

PART FIVE - GENERAL OFFENSES CODE — Part Overview

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Document type	part
Identifier	FIVE
Citation	Part FIVE
Ordinances detected	S, 116-84, OR, ERS, INANCE, NANCE
Original source	American Legal Publishing
Content hash	677aae7f2044a8917da3e42f40aed02062e6a8b836c03bbf443df11a752eb7c2

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CHAPTER 501

General Provisions and Penalty

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CROSS REFERENCES

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Limitation of prosecution for income tax violations - see Ohio R.C. 718.06

Modification of sentence - see Ohio R.C. 2929.10(C), (D)

Penalty considerations - see Ohio R.C. 2929.22

Citation issuance for minor misdemeanors - see Ohio R.C. 2935.26 et seq.

501.01 DEFINITIONS.

As used in the Codified Ordinances:

(a) "Force" means any violence, compulsion or constraint physically exerted by any means upon or against a person or thing.

(b) "Deadly force" means any force that carries a substantial risk that it will proximately result in the death of any person.

(c) "Physical harm to persons" means any injury, illness or other physiological impairment, regardless of its gravity or duration.

(d) "Physical harm to property" means any tangible or intangible damage to property that, in any degree, results in loss to its value or interferes with its use or enjoyment. "Physical harm to property" does not include wear and tear occasioned by normal use.

(e) "Serious physical harm to persons" means any of the following:

(1) Any mental illness or condition of such gravity as would normally require hospitalization or prolonged psychiatric treatment;

- (2) Any physical harm that carries a substantial risk of death;
- (3) Any physical harm that involves some permanent incapacity, whether partial or total, or that involves some temporary, substantial incapacity;
- (4) Any physical harm that involves some permanent disfigurement, or that involves some temporary, serious disfigurement;
- (5) Any physical harm that involves acute pain of such duration as to result in substantial suffering, or that involves any degree of prolonged or intractable pain.
- (f) "Serious physical harm to property" means any physical harm to property that does either of the following:
 - (1) Results in substantial loss to the value of the property, or requires a substantial amount of time, effort or money to repair or replace;
 - (2) Temporarily prevents the use or enjoyment of the property, or substantially interferes with its use and enjoyment for an extended period of time.
- (g) "Risk" means a significant possibility, as contrasted with a remote possibility, that a certain result may occur or that certain circumstances may exist.
- (h) "Substantial risk" means a strong possibility, as contrasted with a remote or significant possibility, that a certain result may occur or that certain circumstances may exist.
- (i) "Offense of violence" means any of the following:
 - (1) A violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03, 2903.04, 2903.11, 2903.12, 2903.13, 2903.15, 2903.18, 2903.21, 2903.211, 2903.22, 2905.01, 2905.02, 2905.11, 2905.32, 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.05, 2909.02, 2909.03, 2909.24, 2911.01, 2911.02, 2911.11, 2917.01, 2917.02, 2917.03, 2917.31, 2917.321, 2919.25, 2921.03, 2921.04, 2921.34, 2923.161, 2903.34(A)(1), 2911.12(A)(1) to (3) or 2919.22(B)(1) to (4), or felonious sexual penetration in violation of former Ohio R.C. 2907.12;
 - (2) A violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States, substantially equivalent to any section listed in subsection (i)(1) hereof;
 - (3) An offense, other than a traffic offense, under an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States, committed, purposely or knowingly, and involving physical harm to persons or a risk of serious physical harm to persons;
 - (4) A conspiracy or attempt to commit, or complicity in committing any offense under subsection (i)(1), (2) or (3) hereof.
 - (5) A violation of division (C) of Ohio R.C. 959.131.
- (j) (1) "Property" means any property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, and any interest or license in that property. "Property" includes, but is not limited to, cable television service, other telecommunications service, telecommunications devices, information service, computers, data, computer software, financial instruments associated with computers, other documents associated with computers, or copies of the documents, whether in machine or human readable form, trade secrets, trademarks, copyrights, patents, and property protected by a trademark, copyright, or patent. "Financial instruments associated with computers" include, but are not limited to, checks, drafts, warrants, money orders, notes of indebtedness, certificates of deposit, letters of credit, bills of credit or debit cards, financial transaction authorization mechanisms, marketable securities, or any computer system representations of any of them.
- (2) As used in this section, "trade secret" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 1333.61, and "telecommunications service" and "information service" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2913.01.
- (3) As used in this section, "cable television service", "computer", "computer software",

“computer system”, “computer network”, “data”, and “telecommunications device” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2913.01.

(k) "Law enforcement officer" means any of the following:

