

## CHAPTER 40

### PUBLIC PEACE

40.01 Assault  
40.02 Harassment  
40.03 Disorderly Conduct

40.04 Unlawful Assembly  
40.05 Failure to Disperse

**40.01 ASSAULT.** No person shall, without justification, commit any of the following:

1. Pain or Injury. Any act which is intended to cause pain or injury to, or which is intended to result in physical contact which will be insulting or offensive to another, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 708.1 [1])*

2. Threat of Pain or Injury. Any act which is intended to place another in fear of immediate physical contact which will be painful, injurious, insulting, or offensive, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 708.1 [2])*

However, where the person doing any of the above enumerated acts, and such other person, are voluntary participants in a sport, social or other activity, not in itself criminal, and such act is a reasonably foreseeable incident of such sport or activity, and does not create an unreasonable risk or serious injury or breach of the peace, the act is not an assault. Provided, where the person doing any of the above enumerated acts is employed by a school district or accredited nonpublic school, or is an area education agency staff member who provides services to a school or school district, and intervenes in a fight or physical struggle, or other disruptive situation that takes place in the presence of the employee or staff member performing employment duties in a school building, on school grounds or at an official school function regardless of the location, the act is not an assault, whether the fight or physical struggle or other disruptive situation is between students or other individuals if the degree and the force of the intervention is reasonably necessary to restore order and to protect the safety of those assembled.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 708.1)*

**40.02 HARASSMENT.** No person shall commit harassment.

1. A person commits harassment when, with intent to intimidate, annoy or alarm another person, the person does any of the following:

A. Communicates with another by telephone, telegraph, writing or via electronic communication without legitimate purpose and in a manner likely to cause the other person annoyance or harm.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 708.7)*

B. Places any simulated explosive or simulated incendiary device in or near any building, vehicle, airplane, railroad engine or railroad car, or boat occupied by the other person.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 708.7)*

C. Orders merchandise or services in the name of another, or to be delivered to another, without such other person's knowledge or consent.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 708.7)*

D. Reports or causes to be reported false information to a law enforcement authority implicating another in some criminal activity, knowing that the information is false, or reports the alleged occurrence of a criminal act, knowing the same did not occur.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 708.7)*

2. A person commits harassment when the person, purposefully and without legitimate purpose, has personal contact with another person, with the intent to threaten, intimidate or alarm that other person. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "personal contact" means an encounter in which two or more people are in visual or physical proximity to each other. "Personal contact" does not require a physical touching or oral communication, although it may include these types of contacts.

**40.03 DISORDERLY CONDUCT.** No person shall do any of the following:

1. Fighting. Engage in fighting or violent behavior in any public place or in or near any lawful assembly of persons, provided that participants in athletic contests may engage in such conduct that is reasonably related to that sport.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.4[1])*

2. Noise. Make loud and raucous noise in the vicinity of any residence or public building which causes unreasonable distress to the occupants thereof.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.4[2])*

3. Abusive Language. Direct abusive epithets or make any threatening gesture that the person knows or reasonably should know is likely to provoke a violent reaction by another.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.4[3])*

4. Disrupt Lawful Assembly. Without lawful authority or color of authority, disturb any lawful assembly or meeting of persons by conduct intended to disrupt the meeting or assembly.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.4[4])*

5. False Report of Catastrophe. By words or action, initiate or circulate a report or warning of fire, epidemic, or other catastrophe, knowing such report to be false or such warning to be baseless.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.4[5])*

6. Disrespect of Flag. Knowingly and publicly use the flag of the United States in such a manner as to show disrespect for the flag as a symbol of the United States, with the intent or reasonable expectation that such use will provoke or encourage another to commit trespass or assault. As used in this subsection:

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.4[6])*

A. "Deface" means to intentionally mar the external appearance.

B. "Defile" means to intentionally make physically unclean.

- C. “Flag” means a piece of woven cloth or other material designed to be flown from a pole or mast.
- D. “Mutilate” means to intentionally cut up or alter so as to make imperfect.
- E. “Show disrespect” means to deface, defile, mutilate, or trample.
- F. “Trample” means to intentionally tread upon or intentionally cause a machine, vehicle, or animal to tread upon.

