



Know More, Do More:
Recognizing & Responding to Stalking

Ohio CASA Conference
October 1, 2026

1

OVW Funding

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-24-GK-03011-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice.

2



www.StalkingAwareness.org



- Practitioner guides
- Training modules
- Victim resources
- Webinars

Sign up for our Newsletter!

   @FollowUsLegally

3

Introduction



4

STALKING IS:

-  **CRIMINAL**
-  **TRAUMATIC**
-  **DANGEROUS**

5



CRIMINAL

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

6

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

Augustyn, M.B., Rennison, C.M., Pinchovsky, G.M., & Magnuson, A.B. (2019). Intimate Partner Stalking among College Students: Examining Situational Contexts Related to Police Notification. *Journal of Family Violence*, 35(5), 479-499.

Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). *Stalking Victimization in the United States*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Center, D., Fisher, B., Chisolm, S., Madden, K. (2020). Report on the AAU campus climate survey on sexual assault and misconduct. Westat.

Diemert, J.M., Ward, S.K., Walsh, W.A., Banyard, V.L., Cohn, E.S., Edwards, K.M., & Moynihan, M.M. (2017). Disclosure on Campus: Students' Decisions to Tell Others About Unwanted Sexual Experiences, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 23(1), 54-75.

13

Domestic Violence Crimes Study

- 1,785 cases of domestic violence
- 298 involve stalking (1 in 6)

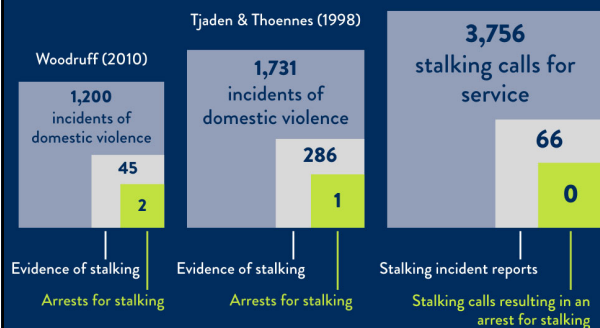
How many cases were charged as stalking?

Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2011). *Stalking: Its Role in Serious Domestic Violence Cases*, Executive Summary. Center for Policy Research, Denver, CO.

14

When is Stalking Charged?

Brady & Nobles (2017)



15

Accessing Victim Services



About 16% of all stalking victims sought victim services.

Nearly 1 in 4 victims who sought victim services did not receive any.

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

16

Understanding Stalking

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

17

Defining Stalking



BEHAVIORAL



LEGAL/STATUTORY



POLICY

18

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.



19

A pattern of behavior...

- Not a single incident or "one-off" event
- Called a "course of conduct" in most statutes



20

...directed at a specific person...



21

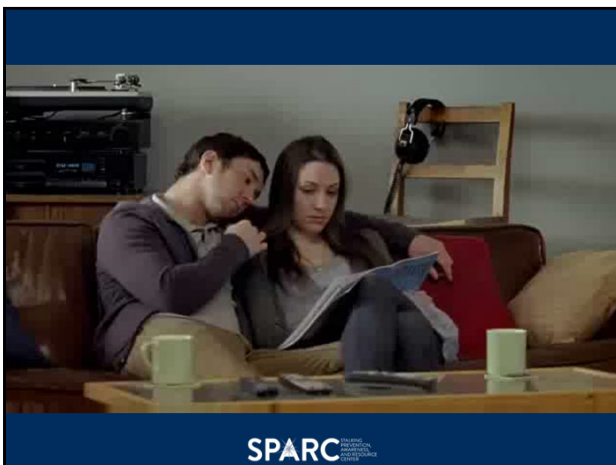


...that would cause a
reasonable person to feel

FEAR

for their safety or the safety
of others; or suffer substantial
emotional distress.

22



SPARC

23

CONTEXT IS CRITICAL in stalking cases.

