SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

SHARP: Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile

Ohio Department of Higher Education
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Understanding Stalking

A Brief Review

SPARC

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STALKING (TITLE IX DEFINITION):

A pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel

FEAR

for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

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SLII Framework



Logan, TK, & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning, Trauma, Violence and Abuse 18(2), 200-222.

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STALKING IS:

- CRIMINAL
- TRAUMATIC
- DANGEROUS

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Stalking & Dangerousness

IN ADDITION TO INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE, STALKING IS ASSOCIATED WITH:



- PHYSICAL ASSAULT
- SEXUAL ASSAULT
- EXPLICIT THREATS
- PROPERTY DAMAGE
- THREATS WITH A WEAPON

Logan, TK & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. Trauma, Violence & Abuse, 18(2), 200-222.

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Stalking is a Lethality Risk

Top 10 risk factors for intimate partner homicide	Risk for male-perpetrated and female IPH victimization
1. Direct access to guns	11-fold increase in risk of IPH
2. Threatened victim with a weapon	7-fold increase in risk of IPH
3. Non-fatal strangulation	7-fold increase in risk of IPH
4. Perpetrated rape/forced sex	5-fold increase in risk of IPH
5. Controlling behaviors	6-fold increase in risk of IPH
6. Threatened to harm victim	4-fold increase in risk of IPH
7. Abused victim while pregnant	4-fold increase in risk of IPH
8. Perpetrated stalking	3-fold increase in risk of IPH
9. Jealousy	2-fold increase in risk of IPH
10. Substance abuse	2-fold increase in risk of IPH

Spencer, C.M. & Stith, S.M. (2018). Risk Factors for Male Perpetration and Female Victimization of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Meta-Analysis. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse 21(3): 527-540.

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In **85%** of attempted and **76%** of completed **intimate partner femicides**, stalking occurred in the year prior to the attack.

McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Wilt, S., Ulrich, Y., & Xu, X. (1999). Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. Homicide Studies 3(4), 300-316.

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"Stalking is homicide in slow motion."

– Dr. Patrick Brady
Department of Criminal Justice
University of Colorado Colorado Springs

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Risk Assessment in Stalking Cases

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"Victim perceptions of risk are a strong predictor of reassault, equal to or even better than risk management tools."



Logan, TK and Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multi-dimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. Trauma, Violence and Abuse, 18(2), 200-222.

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DV Assessments & Stalking

Many DV assessments used in the U.S. have questions that may indicate stalking:

- Controlling/jealous behavior
- Following/spying
- Destroying property
- Obsession with the victim
- Threats/intimidation



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Identifying Risk in Stalking Cases

- Approximately ½ of stalking cases involve a current or former intimate partner, so DV assessments aren't always applicable
- When DV assessments are performed, stalking behavior may be unidentified or underestimated
- Properly identifying risk allows for increased offender accountability at all stages and, importantly, increased safety planning



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What Does Risk Assessment Tell Us?

Which individuals show signs that demonstrate they pose a risk at a particular point in time

- All other individuals are of "unknown risk"
  - We can never use risk assessment to determine that a person is not a risk!
- Threat level is NEVER fixed & can change over time
  - Constant assessment of threat is a MUST

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Stalking & Harassment Assessment & Risk Profile (SHARP)

CoerciveControl.org

Narrative Report & Risk Profile

Safety Planning Suggestions

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14 Risk Factors in Stalking Cases

BIG PICTURE

- Length of course of conduct
- Escalation, triggers
- Nature and context of threats
- Threat follow-through, capability

STALKER MINDSET

- Resistance & persistence
- Stalker motive
- Proxy stalking

STALKER HISTORY

- History of abuse to victim
- History of abuse to others
- Guns, weapons, & training
- Criminal history, mental health, substance abuse

VICTIM VULNERABILITY

- Fear, life impact
- Use of, expertise with tech
- Vulnerability related to housing, employment, finances, isolation, relationships, etc.

Logan, TK & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning, Trauma, Violence and Abuse 18(2), 200-222.

