

STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

Stalking Response Tips

for Community Corrections Officers

Did You Know?

Stalking—generally defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear—affects an estimated 6.6 million women and men each year. Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and the federal government; however, statutes and definitions of stalking and related crimes vary from state to state. In addition to serious and long-lasting emotional and psychological harm, stalking can involve severe—even lethal—violence. Community corrections officers who understand the nature and dynamics of stalking—and work together with law enforcement and others—can more effectively supervise offenders and thus help prevent future stalking victimization.

How Community Corrections Officers Can Help

1. Screen offenders to determine if they have previously, or are currently, engaging in stalking behavior. Screening for stalking behavior is crucial because an offender may have been convicted of a crime other than stalking such as vandalism, assault, battery, burglary, domestic violence, or violation of a protection order.
2. When supervising offenders who may be engaging in stalking behavior, focus on victim safety, changing offender behavior, and offender accountability. Supervising offenders at the highest level allowed may prevent further physical or emotional harm to victims and save lives.
3. Seek the stalking victim's input for a more comprehensive understanding of the offender under supervision. Collaboration with victim/witness coordinators, other advocates, and service providers can facilitate interactions with the victim.
4. Avoid increasing the risk of harm to the victim by keeping the victim's location and contact information confidential, and avoid sharing statement or other information from the victim with the offender.

For More Information

National Stalking Awareness Month
<http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org/>



Stalking Resource Center
www.victimsofcrime.org/src

S t a l k i n g
resource center

STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

Stalking Response Tips

for Victims

Did You Know?

Stalking is a dangerous crime that affects an estimated 6.6 million women and men each year. Stalking—generally defined as a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear—is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and the federal government. As many as 1 in 4 women and 1 in 13 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point during their lifetime and most often the stalker is someone the victim knows—an acquaintance, a relative, or a current or former intimate partner. Stalking is unpredictable and dangerous. No two stalking situations are alike. There are no guarantees that what works for one person will work for another, yet victims can take steps to increase their safety.

What To Do If You Are Being Stalked

1. Trust your instincts. Victims of stalking often feel pressured by friends or family to downplay the stalker's behavior, but stalking poses a real threat of harm. Your safety is paramount.
2. Call the police if you feel you are in any immediate danger. Explain why even some actions that seem harmless—like leaving you a gift—are causing you fear.
3. Keep a record or log of each contact with the stalker. Be sure to also document any police reports.
4. Stalkers often use technology to contact their victims. Save all e-mails, text messages, photos, and postings on social networking sites as evidence of the stalking behavior.
5. Get connected with a local victim advocate to talk through your options and discuss safety planning. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE.

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This project was supported by Grant No. 2008-TA-AX-K017 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.