

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §61-5-31

§61-5-31. Bystanders shall stand 30 feet back from first responders engaged in the lawful performance of their duties.

(a) As used in this section, the term:

"First responder" includes a law-enforcement officer as defined in §30-29-1 of this code, a probation officer as described in §62-12-6 of this code, or a firefighter or emergency responder as defined in §5H-1-2 of this code.

(b) It is unlawful for a person, after receiving a verbal warning to not approach from a person he or she knows or reasonably should know is a first responder, who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty, to knowingly and willfully violate such warning and approach or remain within 30 feet of the first responder acting in a way to:

- (1) Impede or interfere with the first responder's ability to perform such duty; or
- (2) Threaten or menace the first responder with physical harm.

(c) A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 or confined in jail not more than one year, or both fined and confined.