Quick Refresher: What is Stalking and What are the Risks?

- Stalking often co-occurs with physical assault and sexual violence, including rape.
- 20% of stalkers use weapons to threaten or harm victims.
- 76% of intimate partner femicides included stalking in the year prior.

Study of Women with Protective Orders

Women who were abused and stalked experienced significantly higher rates of the following than women who were abused but not stalked:

- Verbal abuse, degradation, jealousy and control
- Serious threats
- Moderate and severe physical violence
- Sexual violence and sexual assault
- Threats to kill and threats with a weapon
- Being beat up, attacks with a weapon and injury


Top 10 risk factors for intimate partner homicide victimization

1) Direct access to guns 11-fold increase in risk ofIPH
2) Threatened victim with a weapon 7-fold increase in risk
3) Non-fatal strangulation 7-fold increase in risk
4) Perpetrated rape/forced sex 5-fold increase in risk
5) Controlling behaviors 6-fold increase in risk
6) Threatened to harm the victim 4-fold increase in risk
7) Abused victim while pregnant 4-fold increase in risk
8) Perpetrated stalking 3-fold increase in risk ofIPH
9) Jealousy 2-fold increase in risk
10) Substance abuse 2-fold increase in risk

Why Name Stalking?

Risk Assessment

Victim perceptions of risk are a strong predictor of re-assault, equal to or even better than risk management tools

14 Risk Factors in Stalking Cases

**BIG PICTURE**
- Course of Conduct
- Escalation, Triggers
- Nature and context of threats
- Threat follow-through, capability

**STALKER MINDSET**
- Resistance & Persistence
- Stalker Motive
- Proxy Stalking

**VICTIM VULNERABILITY**
- Fear, life impact
- Use of Technology
- Victim Vulnerability

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Who is the stalker and what are they capable of?

- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Issues
- Violence & Criminal History
- Technology Expertise
- Education/Background
- Prior threats
- History of violence (against this victim or others)
- History of mental illness
- History of substance abuse
- Possession and/or use of weapons
- History of protective order violations
- Acts of vandalism or trespass
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.

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
**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 regarding concerns about the relationship being unhealthy, Rowland’s easy access to Lauren’s housing, and Rowland’s threat to bring a firearm to campus. These were not communicated to UUPS, Behavioral Intervention Team, or handled internally in a timely manner.

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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.”


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**Responding to Victims**

**First Response**

Any time a victim reports any kind of harassing behavior:

- Consider the possibility of a stalking case
- Determine whether this is an isolated incident or repeated conduct

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**Victim Contact**

**FIRST CONTACT IS CRITICAL!**

You may determine how or if the victim continues to work with law enforcement.

- **HAVE RESOURCES ON HAND**
  - Print cards, local victim assistance resources

- **PREVENT EVIDENCE RIGHT NOW**
  - For example, take photos of text messages

- **PREPARE FOR THE LONG HAUL**
  - Your efforts now help the victim and your fellow officers down the road
Advise Disengagement

Recommend no contact with the stalker
- Explain intermittent reinforcement
- BUT realize victims engage in behaviors to keep themselves safe.
  - Maintain contact, negotiation, minimizing threat
  - Contact may be a safety strategy

Self-Protective Actions Taken
- 63% Blocked unwanted calls/messages/other
- 27% Changed personal information
- 24% Changed day-to-day activities
- 23% Self-defensive action/security measure
- 9% Applied for a restraining/protective/no-contact order

78% of stalking victims take some kind of protective action

Civil Protection Order Efficacy
- 45-66% of offenders stopped stalking after the order was issued
- 33-55% of offenders continued stalking after the order was issued

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
Questions to Consider

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

Basic Considerations

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

STALKING VICTIM FEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Fear Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61%</td>
<td>Not knowing what will happen next</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Behaviors never stopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>Physical/bodily harm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32%</td>
<td>Someone close to victim being harmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Loss of freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>Losing one’s mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>Losing job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Loss of social network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Being killed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Student Accommodations

- Housing
- Transportation
- Lunch Period/Dining Hall
- Class Schedule
- Extra-curriculars

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
Resources & Wrap Up

Coordination

Law enforcement
Probation/parole/corrections
Advocacy
Courts
Victim service providers
Prosecutors

Champions for Justice

Aequitas is a nonprofit organization focused on developing, evaluating, and refining prosecution practices related to gender-based violence and human trafficking. With a team of former prosecutors with decades of experience, we work globally to hold perpetrators accountable and promote victim safety.

Tech Safety

Welcome to the Tech Safety App. This app contains information that can help someone identify technology facilitated harassment, stalking, or abuse and includes tips on what can be done.
Upcoming Webinars
www.stalkingawareness.org/upcoming-events/

* Planning for a Successful National Stalking Awareness Month
  * Nov 29, 2023 at 2pm Eastern

MN OHE Webinar Series
* Accountability: Stalking Investigations and Hearings
  * Feb 7, 2024 at 2pm Eastern
* Stalking Awareness on Campus
  * Apr 9, 2024 at 2pm Eastern

For Victims

Victim Connect
resource center
Confidential referrals for crime victims 855-4-VICTIM

How are you planning to spread the word?
LEARN * TEACH * SHARE * REFLECT
StalkingAwareness.org

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