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Case Example: Lauren McCluskey (1 of 2)



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Narrative Report & Risk Profile

Stalking and Harrassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP)

Narrative and Risk Profile

Date: 2024-03-13
Situation: An ex-partner
Interviewee: Professional
Agency: School/campus personnel

Stalking and Harassment Assessmen profile tool to educate and inform decisi report summarizes the responses to Sh note, any documentation provided to la introduced as evidence or inadvertently include any information that you do not

The information below is reported by a 21-year-old female, and an ex-partner (

Course of conduct. Melvin Rowland is Rowland has repeatedly invaded Laure month. Melvin Rowland has repeatedly Rowland has directly interfered with La Melvin Rowland is stalking Lauren Mcc

Duration, Intensity, and Frequency. Mccluskey started in February, 2024 ar escalating recently. Melvin Rowland re than one way. In a typical month, Melvi Mccluskey on 20 days, approaches and significantly interferes with Lauren Mcc

Threats. Melvin Rowland has made thr other than direct threats. Melvin Rowlar however he has had others close to him stalk, and/or attack Lauren Mccluskey. Melvin Rowland has threatened to hurt himself. Lauren Mccluskey is concerned there are some upcoming events that may escalate Melvin Rowland's stalking, harassing, and threatening behavior. Melvin Rowland has threatened to destroy Lauren Mccluskey's property, harm her pets, or to sabotage her in some other way.

Fear/Concern for Safety. Based on Melvin Rowland's actions, Lauren Mccluskey is extremely afraid or concerned for her safety and is afraid or concerned for the safety of her children, family members, or friends. Lauren Mccluskey believes that Melvin Rowland is extremely capable of harming her or others close to her. Lauren Mccluskey has made significant life changes for safety reasons because of Melvin Rowland's actions. Lauren Mccluskey is also extremely afraid

Risk Profile: Based on the information reported, there are several factors that suggest a serious risk profile for this stalking course of conduct. There is some contextual information about Melvin Rowland that is unknown. If the information becomes known, it may be important to consider redoing SHARP with the new information. Please note that the risk profile could change in the future and it may be helpful to reassess the situation using SHARP. Below is the summary of the 13 risk factors that are present in this case out of the 14 risk factors assessed:

- Melvin Rowland has been stalking Lauren McCluskey for about 29 days. Melvin Rowland approaches Lauren McCluskey and confronts her frequently, regularly contacts or harasses her in multiple ways and significantly interferes with her life.
- Melvin Rowland's behavior is increasing in frequency and severity and there are some upcoming events that could escalate Melvin Rowland's stalking, harassing, and threatening behavior even more.
- Melvin Rowland has made threatening gestures or left threatening objects. Melvin Rowland has threatened to destroy property, harm pets or sabotage Lauren McCluskey in some other way. Melvin Rowland has threatened to harm himself.
- Lauren McCluskey believes Melvin Rowland is capable of harming her and others close to her.
- Lauren McCluskey is afraid and concerned about her safety and the safety of others. Melvin Rowland's actions have caused Lauren McCluskey to make significant changes to her life for safety reasons. Lauren McCluskey is also extremely concerned about the significant financial and social impacts on her life because of Melvin Rowland's actions.
- Melvin Rowland indicates he feels he has been rejected, humiliated or degraded by Lauren McCluskey and indicates that he is seeking revenge or blames Lauren McCluskey for ruining his life. Melvin Rowland seems unconcerned about severe consequences of his behavior such as going to jail or dying. Lauren McCluskey believes Melvin Rowland is aware that the things he is doing upsets and bothers her. Melvin

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Safety Planning Suggestions

Stalking and Harrassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP)

Safety Management Tools

Date: 2024-03-13
Situation: An ex-partner
Interviewee: Professional
Agency: School/campus personnel

Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP) is a research-informed risk profile tool to educate and inform decision-making about stalking or harassment. This narrative report provides suggested actions that someone being targeted with stalking, harassment, and threats might take to improve their safety, based on the specific situation reported in the SHARP questions.

step in understanding the bigger picture of what is happening. Melvin Rowland is repeatedly engaging in a course of conduct targeting you and this course of conduct includes surveillance, life invasion, intimidation, and interference with your life. This suggests that Melvin Rowland is stalking you. In general, patterns of behavior indicate intentional and deliberate actions designed to create fear in, or control over, the person being targeted with this course of conduct, which often creates stress and can have a significant impact on your life.

