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2025 Criminal Code



Blue to Gold
Publications

Simplified Statutes

COLORADO LAWS MADE EASY



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SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

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Simplified Statutes: Colorado Laws Made Easy
ISBN 9798294999858
Last updated 10-12-2025

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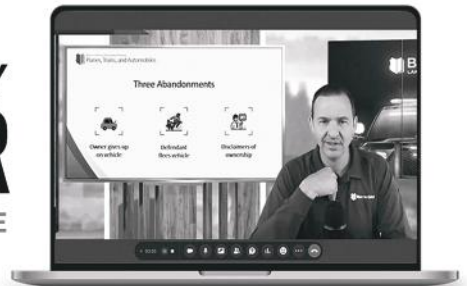
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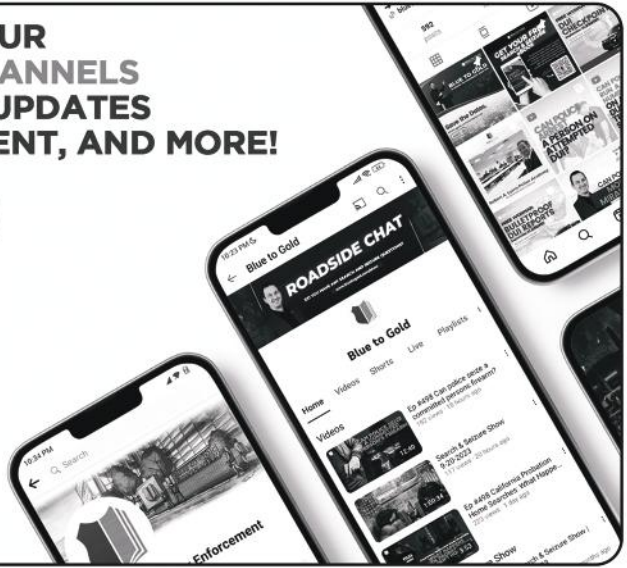


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Article 1 - Provisions Applicable to Offenses Generally

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF CODE - CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES

Section 18-1-101 - CITATION OF TITLE 18

- (1) This group of laws is officially called the "**Colorado Criminal Code**", and it may also be referred to within this title simply as "**this code.**"
- (2) Any part of a section, subsection, paragraph, or subparagraph that comes **before** a list of examples, rules, or conditions can be called the "**introductory portion**" of that section or part.

SECTION 18-1-102 - PURPOSE OF CODE, STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION

(1) This code should be interpreted in a way that best supports its main goals, which are:

- a) To clearly define crimes, including the actions and

mental intent required for each one; to avoid punishing people for conduct that is not their fault; and to give the public fair notice about what is illegal and what penalties apply.

- b) To stop crimes from happening by using the threat of punishment to deter them, to rehabilitate people who are convicted, and to punish them when needed to protect the public.
- c) To fairly distinguish between serious and minor crimes, and to assign penalties that match the seriousness of the crime and take into account the individual's potential for rehabilitation.
- d) To protect people accused or convicted of crimes from unfair or abusive treatment, and to establish basic rights in the criminal justice process that meet the requirements of due process.
- e) To encourage offenders to take responsibility for their actions, support

Article 2 - Inchoate Offenses

ATTEMPTS

SECTION 18-2-101 - CRIMINAL ATTEMPT

Level of offense varies based on the underlying crime

Articulate the following:

Direct Attempt

1. Describe what the suspect did that shows a substantial step toward committing a specific crime (not just planning or thinking about it).
2. Explain how the suspect's actions strongly show their intent to complete the crime (e.g., gathering tools, going to the location, contacting a victim).
3. Document that the suspect acted with the same intent or mental state required to commit the actual crime (e.g., knowingly, intentionally).

Attempt by Aiding Another Person

1. Describe how the suspect attempted to help another person commit the crime (e.g., providing materials, giving instructions).

2. Explain how the assistance would have made the suspect an accomplice if the crime had been completed.

Renunciation Defense (if claimed)

1. Describe how the suspect voluntarily and completely stopped trying to commit the crime.
 2. Explain how the suspect prevented the crime from happening or took steps to do so, and clarify that this was done without pressure or threat of arrest.
-

Article 3 – Offenses Against the Person

HOMICIDE AND RELATED OFFENSES

beforehand. It excludes acts done suddenly or without thinking.

