

RCW 9A.72.110 Intimidating a witness. (1) A person is guilty of intimidating a witness if a person, by use of a threat against a current or prospective witness, attempts to:

- (a) Influence the testimony of that person;
- (b) Induce that person to elude legal process summoning him or her to testify;
- (c) Induce that person to absent himself or herself from such proceedings; or
- (d) Induce that person not to report the information relevant to a criminal investigation or the abuse or neglect of a minor child, not to have the crime or the abuse or neglect of a minor child prosecuted, or not to give truthful or complete information relevant to a criminal investigation or the abuse or neglect of a minor child.

(2) A person also is guilty of intimidating a witness if the person directs a threat to a former witness because of the witness's role in an official proceeding.

(3) As used in this section:

- (a) "Threat" means:
 - (i) To communicate, directly or indirectly, the intent immediately to use force against any person who is present at the time; or
 - (ii) Threat as defined in *RCW 9A.04.110(27).
- (b) "Current or prospective witness" means:
 - (i) A person endorsed as a witness in an official proceeding;
 - (ii) A person whom the actor believes may be called as a witness in any official proceeding; or
 - (iii) A person whom the actor has reason to believe may have information relevant to a criminal investigation or the abuse or neglect of a minor child.
- (c) "Former witness" means:
 - (i) A person who testified in an official proceeding;
 - (ii) A person who was endorsed as a witness in an official proceeding;
 - (iii) A person whom the actor knew or believed may have been called as a witness if a hearing or trial had been held; or
 - (iv) A person whom the actor knew or believed may have provided information related to a criminal investigation or an investigation into the abuse or neglect of a minor child.

(4) Intimidating a witness is a class B felony.

(5) For purposes of this section, each instance of an attempt to intimidate a witness constitutes a separate offense. [2011 c 165 s 2; 1997 c 29 s 1; 1994 c 271 s 204; 1985 c 327 s 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 47 s 18; 1975 1st ex.s. c 260 s 9A.72.110.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 9A.04.110 was amended by 2011 c 166 s 2, changing subsection (27) to subsection (28).

Intent—2011 c 165: "In response to *State v. Hall*, 168 Wn.2d 726 (2010), the legislature intends to clarify that each instance of an attempt to intimidate or tamper with a witness constitutes a separate violation for purposes of determining the unit of prosecution under the statutes governing tampering with a witness and intimidating a witness." [2011 c 165 s 1.]

Finding—1994 c 271: See note following RCW 9A.72.090.

Purpose—Severability—1994 c 271: See notes following RCW 9A.28.020.

Severability—1982 1st ex.s. c 47: See note following RCW 9.41.190.