lake City and Surrounding Communities Across Utah