

**708.3A Assaults on persons engaged in certain occupations.**

1. A person who commits an assault, as defined in [section 708.1](#), against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, with the knowledge that the person against whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter and with the intent to inflict a serious injury upon the peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, is guilty of a class “D” felony.

2. A person who commits an assault, as defined in [section 708.1](#), against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter and who uses or displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the assault, is guilty of a class “D” felony.

3. A person who commits an assault, as defined in [section 708.1](#), against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, and who causes bodily injury or mental illness, is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor.

4. Any other assault, as defined in [section 708.1](#), committed against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, by a person who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, is a serious misdemeanor.

5. As used in [this section](#), the following definitions apply:

a. “*Correctional staff*” means a person who is not a peace officer but who is employed by the department of corrections or a judicial district department of correctional services to work at or in a correctional institution, community-based correctional facility, or an institution under the management of the Iowa department of corrections which is used for the purposes of confinement of persons who have committed public offenses.

b. “*Employee of the department of human services*” means a person who is an employee of an institution controlled by the director of human services that is listed in [section 218.1](#), or who is an employee of the civil commitment unit for sex offenders operated by the department of human services. A person who commits an assault under [this section](#) against an employee of the department of human services at a department of human services institution or unit is

presumed to know that the person against whom the assault is committed is an employee of the department of human services.

c. “*Employee of the department of revenue*” means a person who is employed as an auditor, agent, tax collector, or any contractor or representative acting in the same capacity. The employee, contractor, or representative shall maintain current identification indicating that the person is an employee, contractor, or representative of the department.

d. “*Health care provider*” means an emergency medical care provider as defined in [chapter 147A](#) or a person licensed or registered under [chapter 148](#), [148C](#), [148D](#), or [152](#) who is providing or who is attempting to provide emergency medical services, as defined in [section 147A.1](#), or who is providing or who is attempting to provide health services as defined in [section 135.61](#) in a hospital. A person who commits an assault under [this section](#) against a health care provider in a hospital, or at the scene or during out-of-hospital patient transportation in an ambulance, is presumed to know that the person against whom the assault is committed is a health care provider.

e. “*Jailer*” means a person who is employed by a county or other political subdivision of the state to work at a county jail or other facility used for purposes of the confinement of persons who have committed public offenses, but who is not a peace officer.

95 Acts, ch 90, §3; 96 Acts, ch 1069, §1; 98 Acts, ch 1026, §2; 99 Acts, ch 64, §1; 2004 Acts, ch 1135, §1, 2; 2005 Acts, ch 3, §109; 2005 Acts, ch 140, §69, 70; 2008 Acts, ch 1088, §140; 2021 Acts, ch 183, §40, 43

Referred to in §719.1

Subsections 1 – 4 amended