



**STALKING:**  
**Risk Assessment & Safety Planning**

**OVW Funding**


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



**STALKING DEFINITION:  
BEHAVIORAL**

Stalking is 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.



**! DANGEROUS**

- \* 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.

McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Wilt, S., Ulrich, Y., & Xu, X. (1999.) Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. *Homicide Studies* 3 (4), 300-316.  
Mohandie, K., Moley, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51 (1), 147-155.

**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

Logan, T.K., Shanon, L., & Cole, J. (2007). Stalking Victimization in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence. *Violence Vict.* 22 (6), 669-683.

**31% OF WOMEN STALKED BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER WERE ALSO SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY THAT PARTNER.**

Spencer, C.M. & Stith, S.M. (2018). Stalking in America: Findings from the national intimate partner violence survey (NIJ 18-5692). Washington, DC: NIJ/CDC.

### Stalking is a Lethality Risk

Top 10 risk factors for intimate partner homicide	Risk for male perpetrated & 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
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) <b>Perpetrated stalking</b>	<b>3-fold increase in risk of IPH</b>
9) Jealousy	2-fold increase in risk
10) Substance abuse	2-fold increase in risk

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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## Assessing for Stalking Victimization

**SPARC** STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

### Reporting Stalking

- 28% of stalking victims report to law enforcement
- 16% of stalking victims seek victim services
- Fewer than 29% of student stalking victims seek services on campus
  - One study showed less than 8% disclosed to a formal support

Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report. Augustyn, M.B., Rensvold, C.M., Prochaska, G.W., & Margolin, A.B. (2019). Intimate Partner Stalking among College Students: Examining Situational Contexts Related to Police Notification. *Journal of Family Violence* 35(1), 679-691.

Corcoran, D., Fisher, B., Chabell, S., Madden, K. (2022). Reporting the AAUJ campus climate survey on sexual assault and misconduct. *Wesley*.

Damen, J.M., Ward, S.K., Wahl, W.A., Bennett, V.L., Cole, E.S., Edwards, K.M., & Kuyper, M.W. (2017). Disclosure on Campus: Students' Decisions to Tell Others About Unwanted Sexual Experiences, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking. *Journal of Aggression, Motivation & Trauma*, 21(1), 54-75.

### SLII Framework

Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. *Trauma, Violence and Abuse* 18(2), 200-221.





### COMMON TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY STALKING VICTIMS:

Tactic	Female (%)	Male (%)
UNWANTED PHONE CALLS	76%	75%
APPROACHED/SHOWED UP	61%	49%
FOLLOWED/WATCHED	60%	36%
SENT MESSAGES OR EMAILS	56%	60%
SENT GIFTS, CARDS, LETTERS	30%	16%
SNEAKED INTO HOME OR CAR AND LEFT SIGN OF PRESENCE	23%	21%
USED GPS TECHNOLOGY TO TRACK LOCATION	17%	21%

Smith, S.G., Banks, K.C., & Krenovak, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016-2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Screening for Stalking

Has the Offender...

- been tracking, following, or monitoring Victim in any way? 
- repeatedly invaded Victim's life/privacy by initiating unwanted contact with Victim? 
- significantly and directly interfered with Victim's life?
  - >physically/sexually assaulted Victim during course of conduct?
  - >forcibly kept Victim from leaving, held against will, caused serious accident, assaulted others, or seriously attacked Victim? 
- more than one time, intimidated or scared Victim through threats, property damage, threatening or actual harming of pets, or other means? 

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

## Screening for Stalking

If YES to any of the previous, during the actions mentioned above...

- Did these actions make Victim afraid or concerned for safety or safety of children, family, and/or coworkers?
- Did Victim make significant life changes for safety reason because of these actions? (change day-to-day routines, spend money on home safety, took time off work?)
- Did these actions make Victim afraid or concerned about significant financial or social impact? (Loss of job, loss of housing, financial harm?)

