



## 2019 Domestic Violence Legislative Agenda

### Arizona Domestic Violence Relationship Test

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ACESDV is seeking to modify the relationship test to exclude relationships of non-familial persons residing together, as well as those in non-romantic or sexual relationships, such as individuals living in a group home, shelter or dorm facility.

### Domestic Violence Offender Treatment

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Offender Treatment Programs (OTP) are programs designed for those convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence per ARS 13-3601. Currently, program oversight and enforcement is managed through the Arizona Department of Health Services, as well as the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) - this proposal will give authority to the AOC. Furthermore, the statute currently allows for repeat offenders to be reordereed to OTP repeatedly; new language will make it clear that those who have previously completed an OTP may be ordered to alternative treatment or alternatives sanctions considered.

### Domestic Violence and Firearms

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Accessibility to firearms facilitates and amplifies violence, as well as increases the likelihood that violence will occur. Abusers use firearms as their primary weapon of choice in domestic violence homicides and 3rd weapon of choice in non-fatal domestic violence assault. ACESDV is seeking to close gaps in Arizona law and ensure that when domestic abusers are convicted of a domestic violence crime or become subject to a domestic violence order of protection, they are prohibited from having guns. Legislation would provide a clear process to ensure prohibited possessors surrender all firearms owned or in their possession until they are no longer prohibited from having them.

### Funding for Domestic Violence Services

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Diversified funding streams are necessary to enhance programs and services available to those impacted by domestic violence. Safety for survivors is often dependent upon an array of supports made available through community-based and direct service agencies. ACESDV would like to see the DV line item for services sustained and/or allocated in a manner that benefits those most in need. We do not support efforts to consolidate line items in the Community Services Administration of the Department of Economic Security; this will create more confusion and decrease accountability to both the Department and Legislature for support of crucial basic needs supports.

### Other Areas of Interest

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ACESDV believes in enhancing survivors' and community safety through dismantling oppression and promoting equity. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues such as family law, healthcare and reproductive healthcare access, education, humane and just immigration policies and reform measures, and other areas that may impact sexual and domestic violence survivors and their families in Arizona.