

Stop Street Harassment

Wyoming

A variety of forms of street harassment are illegal in Wyoming, including verbal harassment, up-skirt photos, indecent exposure, following, and groping. Here are the laws and reporting procedures you need to know.

Verbal Harassment

Wyoming has three laws that prohibit various forms of verbal harassment.

Breach of the Peace

[Title 6, Chapter 6, §101](#)

A person commits breach of the peace if s/he disturbs the peace of a community or its inhabitants by using threatening, abusive or obscene language or violent actions with knowledge or probable cause to believe s/he will disturb the peace.

If someone threatens to follow, touch, or hurt you, or uses abusive or sexually explicit language, you can report him/her.

Penalty: Breach of the peace is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six months, a fine of not more than \$750.00, or both.

Equal Enjoyment of Public Accommodations and Facilities

[Title 6, Chapter, §101](#)

The state of Wyoming guarantees *full and equal enjoyment* of all public agencies or place that invite the patronage of the public to everyone, as long as they are not doing anything illegal or otherwise misbehaving. No one can be denied entry or discriminated against based on his/her race, religion, color, sex, or national origin.

If someone is preventing you from going to or using a public space because of these reasons, whether directly (“People of your kind aren’t allowed in”) or because s/he is generally harassing you or others on the premises and this makes you unwilling to return, you can report that person to the police.

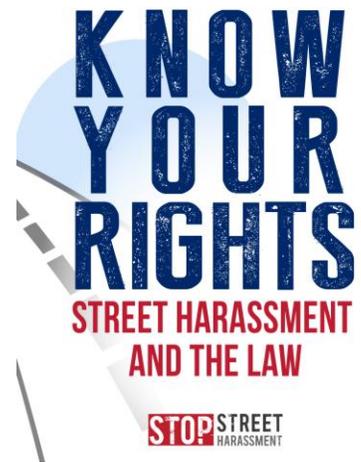
For example, men may not harass women entering a corner store, making them unwilling to return, or at a public basketball court to keep women from playing there.

Penalty: A person who intentionally violates this section commits a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six months, a fine of not more than \$750, or both.

Soliciting an Act of Prostitution

[Title 6, Chapter 4, §102](#)

A person is guilty of soliciting an act of prostitution if, with the intent that an act of sexual intrusion be committed, that person knowingly or intentionally pays, or *offers* or agrees to pay money or other property to another person under circumstances that indicate an act of prostitution will be committed.



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Circumstances that indicate that person intends to commit prostitution might include stopping his or her car, stopping you on the street, and/or asking repeatedly, giving you reason to believe s/he is serious.

Stop Street Harassment doesn't oppose consensual sex work, but we do think it's inappropriate for a street harasser to make assumptions about your sexual availability and make you feel uncomfortable.

Penalty: Soliciting an act of prostitution is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six months, a fine of not more than \$750, or both.

Unlawful Filming/Photographing

Voyeurism

[Title 6, Chapter 4, §304](#)

It is illegal for anyone to photograph or record another person under their clothing without the person's consent.

If a harasser photographs or records you undressed in a place like a public restroom or changing room, or takes an up-skirt or down-blouse photo of you, you can report him/her.

Penalty: Voyeurism is a felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to two years, a fine of no more than \$5,000, or both.

Indecent Exposure

Public Indecency

[Title 6, Chapter 4, §201](#)

In Wyoming, a person is guilty of public indecency if, while in a public place where s/he may reasonably be expected to be viewed by others, s/he exposes his or her intimate parts with the intent of arousing the sexual desire of himself or herself or another person, or engages in sexual contact with or without consent, with the intent of arousing the sexual desire of himself or herself or another person.

You can report a street harasser who flashes you, masturbates in public, commits another sexual act in public, or otherwise exposes him /herself.

Penalty: Public indecency is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six months, a fine of not more than \$750, or both.

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Following

If you think someone is following you, you can call 911 right away, the first time it happens. You do not have to wait for that person to commit a crime.

Stalking

[Title 6, Chapter 2, §506](#)

Stalking is illegal in Wyoming. A person commits the crime of stalking if, with intent to harass another person, the person repeatedly follows a person, communicates with them (through verbal, electronic, mechanical, telephonic, or written means) in a harassing way, stays outside a person's place of residence, school, employment or vehicle, or otherwise engages in a course of conduct that harasses another person.

If the same person follows you more than once or harasses you more than once, you can report him/her.

Penalty: Stalking is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six months, a fine of not more than \$750, or both. If the harasser also caused bodily harm to the victim or committed the offense in violation of parole or a protective order, then it is a felony stalking and the Penalty is imprisonment for up to 10 years.

Groping

Sexual Assault in the Third Degree

[Title 6, Chapter 2, §305](#)

Sexual contact that does not result in penetration or injury but is committed by force is considered sexual assault in the third degree in Wyoming.

Sexual contact is defined as touching, either over or under clothing, the intimate parts of another person's body without consent, or by forcing someone to touch the intimate parts of the actor's body, with the intention of sexual arousal, gratification or abuse.

If a street harasser touches or grabs your crotch, butt, or breasts, or forces you to touch these parts of his or her body (such as by rubbing up against you or putting you hand in his or her lap), you report that person.

Penalty: Sexual assault in the third degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to 15 years. The Penalty will be more severe if the victim is a minor or if the defendant already has convictions on file.

Simple Assault and Battery

[Title 6, Article 5, §501](#)

Under this statute, a person is guilty of unlawful contact if s/he touches another person in a rude, insolent or angry manner (without intentionally using sufficient physical force to cause bodily injury to another.)

If a street harasser grabs you or touches you in an offensive way on any part of your body, you can report him/her.

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Penalty: An unlawful contact is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, a fine of not more than \$750, or both.

Reporting Crimes to the Police

- Call 911 for help if:
 - The crime is in progress
 - You or someone else is physically hurt or have been threatened with physical violence
 - You can provide information about who may have committed a crime.
- Call the local police office's non-emergency number to submit a report afterward. For example, in Laramie, this number is (307) 721-2526. Be prepared to provide them with:
 - When it happened (date and time).
 - Where it happened (street location, store location, bus line or bus stop, park name, etc).
 - Who is reporting (your name, contact information, date of birth).
 - A description of what happened.
 - The name and contact information of witnesses, if you spoke to any.
 - It can be helpful to include the law the crime falls under, such as Sexual Assault in the Third Degree, [Title 6, Chapter 2, §305](#). If you're not sure which law you should use to report an incident of street harassment, just tell the police what happened and s/he or the district attorney's office can determine the appropriate charges.
 - A description of the harasser/s.
- Many police departments also have online reporting forms, for example, the Casper Police Department has a [Citizens Online Police Reporting System](#).
- Some police departments also allow you to anonymously text a tip about a crime, for example if you see a group of people routinely harassing passersby at the same location. Visit your local police department website for information.
 - For example, the Cheyenne Police Department says you can text 274637 and start your message with TXTCPD.
- Once you've reported a crime, if you've provided your contact information, within a few days, you will receive a call with a police report case number and may have to answer follow-up questions. Save a copy of the police report for your records.

If someone tries to tell you that street harassment "isn't a big deal," or isn't illegal, don't buy it. You always have the right to be free from sexual harassment and assault in public.