SECTION 18-3-101 - DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. **"Homicide"** means one person killing another person.
2. **"Person"** (as the victim of homicide) means a human being who was born and alive when the killing happened.
3. **"Position of trust"** includes anyone with parental-type responsibilities over a child, such as:
 - o A parent or someone acting as a parent.
 - o A guardian or person in charge of a child's health, education, welfare, or supervision.
 - o This includes roles in foster care, childcare, family care, or institutional care—even if the responsibility was brief or indirect.
4. **"After deliberation"** means the act was not only intentional, but the person thought about it carefully

Section 18-3-102 - Murder in the first degree

Felony

Articulate the following:

For Premeditated Murder

1. Describe how the defendant caused the death of another person (e.g., method used, actions taken).
2. Explain how the defendant acted with the intent to cause death (e.g., statements, planning, procurement of weapons).
3. Detail evidence showing the act was done after deliberation (e.g., time to reflect, planning behavior, lack of provocation).

For Perjury Leading to Execution

1. Document how the defendant committed perjury or suborned another to commit perjury.

Article 3.5 - Offenses Against Pregnant Women

SECTION 18-3.5-101 – DEFINITIONS

1. **"Consent"** means the same as defined in section 18-1-505.
2. **"Intentionally" or "with intent"** means the same as defined in section 18-1-501; it refers to someone acting on purpose.
3. **"Knowingly"** means the same as defined in section 18-1-501; it refers to someone being aware of their actions.
4. **"Pregnancy"**, for the purpose of this law only, means there is a human embryo or fetus implanted in a woman's uterus.
5. **"Recklessly"** means the same as defined in section 18-1-501; it refers to someone disregarding a known risk and acting anyway.
6. **"Unlawful termination of pregnancy"** means ending a pregnancy by any method other than natural birth or a medical method (like a procedure, tool, drug, or agent) where the pregnant woman has given consent, someone legally allowed has given consent on her behalf, or the law assumes she gave consent.

Section 18-3.5-102 – Exclusions

- (1) This law does not allow prosecution for actions related to providing health care. This includes medical, surgical, dental, nursing, mental health, optometric, pharmaceutical, healing, or wellness care; hospital or clinic services (inpatient or outpatient); telemedicine; or services related to assisted reproduction or genetic testing.
- (2) This law also does not allow prosecution of a woman for anything she does—or fails to do—in connection with her own pregnancy.

SECTION 18-3.5-103 - UNLAWFUL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY IN THE FIRST DEGREE

Felony

Articulate the following:

1. Describe how the defendant caused the termination of a woman's pregnancy.
2. Explain how the defendant acted with the intent to terminate

Article 4 – Offenses Against Property

ARSON

considered a **"building of another"** for legal purposes.

SECTION 18-4-101 – DEFINITIONS

1. **"Building"** means any structure meant to shelter people, animals, or property.
 - This includes ships, trailers, sleeping cars, airplanes, or any vehicle/place used for sleeping or doing business—whether or not someone is inside at the time.
2. **"Occupied structure"** means any place or area used by people or animals that is currently occupied,
 - And the person committing the crime knows it is occupied at that moment.
 - This can include areas not defined as "buildings."
3. **Property of "another"** means someone else (not the defendant) has ownership or legal possession of it.
4. If a **building has separate units**, any unit not occupied by the defendant is

SECTION 18-4-102 - FIRST DEGREE ARSON

Felony

Articulate the following:

1. Describe how the defendant knowingly set fire to, burned, or used explosives to damage or destroy a building or occupied structure.
 2. Document that the building or structure belonged to another person.
 3. Explain that the defendant did not have the consent of the property owner.
 4. Specify whether the structure was occupied at the time of the offense (to determine felony level).
-

SECTION 18-4-103 - SECOND DEGREE ARSON

Petty Offense to Class 2 Felony based on value of property

Articulate the following:

Article 5 – Offenses Involving Fraud

FORGERY, SIMULATION, IMPERSONATION, AND RELATED OFFENSES

Section 18-5-101 – Definitions

(1) "Complete written instrument" means a document that looks like a genuine and fully finished document, with all necessary parts completed.

(1.5) "Document-making implement" means any tool, like a template or computer form, mainly used to make ID documents or tools that create fake documents.

(2) "Falsely alter" means changing a written document without permission—by erasing, deleting, adding, or rearranging something—so it appears falsely authorized by the supposed creator.

(3) "Falsely complete" means:

- a) Finishing an incomplete document by adding or changing information without proper authority, making it look fully authorized, or

- b) Adding false information or statements that would influence someone's decision to benefit the person making the false entry.

(4) "Falsely make" means creating a document that appears to be genuine and authorized, but isn't—either because the creator is fake or the real person didn't give permission.

(5) "Forged instrument" means a document that was falsely made, completed, or changed.