7. **Obstruct Use of Street.** Without authority or justification, obstruct any street, sidewalk, highway, or other public way, with the intent to prevent or hinder its lawful use by others.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.4[7])*

8. **Funeral or Memorial Service.** Within 500 feet of the building or other location where a funeral or memorial service is being conducted, or within 500 feet of a funeral procession or burial:

- A. Make loud and raucous noise that causes unreasonable distress to the persons attending the funeral or memorial service or participating in the funeral procession.
- B. Direct abusive epithets or make any threatening gesture that the person knows or reasonably should know is likely to provoke a violent reaction by another.
- C. Disturb or disrupt the funeral, memorial service, funeral procession, or burial by conduct intended to disturb or disrupt the funeral, memorial service, funeral procession, or burial.

This subsection applies to conduct within 60 minutes preceding, during, and within 60 minutes after a funeral, memorial service, funeral procession, or burial.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.5)*

9. **Keeping Disorderly House.**

A. **Definition.** A disorderly house in this chapter means any building, dwelling, place, establishment, or premises in which action or conduct occur in violation of any law or ordinance relating to the following: (i) sale or regulation of intoxicating liquor or non-intoxicating malt liquor; (ii) gambling; (iii) prostitution, solicitation to vice, or lewd and indecent behavior; (iv) sale or use of drugs or controlled substances; (v) stolen property; (vi) two noise complaints within a 24-hour period or four noise complaints within a 60-day period. If the building, dwelling, place, establishment, or premises is a multi-unit dwelling or residence, hotel or motel, or commercial or office building, this definition only includes the dwelling unit, room, or suite of rooms in the hotel or motel, office rooms or suite, or store in which the actions or conduct occur.

B. **Operations.** No person shall own, operate, manage, maintain or conduct a disorderly house, or invite or attempt to invite other to visit or remain in such disorderly house.

C. Visiting. No person shall visit or remain in a disorderly house for the purpose of aiding, abetting, or engaging in behavior or conduct in violation of any law or ordinance relating to those enumerated in subsection 9(A) above.

10. Interference with Official Acts.

A. Definition. A person who knowingly resists or obstructs anyone known by the person to be a peace officer, emergency medical care provider under Chapter 147A of the *Code of Iowa*, or firefighter, whether paid or volunteer, in the performance of any act which is within the scope of the lawful duty or authority of that officer, emergency medical care provider under Chapter 147A of the *Code of Iowa*, or firefighter, whether paid or volunteer, or who knowingly resists or obstructs the service or execution by any authorized person or any civil or criminal process or order of any court, commits a simple misdemeanor. In addition to any other penalties, the punishment imposed for a violation of this subsection shall include assessment of a fine of not less than \$250.00.

B. Operation. No person shall knowingly resist or obstruct anyone, known by the person to be a peace officer, emergency medical care provider or firefighter, whether paid or volunteer, in the performance of any act which is within the scope of the lawful duty or authority of that officer, emergency medical care provider, or firefighter, whether paid or volunteer, or who knowingly resists or obstructs the service or execution by any authorized person of any civil or criminal process or order of any court.

C. Visiting. No person shall aid, abet, or engage in behavior or conduct in violation of any law or ordinance relating to those enumerated in subsection 10(A) above.

**40.04 UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY.** It is unlawful for three (3) or more persons to assemble together, with them or any of them acting in a violent manner, and with intent that they or any of them will commit a public offense. No person shall willingly join in or remain part of an unlawful assembly, knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe it is such.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.2)*

**40.05 FAILURE TO DISPERSE.** A peace officer may order the participants in a riot or unlawful assembly or persons in the immediate vicinity of a riot or unlawful assembly to disperse. No person within hearing distance of such command shall refuse to obey.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 723.3)*

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