Threat. The key to understanding how to best protect yourself is to identify your specific vulnerabilities to threat. It is important not to downplay the situation with Melvin Rowland. There are several risks of stalking and harassment including risk of: (1) violence (to yourself or others close to you), (2) persistence or escalation of stalking and harassment (to yourself and others close to you); and (3) life sabotage. Life sabotage includes personal and actual costs because of Melvin Rowland's actions. These costs can include increased stress, lower quality of life, changes in your social relationships, damage to your reputation, financial costs and sabotage, and other life consequences. Be aware that Melvin Rowland's stalking could change in the future and it may be helpful to reassess your situation with SHARP if your situation does change. Here is a summary of the serious risks you reported along with research background for why these factors increase risk:

Evidence. Because you are experiencing stalking, harassment, and threats it can be very helpful to write down what is happening along with keeping any evidence. You can keep detailed notes about everything that Melvin Rowland does, even if you don't have evidence, and you can save evidence of his behavior when you do have it.

There are two main reasons to write everything down and keep evidence.

1. Writing down or documenting what is happening to you can help others understand the big picture. The SHARP narrative report may be a good start in documenting what is happening to you. Feel free to share that report with law enforcement, attorneys, prosecutors, or others. Keeping evidence of what Melvin Rowland is doing also helps others understand that Melvin Rowland is engaging in a pattern of behavior and provides corroborating evidence. This evidence may show that her behavior is intentional and deliberate.
2. Having documentation can help with safety planning by showing some of your safety vulnerabilities.

- Be sure to document any direct threats, threats Melvin Rowland has made to third parties, and any objects, gestures or things that he said that were not necessarily direct threats (but you found threatening or frightened you). If these objects, gestures or things Melvin Rowland said are linked to prior direct threats be sure to note that as well. This link is important to talk about and to communicate to others so they can understand the bigger picture of what Melvin Rowland is doing and help others understand why you are afraid or concerned for your safety or the safety of others close to you.
- Describe the ways you have changed your life because of your fear or concern for your safety or the safety of others, including all of the life changes you have made for safety purposes, any work arrangements or accommodations fix your safety, any money you spent for safety or to repair property damage, and any witnesses to your fear.
- Gather documentation about how Melvin Rowland has negatively impacted your life such as social, financial, work, and housing interference and any assaults you or others

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Case Example: Lauren McCluskey (2 of 2)



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October 22, 2019



- Rowland dragged her across the parking lot, causing her to drop her phone and belongings.
- Rowland dragged Lauren to a different spot in the parking lot, where he forced her into the back seat of a car he had driven to campus. While in the back seat, Rowland shot Lauren several times, killing her.
- An acquaintance of Rowland's picked him up from campus.
- Salt Lake police found Rowland and pursued him on foot into Trinity A.M.E. Church on 239 Martin Luther King Blvd. Rowland shot himself as police entered the church.

Johnson, E. & DeWitt, K. (18 May 2020). Top Stories: Timeline of Lauren McCluskey's murder and events following her death. ABC4 News.

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Review & Report on Lauren McCluskey Case Response



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What Went Wrong? Primary Findings

- Officers missed that Rowland was on parole
  - No policies or procedures requiring that officers check "offender status"
  - Criminal history check did not include parole status
- Campus was understaffed and undertrained
  - Case never identified as related to domestic violence
  - Lack of training, no lethality assessment completed
  - Important e-mail sent to a staff member who was off that day wasn't read until after the homicide
- UUPS did not have working relationship with Center for Student Wellness/victim advocates
- Most contacts with Lauren were over e-mail or phone rather than in-person

Nielsen, J.T., Riseling, S., & Squires, K. Independent Review and Report Involving the Conduct and Actions of University of Utah Department of Public Safety, and Housing and Residential Education, Relating to the Lauren McCluskey Case. (2018).

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Information-Sharing

Information not shared between departments.

For example:

- No mechanism to share routine calls for service. UUPS does not know that Lauren's requested a security escort to retrieve her car.
- Lauren's friends made multiple reports through Housing staff – concerns about the relationship being unhealthy, Rowland's easy access to Lauren's housing, and Rowland's threats to bring a firearm to campus. These were not communicated to UUPS, Behavioral Intervention Team, or handled internally in a timely manner.

Nielsen, J.T., Riseling, S., & Squires, K. Independent Review and Report Involving the Conduct and Actions of University of Utah Department of Public Safety, and Housing and Residential Education, Relating to the Lauren McCluskey Case. (2018).

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"As we examined the totality of this troubling event, we discovered that there were several indications that Lauren McCluskey was in trouble. Had victim advocates been engaged, Lauren might not have been left to assess the dangerousness of her situation on her own. There were shortcomings both systemically and individually. There were several instances where the lack of coordination was evident within UUPS, within Housing, and among various campus departments. While the University has developed systems and programs to respond to student welfare issues, those systems were not engaged nor utilized."

