

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

**Stalking Risk Assessment & Report Writing**

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

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**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.





**CONTEXT IS CRITICAL**  
in stalking cases.

 **CRIMINAL**

- FEDERAL LEVEL
- ALL 50 STATES, D.C., & U.S. TERRITORIES
- TRIBAL CODES
- UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

§ 18-7906. STALKING IN THE SECOND DEGREE

Engages in a course of conduct that seriously alarms, annoys or harasses the victim and is such as would cause a reasonable person substantial emotional distress; or (b) Engages in a course of conduct such as would cause a reasonable person to be in fear of death or physical injury, or in fear of the death or physical injury of a family or household member.

"Course of conduct" means repeated acts of nonconsensual contact involving the victim or a family or household member of the victim, provided however, that constitutionally protected activity is not included within the meaning of this definition.

Stalking Prevalence and Behavior



Stalking Prevalence

NEARLY  
1 in 3 women



&

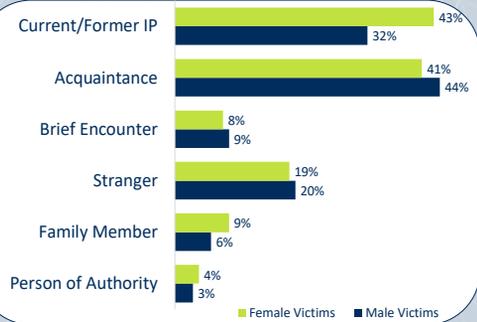
NEARLY  
1 in 6 men



experience **stalking** in their lifetimes.

Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, 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.

Victim and Offender Relationships



Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, 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.

Understanding Stalking:  
Stalking Behaviors

SLII Framework



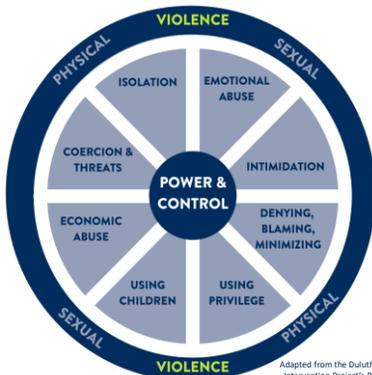
Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. Trauma, Violence and Abuse 18(2), 200-222.



<p><b>SURVEILLANCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow</li> <li>Watch</li> <li>Wait</li> <li>Show Up</li> <li>Tracking software</li> <li>Obtain info about victim</li> <li>Proxy stalking</li> </ul>	<p><b>LIFE INVASION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unwanted contact, often across locations and platforms</li> <li>Showing up</li> <li>Phone calls             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property invasion</li> <li>Public humiliation</li> <li>Harass family/friends</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>INTERFERENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial &amp; work sabotage</li> <li>Ruining reputation</li> <li>Custody interference</li> <li>Keeping from leaving</li> <li>Road rage</li> <li>Attacks on family/friends/pets</li> <li>Physical/sexual attack</li> </ul>	<p><b>INTIMIDATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threats</li> <li>Property damage</li> <li>Symbolic violence</li> <li>Forced confrontations</li> <li>Threatened or actual harm to self</li> <li>Threats to harm others</li> </ul>

<p><b>SURVEILLANCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart home devices</li> <li>Tracking software/GPS</li> <li>Cameras/recordings</li> <li>Monitoring activity online</li> <li>Access to accounts</li> </ul>	<p><b>LIFE INVASION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unwanted contact online, texts, calls</li> <li>Impersonating victim</li> <li>Hacking victim accounts</li> </ul>
<p><b>INTERFERENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Posting private photos or info</li> <li>Spreading rumors</li> <li>Doxing, swatting</li> <li>Controlling accounts</li> <li>Posing as victim and creating harm</li> </ul>	<p><b>INTIMIDATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blackmail</li> <li>Sextortion</li> <li>Threats - release false private info</li> <li>Threats - interfere with property, employment, other</li> <li>Threats - harm online</li> </ul>

## Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence



Adapted from the Duluth Model Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Power and Control Wheel



### Intimate partner stalkers are more likely to:

- physically approach the victim
- be interfering, insulting, and threatening
- use weapons
- escalate behaviors quickly
- re-offend

Mohandie, K., Meloy, 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.

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

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

### 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) Perpetrated stalking	3-fold increase in risk of IPH
9) Jealousy	2-fold increase in risk
10) Substance abuse	2-fold increase in risk

Spencer, C.M. & Smith, 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.