24



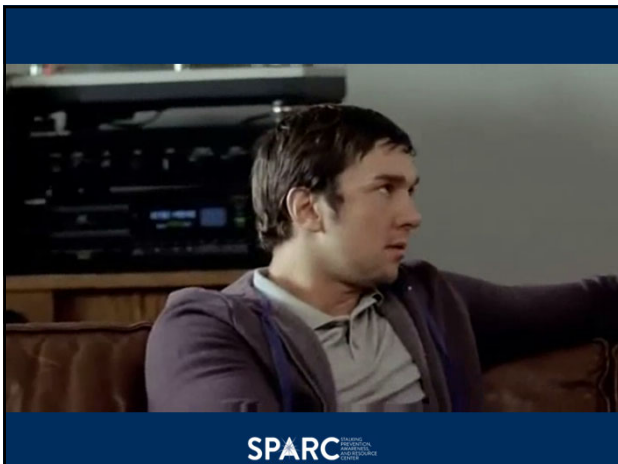
25

CONTEXT IS CRITICAL



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

26



27



28

Document Evidence of Accommodations

 Changes to accounts, numbers, and settings	 Finances spent on safety devices or accommodations
 Increased security and/or privacy measures	 Financial impacts, including identity theft, employment consequences, and cost of damaged property

29



30

OHIO REV.CODE ANN .§ 2903.211 (WEST 2025-2026). MENACING BY STALKING

- (A) (1) No person by engaging in a pattern of conduct shall knowingly cause another person to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the other person or a family or household member of the other person **or** cause mental distress to the other person **or** a family or household member of the other person [...]

FIRST DEGREE MISDEMEANOR

SPARC

OHIO
REVENUE
DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE

31

OHIO REV.CODE ANN .§ 2903.211 (WEST 2025-2026). MENACING BY STALKING

- (A) (2) No person, through the use of any form of written communication or any electronic method of remotely transferring information, including, but not limited to, any computer, computer network, computer program, computer system, or telecommunication device shall post a message or use any intentionally written or verbal graphic gesture with purpose to do either of the following:

- (a) Violate division (A) (1) of this section;
- (b) Urge or incite another to commit a violation of division (A) (1) of this section.
- (3) No person, with a sexual motivation, shall violate division (A) (1) or (2) of this section.

SPARC

OHIO
REVENUE
DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE

FIRST DEGREE
MISDEMEANOR

32

Warning/Notice to Respondent



- Use the language “you are making the victim afraid”
- Get response from respondent
- Record the warning when possible
- Document the warning/no-contact letters

33

Expressing Desire for No Contact

- * “I am not interested in having a relationship with you. Do not contact me ever again. Do not call, stop by, text, or contact me in any way whatsoever.”
- * “I do not want you to contact me in any way. If you continue to do so – or if you are on my property, or follow me – I will call the police.”
- * “I am ending this relationship. I am not going to change my mind. Do not contact me again. I do not want to have any communication with you, in any form. If you try to contact me, I will call the police/take legal action.”

SPARC

OHIO
REVENUE
DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE

34

Can become a Fourth Degree Felony:

- A) Previous stalking conviction
- B) Offender made a threat of physical harm to or against the victim (or induced third party to do so)
- C) Offender trespassed on the land or premises where the victim lives, is employed, or attends school (or induced a third party to do so)
- D) **The victim is a minor**
- E) The offender has a history of violence toward the victim or any other person
- F) Offender had a deadly weapon on or about the offender's person or under the offender's control
- G) Offender was the subject of an order of protection... regardless of whether the person to be protected under the order is the victim of the offense or another person.
- H) Offender caused serious physical harm to the premises at which the victim resides, to the real property on which that premises is located, or to any personal property located on that premises (or induced third party to do so)

SPARC

OHIO
REVENUE
DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE

35

Can become a Fourth Degree Felony:

- 1) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had been determined to represent a substantial risk of physical harm to others as manifested by evidence of then-recent homicidal or other violent behavior, evidence of then-recent threats that placed another in reasonable fear of violent behavior and serious physical harm, or other evidence of then-present dangerousness.
- (3) If the victim of the offense is an officer or employee of a public children services agency or a private child placing agency and the offense relates to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties

