

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR FRED DYSON SENATE DISTRICT F

The Seriousness of a Class A Misdemeanor Offense

I believe it is tremendously important that we do consider drug abuse a serious crime. Those of you who have worked with me know that I care deeply about Alaska's youth, and I think always about how our policies affect them. A Class A Misdemeanor is an unambiguous message. It is a very serious charge—the highest level of misdemeanor—and can carry with it up to a year in prison and a \$10,000 fine. I suspect that if any of you told your son or daughter that their behavior could lead to a year in jail and a \$10,000 fine, they would not view that behavior as being condoned by our laws – *Senator Dyson, Response to Questions from March 18, 2013 Senate Finance Hearing- SB56*

CLASS A Misdemeanor Offenses

Penalty up to 1 year in jail & up to a \$10,000 fine

Assault in the Fourth Degree (AS 11.41.230), wherein an offender “recklessly causes physical injury to another person” or “with criminal negligence... causes physical injury to another person by means of a dangerous instrument.” This can include domestic violence, as defined in AS 18.66.990.

A second Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charge, as well as a first DUI (AS 28.35.030).

Endangering the Welfare of a Child in the First Degree (AS 11.51.100 (b)), when the charge relates to operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or another substance (as defined in AS 28.35.030).

Endangering the Welfare of a Vulnerable Adult in the Second Degree (AS 11.51.210) wherein an offender “fails without lawful excuse to provide support for the vulnerable adult and the vulnerable adult is in the person’s care (1) by contract or authority of law; or (w) in a facility or program that is required by law to be licensed by the state.”

Resisting or Interfering with Arrest (AS 11.56.700(a)), wherein a person knowing a peace officer is making an arrest, and with intent to prevent the arrest, resists the arrest of himself or interferes with the arrest of another by force.

Official Misconduct (AS 11.56.850(a)), wherein a public servant knowingly, and with intent to obtain a benefit or to injure or deprive another of a benefit, performs an unauthorized exercise of his official function; or refrains from performing a duty of his office.

Sexual Abuse of a Minor in the Fourth Degree (AS 11.41.440), wherein either “(1) being under 16 years of age, the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who is under 13 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender; or (2) being 18 years of age or older, the offender engages in sexual contact with a person who is 16 or 17 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender, and the offender occupies a position of authority in relation to the victim.”