### WAYS TO ASSESS AND DOCUMENT STALKING CREDIBILITY



**DESCRIBE**  
the big picture, beyond individual incidents

+

**DOCUMENT**  
victim fear and harm

+

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

### 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

### Document Evidence of Accommodations

- Changes to accounts, numbers, and settings
- Finances spent on safety devices or accommodations
- Increased Security/Privacy Measures
- Financial impacts, including employment consequences, identity theft, and cost of damaged property

## Corroborating Fear



**Personality Changes**



**Cost & Level of Effort for Safety**



**Witnesses**



**Increased Security/Privacy Measures**



**Physical Signs**



**Isolation/Withdrawing from Typical Activities**

## 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?

## 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?



## 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**

STALKING INCIDENT LOG						
Date	Time	Description of Incident	Location of Incident	Witness Name(s) (Attach Address and Phone #)	Police Called (Report #)	Officer Name (Badge #)

SHARP: Stalking Harassment and Risk Profile

[www.coercivecontrol.org](http://www.coercivecontrol.org)  
[www.stalkingrisk.com](http://www.stalkingrisk.com)





On July 2 2010 my alcoholic husband threatened to harm me and stated I could never get away from him. He grabbed my arm and scratched my face in the process. He also blocked my car from leaving on 10/11/10 we had another incident where he pushed me and head butted me because I had made him angry. 10/19/10 once again He grabbed me by the arms and shoved me we went to my neighbors that night. The worst incident was 8/2/2009 where he physically assaulted me and chested me leaving many bruises. I fear for my safety and my life I now have the courage to divorce him but I am so afraid he is going to get to me. He has a history of alcoholism and assault.

*Mary Colletta*

**Adult Abuse/Stalking Ex Parte Order of Protection**

The State of Missouri to Respondent

Petitioner has filed a verified petition (copy attached) requesting an Order of Protection against you. Pursuant to Sections 455.031 to 455.045 RSMo, the court finds that there is an immediate and present danger of abuse to Petitioner by you or that Petitioner has been a victim of stalking by you and that there is good cause to issue an Order of Protection.

Therefore, the court orders that you, **CHRISTOPHER P COLLETTA, Respondent, not:**

- Abuse, threaten to abuse, stalk, molest or disturb the peace of Petitioner wherever Petitioner may be found. [01 & 04]
- Enter or stay upon the premises wherever the Petitioner may reside
- Located at 4690 GRANADA DR HILLSBORO, MO 63050 (unless disclosure waived) [04]
- Communicate with Petitioner in any manner or through any medium. [05]
- Other: [06] *Recop may go to the above address one time w/a Deputy to get papers. He hangs out at the pool & toilets.*

It is further ordered that: Custody of the minor children shall be awarded until further order of court, as follows



## 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



### STALKER HISTORY

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

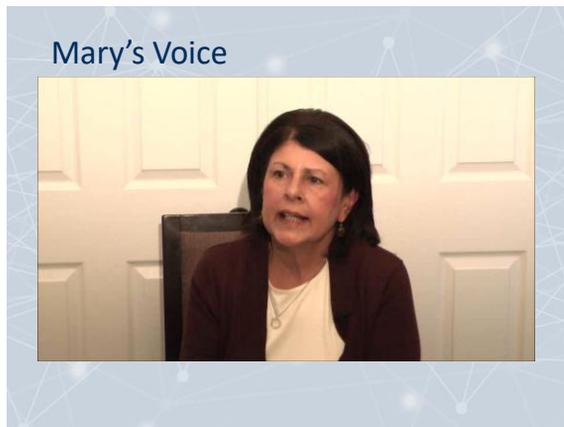
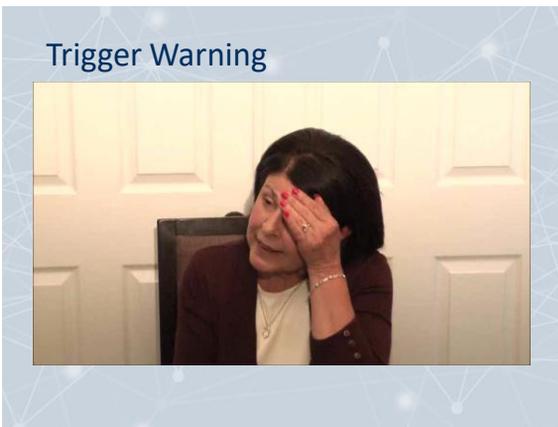
### VICTIM

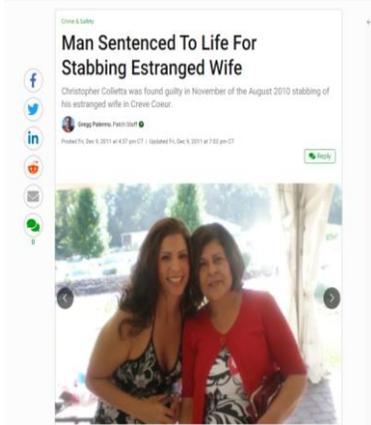


### VULNERABILITY

- Fear, life impact
- Use of Technology
- Victim Vulnerability

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





# Responding to Stalking Victims



## How do Victims Cope?

**Move INWARD**

**Move AWAY**

**Move TOWARDS**

**Move AGAINST**

**Move OUTWARD**

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

## 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

## Issues to Consider

**Systemic Barriers**

**Confidentiality**

**Stalker-generated Risks**

**Use of Technology**

**Victim's life situation & impact on social health**

## 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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