Nielsen, J.T., Riseling, S., & Squires, K. Independent Review and Report Involving the Conduct and Actions of University of Utah Department of Public Safety, and Housing and Residential Education, Relating to the Lauren McCluskey Case. (2018).

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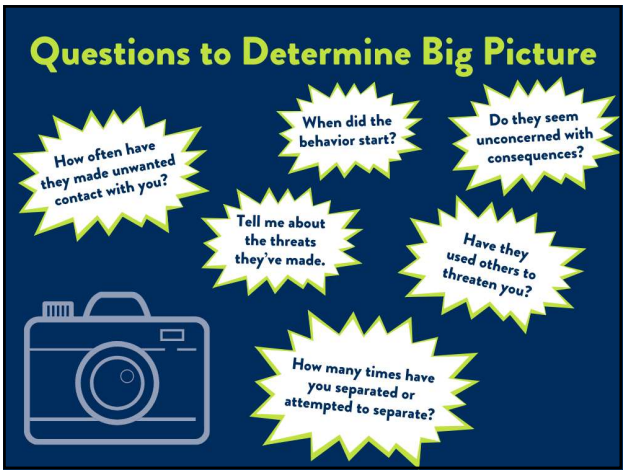
Tips for Identifying Risk

Consider asking about behaviors within the four categories.



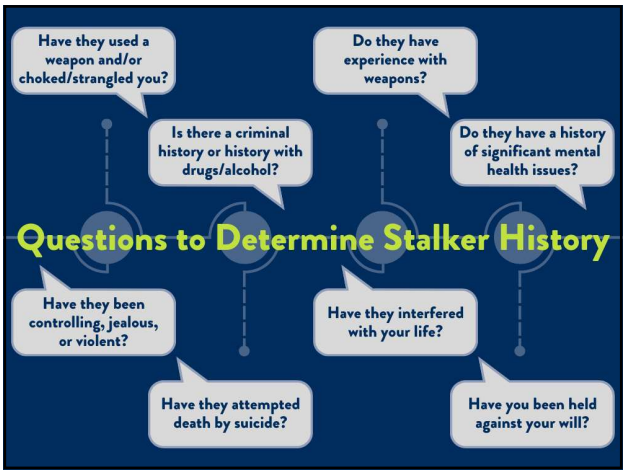
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Questions to Determine Big Picture

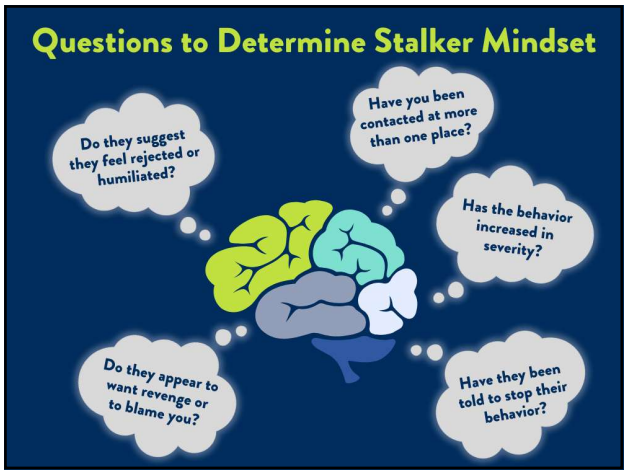


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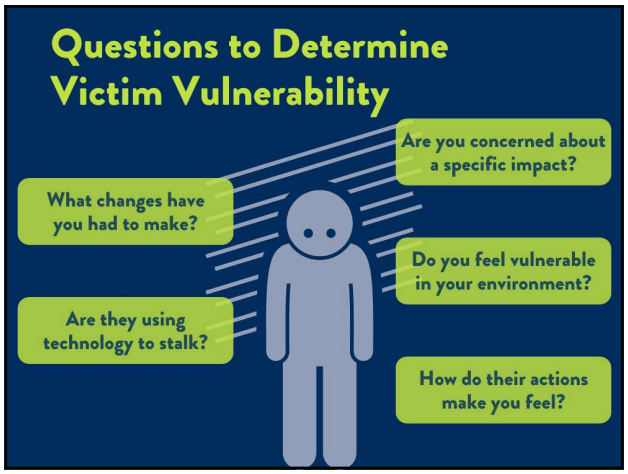
Questions to Determine Stalker History