SPARC

OHIO
REVENUE
DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE

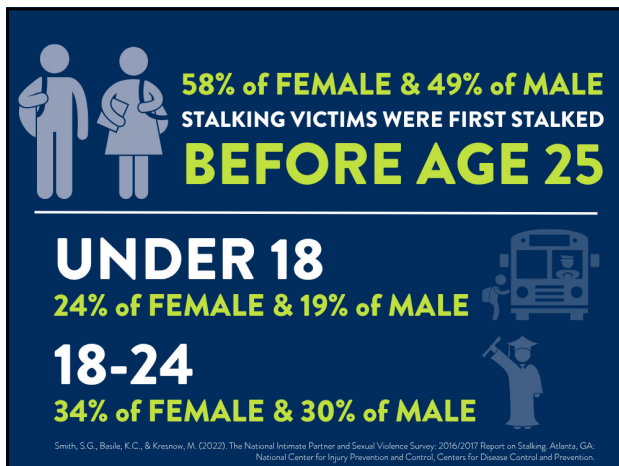
36



37



38



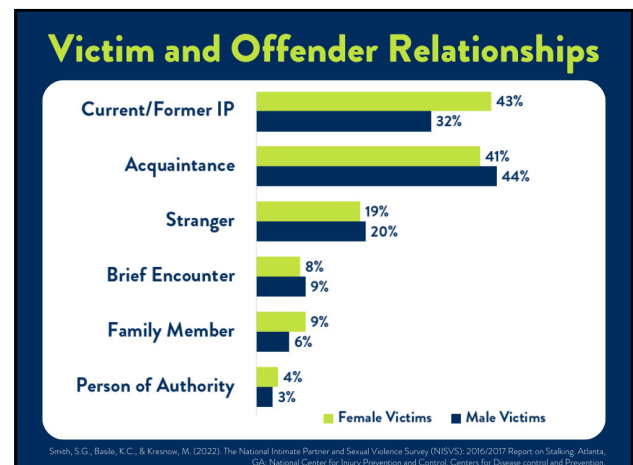
39



40



41



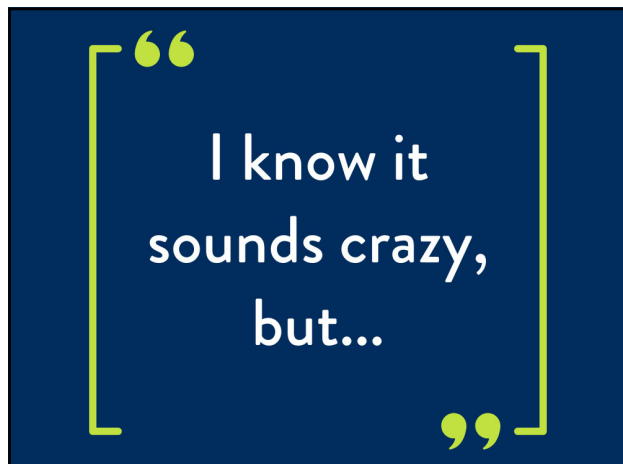
42



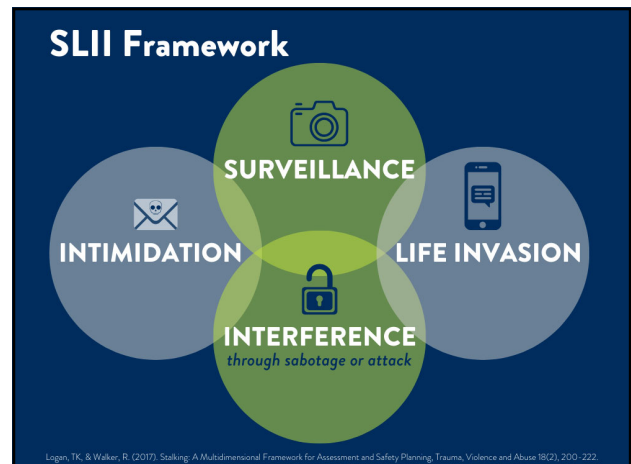
43



44



45



46



47



48

49

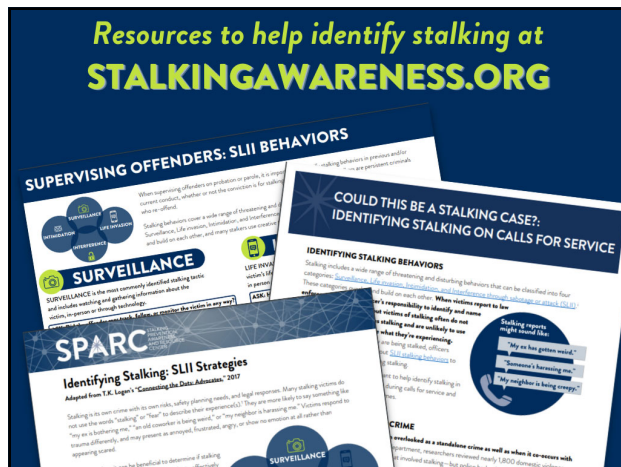
50

51

52

53

54



55

Pattern of Behavior

$\frac{3}{4}$ of stalkers use more than one means of approach

$\frac{2}{3}$ of stalkers pursue their victim at least once per week

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.

56

Potential Relevant Charges: Ohio

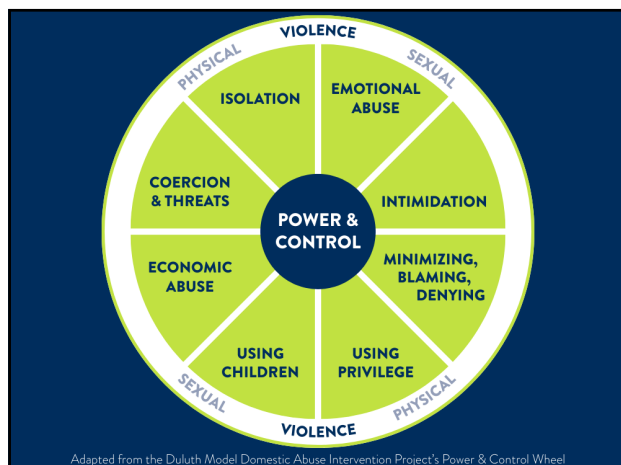
- 2903.08 Aggravated vehicular assault; vehicular assault.
- 2903.22 Menacing.
- 2903.35 Filing false patient abuse or neglect complaints.
- 2905.03 Unlawful restraint.
- 2905.11 Extortion.
- 2905.12 Coercion.
- 2905.33 Unlawful conduct with respect to documents.
- 2907.08 Voyeurism.
- 2909.05 Vandalism.
- 2909.09 Vehicular vandalism.
- 2909.07 Criminal mischief.
- 2911.13 Breaking and entering.
- 2911.21 Criminal trespass.
- 2913.02 Theft.
- 2913.04 Unauthorized use of property - computer, cable, or telecommunications property.
- 2913.49 Identity fraud.
- 2917.11D Disorderly conduct.
- 2917.21 Telecommunications harassment.
- 2917.21DD Issuance of an age of another person.
- 2917.32 Making false alarms.
- 2919.23 Interference with custody.
- 2919.27 Violating protection order.
- 2921.04 Intimidation of attorney, victim or witness in criminal case or delinquent child action proceeding.
- 2921.14 Making or causing false report of child abuse or neglect.

