



STALKING: Connecting the Dots¹

Law Enforcement



DEFINITION: A **course of conduct** directed at a specific person that creates an implicit or explicit threat and **induces fear or concern for personal safety** or the safety of close others.



5.2 million women and **1.4 million** men will be stalked each year

Many victims do not use the term “stalking” but they describe stalking behaviors including:



SURVEILLANCE

Following, showing up, spying, using technology to keep tabs on the victim



LIFE INVASION

Repeated unwanted contact in person or by phone, text, email, card/note, message, third party, and social media



INTIMIDATION

Implicit, explicit and third party threats, forced confrontations, property damage, and threatened suicide



INTERFERENCE

Disruption of the victim’s life professionally, financially, and socially as well as physical and sexual attacks

? ASK ABOUT:

COURSE OF CONDUCT

SURVEILLANCE



Is he/she following you, watching you, showing up unexpectedly, or communicating with you in ways that seem obsessive or make you concerned for your safety?

LIFE INVASION



Has he/she repeatedly initiated unwanted contact with you (e.g., repeated phone calls, texts, messages, emails, gifts, etc. or through third parties)?

INTIMIDATION



Has he/she threatened you or done other things to intimidate you? What has he/she done that has frightened or alarmed you?

INTERFERENCE



Has he/she significantly and directly interfered with your life? Has he/she assaulted you or others while he/she has been stalking, harassing, or threatening you?

CORROBORATING EVIDENCE OF INTENTIONAL COURSE OF CONDUCT

- Documentation log;
- Witnesses to tactics/acts;
- Phone, texts, voicemail, email, other computer evidence, video, pictures, gifts, etc;
- Calls to police;
- Evidence and witnesses from victim and stalker workplace

NOTE: If victims describe behavior that does not superficially appear to be threatening/annoying, ask them why the behavior was frightening to them. Why does the victim perceive the behavior as a threat?

DURATION, INTENSITY, AND FREQUENCY



Duration: When did it start? How long has it been going on (including periods when it seemed to have stopped)?

Intensity: Has the behavior escalated? Does the stalker use multiple tactics and locations to stalk? Have others been involved in the stalking or threatening behavior (proxy stalking)?

Frequency: How often does the stalker make his/her presence known to you, directly approach you, or interfere with your life?



Patterns of behavior show intent

¹ TK Logan, Ph.D. (April 2017). For more information email tklogan@uky.edu or visit www.CoerciveControl.com.

ASK ABOUT:

THREATS AND FEAR



Have you changed your life in any way because you are afraid? If so, how? (ex., Installed door locks, cameras, lights; moved; changed jobs; altered schedules; don't go out, etc.)



What other places have you made accommodations in your life? Work? Daycare? School? Church?

ASSESS CREDIBILITY OF THREATS:

- Does the stalker's history, access, and/or ability suggest that he or she can carry out the threat?
- Does the stalker's mindset present increased threat (rejection, humiliation; revenge, blame; last resort thinking; witness intimidation)?
- Has the environment facilitated the stalking (no consequences, proxy stalking, target has areas of vulnerability that facilitate stalking)?

CORROBORATING EVIDENCE OF FEAR

- Victim exhibits fear behavior (e.g., changed routines);
- Victim spent money and significant time on safety measures;
- Witnesses to victim's fear (e.g., asked for help from others, asked for accommodations for safety);
- Other evidence of fear (e.g., receipts of money spent, job or residence changes, reports or interference from victim's workplace)

UNWANTED: VICTIM RESISTANCE AND STALKER PERSISTENCE



What kinds of things have you done to stay safe or to let the stalker know you do not want to be harassed or contacted? (e.g., told him/her you want no contact; changed phone number, residence, workplace, or locks; altered life and avoided socializing to prevent contact)



In what ways has the stalker responded to your resistance? (e.g., continued to harass and contact; escalated intensity or frequency of stalking behaviors and threats)



LOOK FOR

Other crimes that intersect with stalking (e.g., protective order violations, partner abuse, property damage)



Women are more likely to be victims of stalking



Men are more likely to be stalkers regardless of victim gender



ENCOURAGE THE VICTIM TO:



See it/acknowledge it as stalking
(Check the Stalking and Harassment Assessment Risk Profile at www.StalkingRisk.com)



Avoid minimizing or downplaying safety concerns and threats



Preserve evidence and document stalking behaviors in a safe way
(check the websites below for documentation logs and tips)



Plan for safety by thinking through specific threats and vulnerabilities
(the goal is to make it as difficult as possible for the perpetrator to stalk her/him)



Seek support through trusted friends, family, or victim advocates



Let the suspected perpetrator know that stalking is a serious crime with serious consequences: **We are watching YOU!**



CHECK OUT

The **Stalking Resource Center** at www.victimsofcrime.org/src; the **National Domestic Violence Hotline** at www.TheHotline.org (1-800-799-7233); the **Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP)** at www.StalkingRisk.com; **Other Resources** (www.CoerciveControl.org and www.OutrageUs.org).