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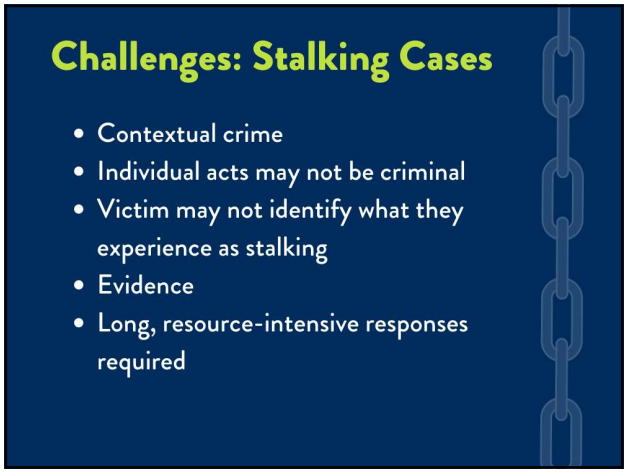
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Victim Contact

- First contact is critical
- Be prepared to provide referrals and resources
- Preserve evidence immediately
- Prepare for the long haul



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CONSIDER MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS



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DESCRIBE
the big picture, beyond individual incidents.

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DOCUMENT
victim fear and harm.

⊕

CONTEXTUALIZE
the threats. Why this victim? Why this time?

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Context

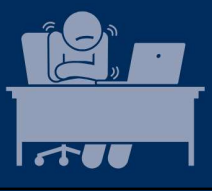


- Something may be frightening to the victim but not to you
- Stalking behaviors often have specific meanings
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior

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Document the Threat Features

- **Nature and frequency of threats**
- **How detailed/graphic are the threats?**
  - Is there violence ideation?
- **How are the threats communicated?**
  - Verbally? Voicemails? E-mails? Gifts? Written notes?
  - Are the threats public? Communicated by a third party? Communicated on social media?



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Reasonable Fear: Evidence

Describe victim statements of fear

- Describe any accommodations made for safety

Document evidence of accommodations and/or safety measures taken:

- Time spent obtaining PO, relocation, efforts to keep address or location secret



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Document Witness Corroboration of Fear

Victim's Workplace

- Did the victim ask others to screen calls? Did they change hours? Other accommodations requested?

Locations/Services Frequented by Victim

- Were places like daycare, schools, apartment building, religious spaces, or other locations asked to make accommodations and/or informed of the situation?

Others Who Communicated with Victim

- Did they ask friends, family, or others for help with the stalker?
- Did they meet with anyone else about their safety?
- Did they call 911 and/or inform other security professionals?

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What is Safety Planning?

An individualized plan that identifies specific strategies and interventions that may increase safety.

- Provides practical ways to decrease risk
- Puts victims in contact with a variety of services, agencies, and individuals who can help
- Focuses on physical AND emotional well-being



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Effective Safety Planning



FLEXIBLE

- Works for survivor
- Responsive to offender behavior



COMPREHENSIVE

- Considers all aspects of victim's life



CONTEXTUAL

- What has happened, is happening, and might happen?

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Questions to Consider

- **What have you already done?**
- **What do you need my help doing?**
- **What are you not willing to do?**



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Advise Disengagement

Recommend no contact with the stalker

- Explain intermittent reinforcement

***AND* realize victims engage in behaviors to keep themselves safe.**

- Maintain contact, negotiation, minimizing threat
- Contact may be a safety strategy



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"...the victim's attempts to distance themselves from their stalker actually frustrate or anger the stalker, leading to an increase in the physical threat to their lives."

Quinn-Evans, L., Keatley, D.A., Arntfield, M., & Sheridan, L. (2019). A Behavior Sequence Analysis of Victims' Accounts of Stalking Behaviors. Journal of Interpersonal Violence 00(0): 1-19.

