

## **Overcome with a Phoenix Homicide Attorney**

Homicide. It is one of our society's most taboo actions and is pegged with a cultural stigma that instantly brands anyone faced with this charge as a monster. In many instances, being charged with homicide means that you could be faced with severe punishments, including life imprisonment with/without parole, the death penalty, fines, and other penalties.

The severity of punishment varies depending on the circumstances surrounding the case, including prior convictions and aggravating/mitigating circumstances. Aggravating circumstances in a homicide case include premeditation, poisoning, or exceptional brutality. Mitigating circumstances can be defined as conditions that affect the balance of the mind, such as insanity, post-partum depression, or unintentional (negligent) homicide. Since all homicide cases have a variety of factors surrounding them, it is important to seek the assistance of a qualified criminal defense attorney if you or a loved one have been convicted of murder.

With the legal assistance of a qualified Phoenix homicide attorney, the circumstances of your case will be examined for any defenses that can be brought up in court. For example, some defenses that can be used in trial include self-defense, factual innocence, or insufficient proof, though the defenses used in different cases vary widely based on the specific crime. If, for instance, your case can be defended under instance of self-defense, the charge may be reduced or dismissed for reason of the protection of personal safety by any means necessary. Your attorney will be able to deduce which defense will be most viable in court.

In Arizona, there are a variety of laws that deal with homicide of different types.

**Negligent homicide** refers to the accidental death of another human being due to extreme negligence or recklessness.

**Vehicular Manslaughter** can be charged if the defendant caused an accident that resulted in the death of another person through reckless driving. Depending on the situation, jail time can range from 5 to 12.5 years in certain situations.

**Second Degree Murder** is charged if the defendant intentionally killed or participated in actions that led to the death of another person. It is punishable by 10 to 27 years in prison.

**First Degree Murder** refers to the intentional killing of another person with intent, though there are other additions to the charge that may not require intent. A person convicted with this charge could face life in prison without parole or even the death penalty.

Being faced with a homicide charge is a serious and frightening situation with significant consequences. For this reason, it is important to contact a qualified Phoenix homicide attorney as soon as possible so that your case may be fought for reduced or even dismissed charges. Explore your options and remember: you are a human being with the right to a compassionate and thorough defense at the hands of a trusted attorney; in cases like these, you should only settle for the best.

For more information, visit Guy's website at <http://www.azlawguy.com/contact> or call him at 602.396.7114.