SPARC Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center

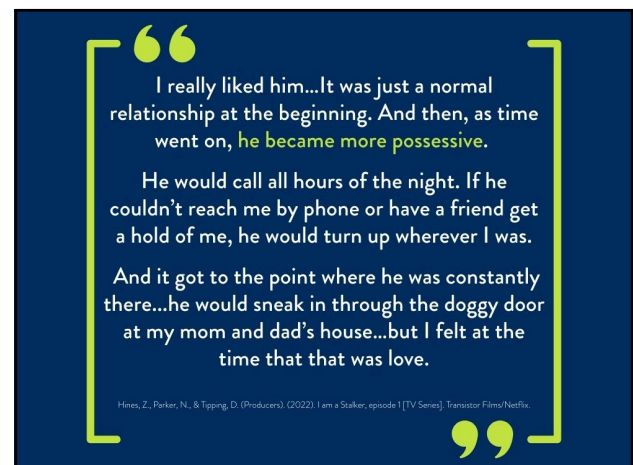
57



58

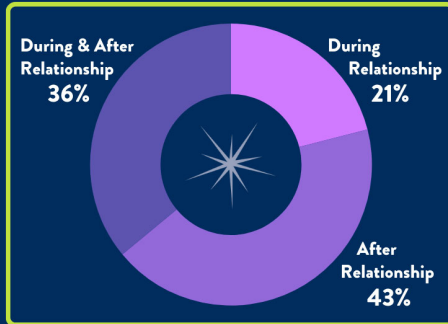


59



60

When does **STALKING** take place in an abusive intimate partner relationship?



Juden, P. & Thoennes, N. (1998). Stalking in America: Findings from the national violence against women survey (NCJ169592). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice CDC.

61

Stalking Prevalence: Adolescents



Nearly half of teens with dating experience reported experiencing and/or perpetrating **stalking behaviors**

(spied on/followed, damaged person's property, went through online accounts)

Rothman, E.F., Bahrami, E., Chakraborty, N., & Mumford, E. (2020). Prevalence of and Risk Markers for Dating Abuse-Related Stalking and Harassment Victimization Perpetration in a Nationally Representative Sample of U.S. Adolescents. *Youth & Society* (Online). Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0543180220976181>.

62

On average, intimate partner stalkers pose the greatest threats to their victims.

WHY?



63

Relationships, Violence, & Threats



	Intimate Partner	Acquaintance	Private Stranger	Public Figure
Presence of Threats	83%	66%	50%	18%
Presence of Violence	74%	50%	36%	2%

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.

64

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.

65

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

66

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.

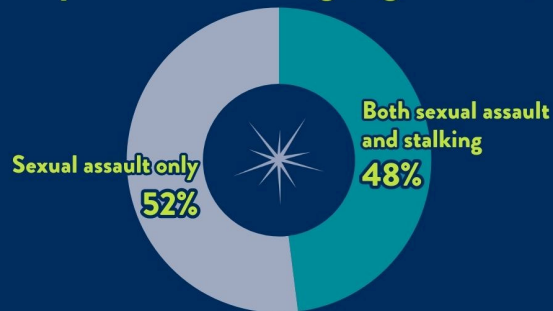
67

Co-Victimizations: Stalking & Sexual Violence

SPARC
SUPPORT FOR
PERPETRATOR
AND
VICTIM
RECOVERY
CENTERS

68

Sexual Assault Survivors Who Also Experienced Stalking (Ages 18-24)



Brady, P. Q., & Woodward Griffin, V. (2019). The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault Among Emerging Adults: Unpublished Preliminary Results. *mlurk Findings*, 2018.

69

Intersections of Stalking & Sexual Violence

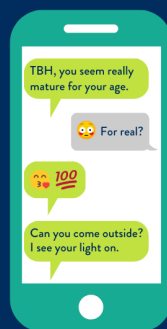
Stalker threatens/plans sexual violence.

Stalker attempts to get someone else to be sexually violent towards the victim.

Stalker commits sexual violence.

Stalker contacts the victim after sexual violence.

70



Some offenders use **stalking** strategies to groom for sexual violence.

