

# Vehicular Intimidation as Abuse

## An Educational Document on Road Safety, Boundaries, and Public Rights

### Purpose of This Document

This document exists to educate community members on **vehicular intimidation and road-based abuse**, to name it accurately, and to provide grounding language that protects individuals, strengthens reports, and preserves public safety.

Public roads are shared civic spaces. No individual has the right to use a vehicle to intimidate, threaten, or endanger another person.

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### What Is Vehicular Intimidation?

**Vehicular intimidation** occurs when a person uses a motor vehicle in a way that threatens, frightens, coerces, or endangers another individual.

A vehicle is not only transportation. In law and public safety frameworks, it can also be considered a **deadly instrument** when used recklessly or with intent to intimidate.

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### Common Forms of Vehicular Abuse

Vehicular intimidation may include:

- Swerving toward another vehicle or pedestrian
- Tailgating aggressively
- Brake checking
- Blocking lanes or exits ← **Courtesy must be given to the vehicle that has the right of way.**
- Speeding up to prevent merging
- Cornering or trapping a vehicle
- “Playing chicken”
- Revving the engine while advancing
- Following someone after a traffic interaction

These behaviors are abusive **even if no collision occurs.**

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## Why This Is Abuse

Vehicular intimidation qualifies as abuse because it:

- Places **human life at risk**
- Uses **fear as a control mechanism**
- Violates the **right to peaceful use of public space**
- Creates **psychological harm and trauma**
- Forces compliance through threat rather than consent

Intent does not need to be proven for harm to exist. The **impact and danger** are sufficient.

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## Legal and Civic Terminology

Depending on jurisdiction, this behavior may be classified as:

- Road rage
- Reckless endangerment
- Menacing
- Criminal negligence
- Harassment
- Assault with a vehicle
- Attempted vehicular assault

Using **behavior-based language** protects the reporting individual and strengthens accountability.

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## Why We Use Behavior-Based Language

Assuming motive without direct evidence weakens safety efforts and allows abuse to be dismissed.

Focusing on **observable actions**:

- Preserves credibility
- Improves documentation
- Reduces escalation
- Keeps the focus on safety, not ideology

Statements grounded in conduct are harder to ignore and easier to act on.

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## **Safe Language for Reports and Public Statements**

Examples of grounded, defensible language:

- “I experienced vehicular intimidation that placed my safety at risk.”
- “A driver used their vehicle in a threatening and reckless manner.”
- “This behavior created a credible danger to my life and others.”
- “The conduct was aggressive, unsafe, and unlawful.”

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## **What To Do If This Happens**

If you experience vehicular intimidation:

1. Do not engage or retaliate
2. Create distance when possible
3. Move toward populated, well-lit areas
4. Note time, location, vehicle description, and plate number
5. Call emergency services if you feel in immediate danger
6. Document the incident as soon as you are safe

Your safety comes first.

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## **Community Values Statement**

We affirm:

- The right to safety in public spaces
- The right to dignity while traveling
- The right to report abuse without dismissal
- The responsibility to name dangerous behavior clearly

Abuse does not become acceptable because it happens quickly, anonymously, or in traffic.

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# Closing

Vehicular intimidation is not “just driving.”

It is not “stress.”

It is not “miscommunication.”

It is a **serious breach of public safety and personal autonomy.**

Naming it accurately is an act of self-respect, civic responsibility, and protection for others.

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1. <https://findbyplate.com/> ← Anyone can use Find by Plate.

For the city of Tucson, Arizona:

2. <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Police/Police-Services/Report-Unsafe-Driving>

3. [https://www.arcgis.com/sharing/rest/oauth2/authorize?client\\_id=survey123hub&response\\_type=token&expiration=20160&redirect\\_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fsurvey123.arcgis.com%2Fshare%2Fb831037dea9a425d83fa836628c7f87e&resourceId=b831037dea9a425d83fa836628c7f87e&canHandleCrossOrgSignIn=true](https://www.arcgis.com/sharing/rest/oauth2/authorize?client_id=survey123hub&response_type=token&expiration=20160&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fsurvey123.arcgis.com%2Fshare%2Fb831037dea9a425d83fa836628c7f87e&resourceId=b831037dea9a425d83fa836628c7f87e&canHandleCrossOrgSignIn=true)