(6) "Government" includes the federal, state, county, city, or local governments, and their departments or agencies, as well as any legally created entity performing government duties.

(6.5) "Identification document" means any official ID—like a passport or driver's license—issued by a U.S., foreign, or international government or organization to identify individuals.

(7) "Incomplete written instrument" means a document that has some content or signatures but still needs more to be considered finished.

Article 5.5- Computer Crime

COMPUTER CRIME

SECTION 18-5.5-101 – DEFINITIONS

(1) "Authorization" means someone's clear and direct consent to use their computer, network, software, system, or related services. This can also include permission implied in an employee's job description.

(2) "Computer" refers to any device that processes data using electronic, magnetic, optical, or similar impulses, performing logical, memory, or storage tasks. It includes all related input/output devices, software, and communication tools connected to it.

(3) "Computer network" is a system where communication lines (like microwaves or electronic links) connect to a computer, including setups with multiple interconnected computers.

(4) "Computer program" means a set of instructions a computer can understand and use to function and produce results.

(5) "Computer software" includes programs, procedures, and documents used in operating a computer system.

(6) "Computer system" is a collection of related or unrelated computer equipment, devices, and software.

(6.3) "Damage" refers to any harm that affects the integrity or availability of data, programs, software, or services on or through any computer system or network.

(6.5) "Encoding machine" is an electronic device that places information onto a payment card.

(6.7) "Exceed authorized access" means having permission to access a computer but using that access to retrieve or change data or software that one is not allowed to.

(7) "Financial instrument" includes checks, money orders, credit/debit cards, securities, and other items used for financial transactions.

(7.5) "Payment card" is any type of card (credit, debit, charge card) that lets an authorized user obtain goods, services, money, or anything valuable.

(8) "Property" covers items like financial tools, information (including digital data), software, and any tangible or intangible thing of value.

(8.5) "Scanning device" means tools like card readers, RFID scanners, or NFC devices used

Article 6 – Offenses Involving the Family Relation

BIGAMY

SECTION 18-6-201 – BIGAMY

Misdemeanor

Articulate the following:

1. Describe how the defendant, while already legally married or in a civil union, married, entered into a civil union with, or cohabited with another person in Colorado.
 2. Document that the defendant was still legally bound to a prior spouse or civil union partner at the time of the new relationship.
 3. If applicable, explain the defendant's belief that the prior spouse or partner was deceased, had been absent for five years without known status, or that the defendant believed they were legally eligible to remarry or enter a new civil union.
-

SECTION 18-6-203 – DEFINITIONS

In reference to section 18-6-201, "**cohabitation**" means living together while presenting yourselves to others as if you are married.

Article 6.5 - Wrongs To At-Risk Adult

ARTICLE 6.5 - WRONGS TO AT-RISK ADULTS

Because of this increased vulnerability and the lasting impact crimes can have on them, the General Assembly believes that crimes against “at-risk persons” should carry harsher penalties than the same crimes committed against others.

SECTION 18-6.5-101 - LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION

The Colorado General Assembly recognizes that “at-risk persons” often fear being mistreated and are more vulnerable to crime, especially “abuse,” “exploitation,” and “neglect.” These individuals are at greater risk because:

- They are less able to protect themselves, often relying on people in positions of trust.
- They tend to suffer more serious injuries and have a harder time recovering.
- They are more likely to experience significant financial, physical, and emotional harm.
- Many are not as physically, intellectually, or emotionally capable of ensuring their own safety.

SECTION 18-6.5-102 - DEFINITIONS

1. **"Abuse"** means any of the following done to an at-risk person:
 - Causing injury, serious injury, or death on purpose.
 - Unreasonable confinement or restraint.
 - Sexual conduct or contact that is a crime.
2. **"At-risk adult"** is anyone 70 or older, or anyone 18 or older with a disability (as defined in section (11)).
3. **"At-risk adult with IDD"** means someone 18 or older with an intellectual and developmental disability.
4. **"At-risk elder"** means anyone 70 years or older.
5. **"At-risk juvenile"** means anyone under 18 with a disability (as defined in section (11)).

This book is a helpful guide that simplifies state criminal statutes, making them easy to understand and apply. Designed specifically for police officers, prosecutors, legal educators, and police recruits, we translate complex legal statutes into an easy-to-understand and apply manner.

With this book, you will quickly grasp legal requirements, improve accuracy in report writing, and effectively communicate critical statutory elements in both the field and courtroom. Whether you're teaching, learning, or practicing law, this book will help you every step of the way.

SIMPLIFIED STATUTES

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