**NOT AT ALL? SOMEWHAT? EXTREMELY?**

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

## Resources to help identify stalking at STALKINGAWARENESS.ORG



**SUPERVISING OFFENDERS: SLII BEHAVIORS**

**SURVEILLANCE**

**SPARC Identifying Stalking: SLII Strategies**

**COULD THIS BE A STALKING CASE? IDENTIFYING STALKING ON CALLS FOR SERVICE**

**IDENTIFYING STALKING BEHAVIORS**

## Why Name Stalking?

- Charging & Prosecution
- Safety Planning
- Victim Empowerment

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## Risk Assessment

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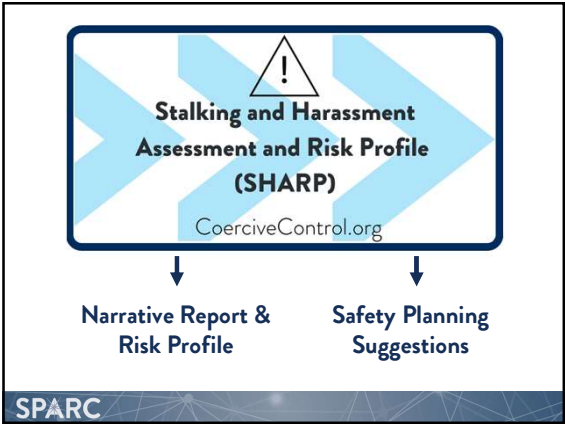
“

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

”

TK Logan & Robert Walker, Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning, 18(2) Trauma, Violence & Abuse 200-22 (2017)

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### 14 Risk Factors in Stalking Cases

<p><b>BIG PICTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course of Conduct</li> <li>• Escalation, Triggers</li> <li>• Nature and context of threats</li> <li>• Threat follow-through, capability</li> </ul>	<p><b>STALKER MINDSET</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resistance &amp; Persistence</li> <li>• Stalker Motive</li> <li>• Proxy Stalking</li> </ul>
<p><b>STALKER HISTORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of abuse to victim</li> <li>• History of abuse to others</li> <li>• Guns, weapons &amp; training</li> <li>• Criminal history, mental health, substance abuse</li> </ul>	<p><b>VICTIM VULNERABILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear, life impact</li> <li>• Use of Technology</li> <li>• Victim Vulnerability</li> </ul>

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



### Contextualize the Threat

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### Who is the stalker and what are they capable of?

- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Issues
- Technology Expertise
- Education/Background
- Violence & Criminal History
- Follow-through on Previous Threats


### Respondent 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



## 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?



## Implicit and Explicit Threats




**Someone can pose a threat without saying a word.**  
57% of SHARP respondents reported experiencing implicit threats.

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



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

## Review & Report on Lauren McCluskey Case Response

## 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., Risling, 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).

### 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., Rissling, 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).



**“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., Rissling, 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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**Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Campus Professionals**

**STALKING RESPONSE CHECKLIST FOR CAMPUS PROFESSIONALS**

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Responding to Victims

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### 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



### Victim Contact

**FIRST CONTACT IS CRITICAL!**  
You may determine how or if the victim continues to work with law enforcement 

**HAVE RESOURCES ON HAND**  
Palm cards, local victim assistance resources 

**PRESERVE 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 

### How do Victims Cope?

- Move **INWARD**
- Move **AWAY**
- Move **TOWARDS**
- Move **AGAINST**
- Move **OUTWARD**

Spitzberg, B.H., & Cupach, W. (2007) The State of the Art of Stalking: Taking Stock of the Emerging Literature. Aggression and Violent Behavior 12(1): 64-86.

### 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**

Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report.

### 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

### 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**

Logan, T., Walker, R., Hoyt, W., & Faragher, T. (2009). The Kentucky civil protective order study: A rural and urban multiple perspective study of protective order violation consequences, responses, & costs. (NCJ Publication #228350). Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice, U.S. DOJ.

### Safety Planning

### 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

- 61% NOT KNOWING WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT
- 55% BEHAVIORS NEVER STOPPING
- 36% PHYSICAL/BODILY HARM
- 32% SOMEONE CLOSE TO VICTIM BEING HARMED
- 25% LOSS OF FREEDOM
- 19% LOSING ONE'S MIND
- 17% LOSING JOB
- 16% LOSS OF SOCIAL NETWORK
- 15% BEING KILLED




Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report.

### 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
- Bus/ 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







For Victims



**Victim Connect**  
resource center

Confidential referrals for crime victims  855-4-VICTIM

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

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


**Upcoming Webinars**  
[www.stalkingawareness.org/upcoming-events/](http://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

**Order Stalking Awareness Brochures & Posters for your Community Today!**



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UNDERSTANDING STALKING  
STALKING  
PHONE CALLS TEXT MESSAGES FOLLOWING THREATS  
IT'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND IT'S STALKING.

[www.StalkingAwareness.org](http://www.StalkingAwareness.org)

- \*Practitioner guides
- \*Training modules
- \*Victim resources
- \*Webinars

  
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