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Safety at Workplace or School

Victims may consider:

- Sharing a photo of the offender with security staff, colleagues/classmates, RAs, others
- Changing routines, schedule, locations
- Changing routes to and from location
- Accompaniment
- Ensuring that school/work does not post or share contact information
- Provide copies of CPOs
- Save voicemails, texts, and emails
- Work with building security to acquire records/logs of stalker's presence



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Safety Planning at Home

Victims may consider:



- Informing neighbors, landlords, housemates
- Packing a bag and identifying escape routes
- Changing locks
- Personal alarms
- Game cameras or other security devices
- Photographing property damage

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Student Accommodations


Housing


Bus/ Transportation


Lunch Period/ Dining Hall


Class Schedule




Extra-curriculars

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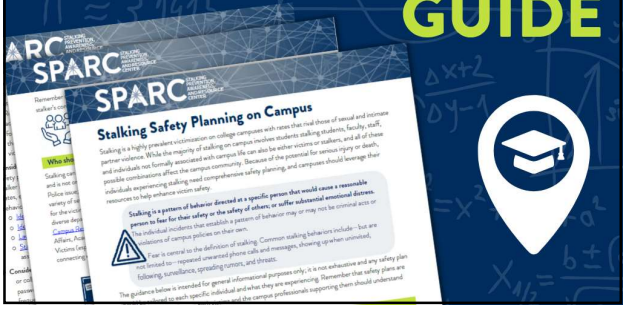
Basic Considerations

- Trust victim instincts
- Safety planning should evolve
- Consider stalker's next tactic
- Anticipate stalker reaction
- Balance safety and freedom



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CAMPUS SAFETY PLANNING GUIDE



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STALKING INCIDENT AND BEHAVIOR LOG FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

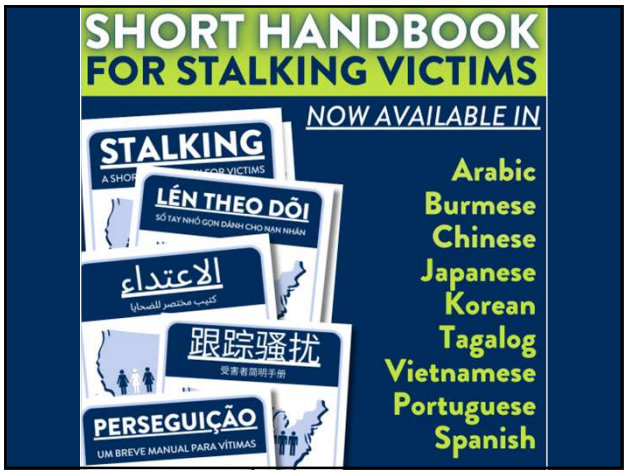
Date	Time	Description of Incident	Location of Incident (physical location, technology used, online platform)	Witness Name(s) (attach address and phone number)	Evidence Attached? (photos, video, screenshots, items, etc.)	Report Made To (name, office/org, badge or identification #)

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Wrap-Up & Resources

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Consider:

- Does your university provide stalking-specific services to victims?
  - For example, counseling services, access to an advocate, information on campus about no contact/protection orders and civil protection orders?
- How easy is it for a stalking victim to know they can seek services and from whom?
  - Is stalking mentioned specifically in outreach materials?
- Do university policies and services address the needs of all victims of stalking?
  - Including non-IP related, not sexual assault related?
- Do university policies and services address stalkers and victims who are students, faculty, volunteers, alumni, and/or staff?

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Order Stalking Awareness Brochures & Posters for your Community Today!



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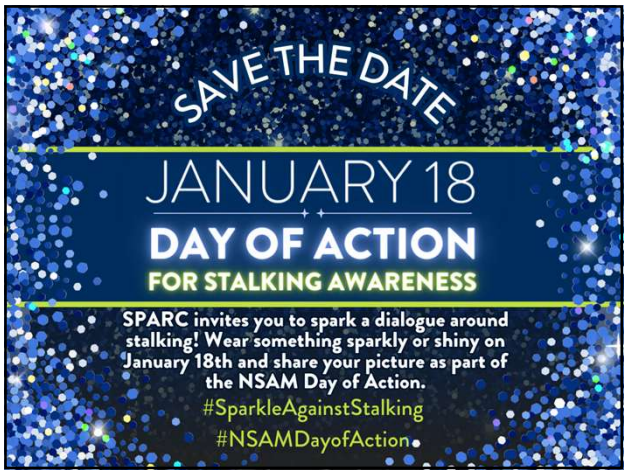
JANUARY IS
NATIONAL
STALKING
AWARENESS MONTH
KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

How are you planning to spread the word?

LEARN ✶ TEACH ✶ SHARE ✶ REFLECT

StalkingAwareness.org

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SAVE THE DATE
JANUARY 18
DAY OF ACTION
FOR STALKING AWARENESS
SPARC invites you to spark a dialogue around stalking! Wear something sparkly or shiny on January 18th and share your picture as part of the NSAM Day of Action.
#SparkleAgainstStalking
#NSAMDayofAction

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