

CRIMINAL CONSEQUENCES

Individuals prosecuted for Stalking or Aggravated Stalking may be:

- Required to wear an electronic monitoring device so their whereabouts can be tracked
- Required to complete a domestic violence counseling program
- Required to complete a substance abuse program
- Required to undergo a mental health evaluation and to comply with follow-up treatment
- Prohibited from consuming alcohol and non-prescribed medication
- Placed on probation for a period of time and be required to report to a probation officer
- In some cases, sentenced up to 5 years in prison

Evidence collection and your participation with the investigation process are beneficial in prosecution for stalking.

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To learn more about stalking, visit the Stalking Resource Center website:
www.victimsofcrime.org/src

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES



AVDA

A Community of Hope

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Inc.

24-Hour Hotline: *Voice/TDD* 800-355-8547

Voice/TDD 561-265-2900

Website: www.avdaonline.org

YWCA Harmony House

24 hour Hotline: *Voice/TDD* 800-973-9922

Voice/TDD 561-640-9844

Website: www.ywcapbc.org

Florida Domestic Violence Hotline

Phone Number: *Voice* 800-500-1119

TDD 800-621-4202

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County

Phone Number:

Voice 561-655-8944

TDD 800-955-8771

Website: www.legalaidpbc.org

LEGAL
AID
SOCIETY

Palm Beach County



Palm Beach County Victim Services

Phone Number: *Voice* 866-891-7273

TDD 561-355-1772

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)

Phone Number: 877-846-3435

Florida Relay: 711

University/College Campus

Students can seek assistance and support from university/college police, victim advocates, counseling centers, or women's center.

Additional Information:



Are
You
Being...

STALKED

Stalking is a Crime

You Have The Right To:

- Live A Life Free Of Stalking
- Be Heard
- Seek Support From A Victim Advocate
- Report The Crime To Law Enforcement
- Have Your Case Thoroughly Investigated
- Protection Under The Law

- **6.6 million people are stalked each year in the United States.**
- **76% of women murdered by their partners had been stalked in the year prior to being killed.**
- **Physical abuse and stalking together indicate a higher threat of homicide than either behavior alone.**

- **Is someone repeatedly following or watching you?**
- **Is someone showing up unexpectedly?**
- **Is someone communicating with you in ways that seem obsessive?**
- **Is someone making you concerned or afraid for your safety?**

Stalking is a pattern of behavior that usually is very frightening, unpredictable and dangerous. The stalker might be someone you have had a relationship with, someone you don't know, or someone you have recently met.

Cyberstalking involves someone communicating through email or electronic devices in a way that causes you substantial emotional distress and serves no legitimate purpose.

SIGNS OF STALKING BEHAVIORS

- Following you
- Showing up in unexpected places
- Calling or texting repeatedly
- Sending unwanted letters, cards, or gifts
- Driving by or hanging around your home, school, or work
- Using technology, like GPS or cameras, to track you
- Gaining access to your devices and accounts
- Using social media and websites to harass
- Threatening you, your family, friends, or pets
- Finding out about you by using public records or on-line search services, hiring investigators, going through your garbage, or contacting you through family, friends, or co-workers
- Damaging your property

PLANNING FOR YOUR SAFETY

- If you are in **immediate danger**, call 911.
- If you feel you are unsafe, trust your instincts and seek help.
- Take threats seriously. You could be in more danger if the stalker is talking about suicide or murder, or when you try to leave or end the relationship if your stalker is an intimate partner.

Contact a confidential crisis hotline, a domestic violence center, or victim services agency (see contact numbers on the back). They will provide support and crisis counseling; help you devise a safety plan and weigh options; and provide court accompaniment, resources, and referrals.

An Injunction for Protection (restraining order) is a court order that can prohibit the stalker from contacting you in person or through electronic communication. Victim advocates can support you in the process of filing for an Injunction for Protection.

An **advocate** can help you **plan for safety**. Consider changing your routine, arranging a place to stay, and having a friend or relative go places with you. Also, decide in advance what to do if the stalker shows up at your home, work, school, or somewhere else.

Consider discussing ways to stay safe with your children.

It is **recommended to avoid communication** with the stalker or responding to attempts to contact you. If you must communicate for parenting or other purposes, consider **restricting** the communication to written forms only (texts, emails).

Disconnect joint services and accounts if it is safe to do so. However, it is important to remember that stalkers may become more aggressive when communication is cut off.

Change all your passwords/PINS to more complex passwords that include no personal information.

DOCUMENT EVIDENCE OF THE STALKING.

- Write down the time, date, and place the stalker follows or contacts you
- Save e-mails and phone messages unaltered and on the original device
- Keep letters, notes, and gifts
- Photograph any injuries or property damage caused by the stalker
- Ask witnesses to write down what they saw

Calling police may help you to obtain **documentation of evidence** and protection. Stalkers sometimes break other laws in the process of stalking such as assault, property damage, or violating a court order.

Tell **trusted individuals** about the stalking and seek their support. Inform security staff at your job or school so they can help watch out for your safety.