71

How Offenders Groom for Sexual Violence:

- Research & identify vulnerable victims
- Establish relationships: contact, build trust
- Meet in-person & isolate the victim
- Coerce into sexual act(s)
- Contact after

Link, D. & Miller, P. (2002). Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists. *Violence and Victims* 17 (1), 73-84. Retrieved from <https://www.davidlink.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/RepeatRapeinUndetectedRapists.pdf>

72

Co-occurring Victimizations

Undergraduate students stalked by an intimate partner also experienced:



40% Coercive Control

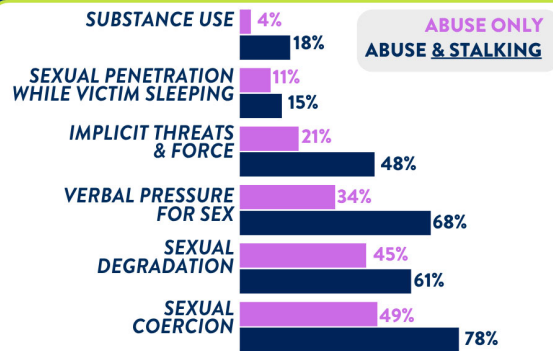
32% Sexual Assault

11% Physical Assault

Augustyn, M.B., Rennison, C.M., Pinchevsky, G.M., & Magnuson, A.B. (2019). Intimate Partner Stalking among College Students: Examining Situational Contexts Related to Police Notification. *Journal of Family Violence* 35(1), 679-691.

73

Study of Women with Protective Orders



Logan, T.K., & Cole, J. (2011). Exploring the Intersection of Partner Stalking and Sexual Abuse. *Violence Against Women* 17(7), 904-924.

74



75

Why Name Stalking?

Charging & Prosecution

Safety Planning

Victim Empowerment

76

Responding to Stalking

SPARC

77

First Response

Any time a victim reports any kind of harassing behavior:

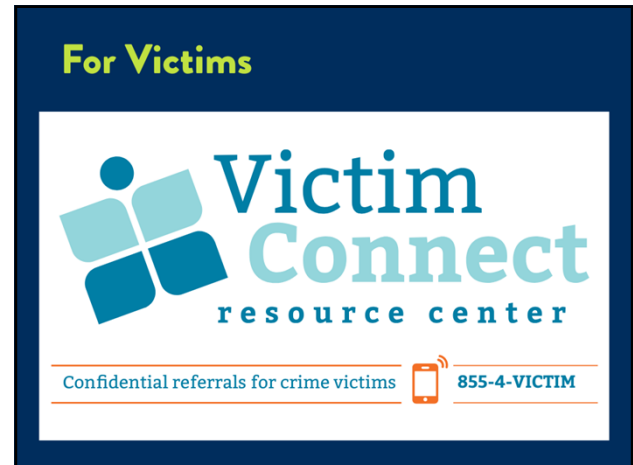
- Consider the possibility of a stalking case
- Determine whether this is an isolated incident or repeated conduct



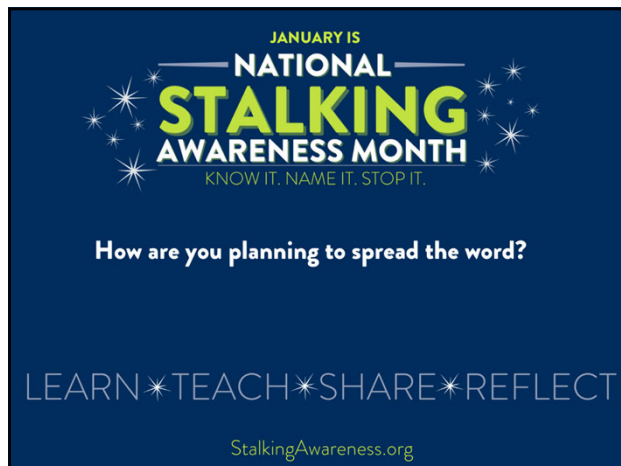
78



85



86



87



88



89



90

Dana Fleitman M.A.Ed.H.D.
Senior Training & Awareness Specialist

202-579-3010
DFleitman@StalkingAwareness.org
StalkingAwareness.org

Training Evaluation

QR Code

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

@FollowUsLegally

91