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Mr. Rob McKenna  
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RECEIVED  
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WUTC  
COMMISSIONER

February 2, 2009

Re: Before the WUTC, Docket # TG 082129 and Docket # TG 081089

Dear Mr. McKenna,

I would like to comment in support of complainants, Reneé Coe, Shelley Damewood and Shannon Tomsen and point out to the commission that if the WUTC and Whatcom County had done their mandated jobs, these ordinary citizens would not have had to invest so much time and effort to act on behalf of the general public to protect our rights—and, I would also like to point out that the WUTC makes it such an onerous task to file a simple complaint it appears that they want to deter people from complaining by burying them in paperwork.

The exhibits that got my attention were numbers 5 through 9. These exhibits deal with an obvious case of extortion (law enclosed). These actions were willfully and purposely carried out by Mr. Arthur Wilkowski with the full knowledge of the Whatcom County Prosecutor and the WUTC who took no action to protect the public. This resulted in Mr. Wilkowski barring at least one individual access to the county owned transfer station and household garbage pick-up in perpetuity. This was also known by the WUTC and Whatcom County and has never been corrected, nor has Mr. Wilkowski been charged. Mr. Wilkowski used the media which is internet accessible and the U.S. mail to carry out his threats and enforce his own laws, which I believe is a federal offence.

In any case, your own Mr. Danner, who has taken a personal interest in this case, has spread false information in regards to this matter in writing to various agencies. It appears, in my opinion, that he is totally biased toward the “G-Club”, as the garbage boys like to call themselves, and should be excluded from any participation in these hearings so as to protect the public interest and not his own. Everything Mr. Danner and his staff have done to protect Mr. Wilkowski at the public’s expense must be brought to light so the public can regain trust in their public servants. The Law must not only be done, it must be seen to be done.

Thank you for my chance to comment.

  
Ron Calder

enc.

cc: WUTC, Whatcom County Council Member, Barbara Brenner

# Extortion

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Extortion**, **outwresting**, or **exaction** is a criminal offense, which occurs, when a person unlawfully obtains either money, property or services from a person, entity, or institution, through coercion. Refraining from doing harm is sometimes euphemistically called *protection*. Extortion is commonly practiced by organized crime groups. The actual obtainment of money or property is not required to commit the offense. Making a threat of violence or a lawsuit which *refers* to a requirement of a payment of money or property to halt future violence or lawsuit is sufficient to commit the offense. Exaction refers not only to extortion or the unlawful demanding and obtaining of something through force,<sup>[1]</sup> additionally, exact in its formal definition means the infliction of something such as pain and suffering or to make somebody endure something unpleasant.<sup>[2]</sup>

In the United States, extortion may also be committed as a federal crime across a computer system, phone, by mail or in using any instrument of "interstate commerce." Extortion requires that the individual sent the message "willingly" and "knowingly" as elements of the crime. The message only has to be sent (but does not have to reach the intended recipient) to commit the crime of extortion.

Extortion is distinguished from blackmail. In blackmail, the blackmailer threatens to do something which would be legal or normally allowed.

Extortion is distinguished from robbery. In "strong arm" robbery, the offender takes goods from the victim with use of immediate force. In "robbery" goods are taken or an attempt is made to take the goods against the will of another—with or without force. A bank robbery or extortion of a bank can be committed by a letter handed by the criminal to the teller. In extortion, the victim is threatened to hand over goods, or else damage to their reputation or other harm or violence against them may occur. Under federal law extortion can be committed with or without the use of force and with or without the use of a weapon. A key difference is that extortion always involves a written or verbal threat whereas robbery can occur without any verbal or written threat (refer to U.S.C. 875 and U.S.C. 876).

The term *extortion* is often used metaphorically to refer to usury or to price-gouging, though neither is legally considered extortion. But extortion sometimes leads to more dangerous illicit activities which raises concerns with law enforcement agencies. It is also often used loosely to refer to everyday situations where one person feels indebted against their will, to another, in order to receive an essential service or avoid legal consequences. For example, certain lawsuits, fees for services such as banking, automobile insurance, gasoline prices, and even taxation, have all been labeled "legalized extortion" by people with various social or political beliefs.

## See also

- Badger game
- Clip joint
- Coercion
- Cryptovirology: The use of public key cryptography to carry out cryptoviral extortion.
- Danegeld
- Tiger kidnapping: the taking of an innocent hostage to make a loved one or associate of the victim do something, e.g. a child is taken hostage to force the shopkeeper to open the safe; the term