

# Orders of Protection: Defined

§9-15-103

**Domestic Abuse** is physical harm, bodily injury, assault or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault between family or household members, or any sexual conduct between family or household members that constitutes a crime.

**Family or Household Member** includes:

- o Spouses, and former spouses,
- o Parents and children,
- o Persons related by blood within the fourth degree of consanguinity,
- o Any children residing in the same household,
- o Persons who presently or in the past have resided or cohabited together,
- o Persons who have or have had a child in common,
- o Persons who are presently or in the past have been in a dating relationship together, and
- o In-laws related by marriage within the second degree of affinity

**Dating Relationship** is a romantic or intimate relationship between two individuals and determined by examining the:

- (1) Length of the relationship;
- (2) Type of relationship; and
- (3) Frequency of interaction between the two individuals involved in the relationship

Note: This **does not** mean a casual relationship or ordinary fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context. In *Pablo v. Crowder*, 95 Ark. App. 268, 236 S.W. 3d 559, the court said that two months was long enough when the petitioner testified that the relationship was “serious.”