- (1) A sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer of a township or joint police district, marshal, deputy marshal, municipal police officer, member of a police force employed by a metropolitan housing authority under Ohio R.C. 3735.31(D) or State highway patrol trooper;
- (2) An officer, agent or employee of the State or any of its agencies, instrumentalities or political subdivisions, upon whom, by statute, Charter or ordinance, a duty to conserve the peace or to enforce all or certain laws is imposed and the authority to arrest violators is conferred, within the limits of that statutory duty and authority;
- (3) A mayor or manager in the mayor's or manager's capacity as chief conservator of the peace within the mayor's or manager's municipal corporation;
- (4) A member of an auxiliary police force organized by county, township or municipal law enforcement authorities, within the scope of the member's appointment or commission;
- (5) A person lawfully called pursuant to Ohio R.C. 311.07 to aid a sheriff in keeping the peace, for the purposes and during the time when the person is called;
- (6) A person appointed by a mayor pursuant to Ohio R.C. 737.10 as a special patrolling officer during riot or emergency, for the purposes and during the time when the person is appointed;
- (7) A member of the organized militia of this State or the armed forces of the United States, lawfully called to duty to aid civil authorities in keeping the peace or protect against domestic violence;
- (8) A prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, secret service officer or municipal prosecutor;
- (9) A veterans' home police officer appointed under Ohio R.C. 5907.02;
- (10) A member of a police force employed by a regional transit authority under Ohio R.C. 306.35(Y);
- (11) A special police officer employed by a port authority under Ohio R.C. 4582.04 or 4582.28;
- (12) The Senate Sergeant of Arms and or Assistant Sergeant at Arms;
- (13) A special police officer employed by a municipal corporation at a municipal airport, or other municipal air navigation facility, that has scheduled operations, as defined in Section 119.3 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 14 C.F.R. 119.3, as amended, and that is required to be under a security program and is governed by aviation security rules of the transportation security administration of the United States Department of Transportation as provided in Parts 1542 and 1544 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended.

(l) "Privilege" means an immunity, license or right conferred by law, or bestowed by express or implied grant, or arising out of status, position, office or relationship, or growing out of necessity.

(m) "Contraband" means any property that is illegal for a person to acquire or possess under a statute, ordinance, or rule, or that a trier of fact lawfully determines to be illegal to possess by reason of the property's involvement in an offense. "Contraband" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Any controlled substance, as defined in Ohio R.C. 3719.01, or any device, or paraphernalia;
- (2) Any unlawful gambling device, or paraphernalia;
- (3) Any dangerous ordnance or obscene material.

(n) "A person is "not guilty by reason of insanity" relative to a charge of an offense only if the person proves, in the manner specified in Ohio R.C. 2901.05, that at the time of the commission of the offense, the person did not know, as a result of a severe mental disease or defect, the

wrongfulness of the person's acts.

(o) (1) A. Subject to subsection (o)(2) hereof, as used in any section contained in Part Five - General Offenses Code that sets forth a criminal offense, "person" includes all of the following:

1. An individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, and association;
2. An unborn human who is viable.

B. As used in any section contained in Part Five - General Offenses Code that does not set forth a criminal offense, "person" includes an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership and association.

C. As used in subsection (o)(1)A. hereof:

1. "Unborn human" means an individual organism of the species *Homo sapiens* from fertilization until live birth.

2. "Viable" means the stage of development of a human fetus at which there is a realistic possibility of maintaining and nourishing of a life outside the womb with or without temporary artificial life-sustaining support.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (o)(1)A. hereof, in no case shall the portion of the definition of the term "person" that is set forth in subsection (o)(1)A.2. hereof be applied or construed in any section contained in Part Five - General Offenses Code that sets forth a criminal offense in any of the following manners:

A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (o)(2)A. hereof, in a manner so that the offense prohibits or is construed as prohibiting any pregnant woman or her physician from performing an abortion with the consent of the pregnant woman, with the consent of the pregnant woman implied by law in a medical emergency, or with the approval of one otherwise authorized by law to consent to medical treatment on behalf of the pregnant woman. An abortion that violates the conditions described in the immediately preceding sentence may be punished as a violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03, 2903.04, 2903.05, 2903.06, 2903.08, 2903.11, 2903.12, 2903.13, 2903.14, 2903.21, or 2903.22, as applicable. An abortion that does not violate the conditions described in the second immediately preceding sentence, but that does violate Ohio R.C. 2919.12, division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2919.13, or Ohio R.C. 2919.151, 2919.17 or 2919.18, may be punished as a violation of Ohio R.C. 2919.12, division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2919.13, or Ohio R.C. 2919.151, 2919.17 or 2919.18, as applicable. Consent is sufficient under this subsection if it is of the type otherwise adequate to permit medical treatment to the pregnant woman, even if it does not comply with Ohio R.C. 2919.12.

B. In a manner so that the offense is applied or is construed as applying to a woman based on an act or omission of the woman that occurs while she is or was pregnant and that results in any of the following:

1. Her delivery of a stillborn baby;
2. Her causing, in any other manner, the death in utero of a viable, unborn human that she is carrying;
3. Her causing the death of her child who is born alive but who dies from one or more injuries that are sustained while the child is a viable, unborn human;
4. Her causing her child who is born alive to sustain one or more injuries while the child is a viable, unborn human;
5. Her causing, threatening to cause, or attempting to cause, in any other manner, an injury, illness or other physiological impairment, regardless of its duration or gravity, or a mental illness or condition, regardless of its duration or gravity, to a viable, unborn human that she is carrying.

(p) "School safety zone" consists of a school, school building, school premises, school activity, and school bus.

(q) "School", "school building" and "school premises" have the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2925.01.

(r) "School activity" means any activity held under the auspices of a board of education of a city, local, exempted village, joint vocational, or cooperative education school district; a governing authority of a community school established under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3314; a governing board of an educational service center; or the governing body of a nonpublic school for which the Ohio Director of Education and Workforce prescribes minimum standards under Ohio R.C. 3301.07.

(s) "School bus" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.

(ORC 2901.01)

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Revision #1

Created 2026-07-22 09:02:03 UTC by MunicipalWiki Indexer

Updated 2026-07-22 09:02:03 UTC by MunicipalWiki Indexer