

10 Things You Need to Know About Stalking

1. **Stalking is a crime.**
2. Many people are stalked.
3. Stalking can be very dangerous.
4. Stalking is harmful and intrusive.
5. Anyone can be stalked– not just celebrities.
6. Stalking can occur during a relationship, after a relationship, or in the absence of a relationship.
7. Technology can be used to stalk.
8. An effective response to stalking includes the entire community.
9. You can make a difference.
10. **Help is available.**

Source: Stalking Resource Center
<http://www.ncvc.org/src/main.aspx?>

13 % of female college students have been victims of stalking.
(Fisher, Cullen & Turner, 2000: *Sexual Victimization of College Women*)

25 % of stalking incidents against female college students involve e-mail. (Ibid.)

Your Local Contact

Law Enforcement

Police (Emergency) 911
Campus Police, Safety & Security _____
Local Police _____

Campus Contact

Office of Student Affairs/Services/Life _____
Health/Counseling Program _____
Resident Advisor _____

Local Contact

Crisis Intervention Program (Domestic Violence Shelter/Rape Crisis Center) _____
Victim Assistance Program _____
City Prosecutor's Office _____

Information Online

National Center for Victims of Crime
Stalking Resource Center
<http://www.ncvc.org/src/>



5900 Roche Dr., Suite 445
Columbus, OH 43229
888.622.9315 toll free
614.825.0551 phone | 614.825.0673 fax
www.actionohio.org

Brochure created with funding from Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services
VAWA Subgrant Number 2003-WF-VA6-8820.
Printing of this publication was supported by grant number 2008SADOME258
awarded by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Be aware & believe in your intuition.
Stalking is a crime. Ask for help!

STALKING ON CAMPUS

ACTION OHIO
Coalition For Battered Women
www.actionohio.org

Fisher, Cullen & Turner, 2000: Sexual Victimization of College Women*

- 13.1 % of female students in the sample had been stalked since the school year began.
- Stalking is more prevalent among younger women.
- College campuses provide an ideal environment for stalkers.
- College campuses are relatively closed-in communities, where daily routines & regular behaviors can be easily monitored.

Who are the stalkers?*

- 42.5 % of stalkers are boy-friends or ex-boyfriends.
- 24.5 % are classmates.
- 10.3 % are acquaintances.
- 9.3 % are friends.
- 5.6 % are co-workers.

What is the impact on victims?*

3 in 10 women reported emotional or psychological injury.

In 15.3 % of incidents, victims reported that the stalker threatened or attempted to harm them.

In 10.3% of incidents, victims reported that the stalker “forced or attempted sexual contact.”

Emily Spence-Diehl: Stalking—A Handbook for Victims

Examples of Stalking Conduct

Information Gathering

Stalkers gather information from people like Co-workers, Classmates, Friends, Relatives, DMV, City Utilities, State Professional Licensing Boards, Voter Registration, Veterinarians, Post Office, Internet Search Engines, HR Departments at Workplaces, Banks & Credit Card Companies.

In a campus setting, information gathering is easier than most other places. Information may be posted on the Internet by the college. In an effort to be helpful, friends, contacts and others may provide the stalker with information about the victim.*

Unwanted Contacts—Gifts, Notes, Calls, Following & Observation

Stalkers may appear to be charming and attentive — leaving gifts, flowers, love letters or poems for the victim to find. The situation may turn ugly as when dead flowers, hateful letters or dead animals are left by the stalker.

In a campus environment “coincidental” contacts may be easily arranged by the stalker.*

Escalation—Vandalism, Threats & Violence

A history of violence, including domestic violence is the most reliable predictor of the escalation of stalking behavior. Threats may be implicit, explicit or symbolic.

When a person is being stalked, the individual may be tense, anxious and fearful. Law enforcement officers conducting an investigation may conclude that the victim is over-reacting, or has mental health problems, whereas the stalker may be calm, collected and rational when being questioned.

What to do if you are being stalked on campus

According to Ohio law, stalking is a crime if a person knowingly engaged in a pattern of conduct (two or more actions or incidents closely related in time) that caused you to believe that the offender may cause you physical harm or mental distress.

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911.**
- If you think you are being stalked, report incidents to law enforcement (campus police and/or local police).**
- Contact your local victim advocate program that can assist you with safety planning and prosecution of the case.
- Talk about your experiences with others you trust (family members, friends, roommates, school counselor/advisor, etc.). They may help you assess potential danger and seek help.
- Deviate from your daily routine and avoid predictability.
- Be careful about sharing your personal information.

You can be more credible and build a stronger case if you:

- Keep a log listing all stalking incidents (dates, times, places, what happened, witnesses, etc.).
- Save everything you receive from the stalker (e.g. letters, emails, gifts, etc.).