

Webinar: Working with Victims of Stalking

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
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Stalking
resource center

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Stalking
resource center

www.victimsofcrime.org/src

Stalking
resource center

Training Technical Assistance Resources

- Statutes
- Legislative Updates
- Manuals/Guides
- Videos
- Clearinghouse

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

The Stalking Resource Center is a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime. The mission of the Stalking Resource Center is to enhance the ability of professionals, organizations, and systems to effectively respond to stalking.

The Stalking Resource Center provides training, technical assistance, and resource materials for professionals working with and responding to stalking victims and offenders.

Overview

- Victim reporting
- Safety
 - Risk assessment
 - Safety planning
- Documentation
- Advocacy & Support

Poll

Most stalking victims report to law enforcement.

- True
- False



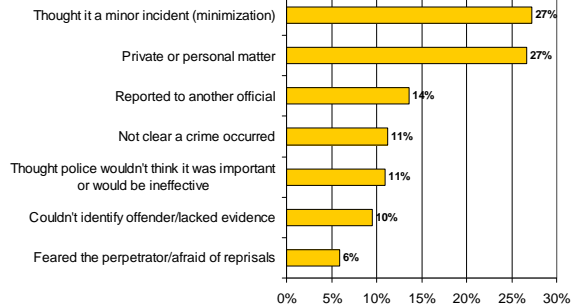
Reporting to Law Enforcement

37% of male
stalking victims

41% of
female
stalking victims

— Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)

Reasons For Not Reporting



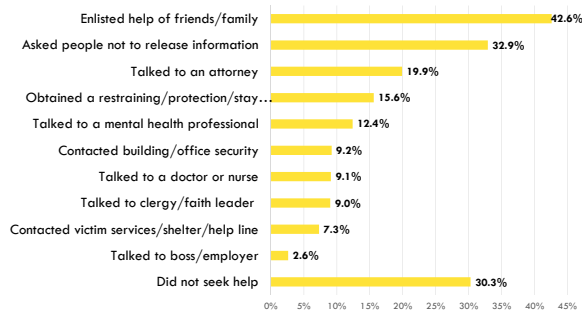
- Stalking Victimization in the United States, BJS (2009)

Reporting

By the time victims report to police, the stalking behavior has been well established and... victim-initiated countermeasures have failed.

- Klein et al., (2009). *A Statewide Study of Stalking and Its Criminal Justice Response.*

Accessing Services



- Stalking Victimization in the U.S. (2009)

Stalking is one of the few crimes where early intervention can prevent violence and death.

Working with Stalking Victims

- Safety
- Documentation
- Advocacy & Support

Safety

Is there a threat of imminent harm or danger?

- For victim or others?

Recommend: disengagement & no contact

- Intermittent reinforcement
- Challenges

Enhancing victim safety if maintained contact

Safety Tools

Offender picture or flyer

- Alert employer, neighbors, etc.

Safety accommodations

- Work
- School
- Housing

Safety Tools – Orders of Protection

- Can enhance victim safety
- Only as good as enforcement
- Typically won't stop the stalking behavior
 - Violations
 - 81% of male victims
 - 69% of female victims
- Discuss pros and cons with victim
 - Safety planning

Safety – Other Considerations

Defining our roles

- Privacy and confidentiality

Organizational policies and procedures

Assessing risk and safety planning

Assessing Risk

More Dangerous Times

Separation

Protective order served/criminal arrest

Offender's loss of job, other life events

Multiple incidents in a short period of time – increase in quantity of contacts as well as escalation in behaviors

More Dangerous Offenders

History of substance abuse

History of mental illness (narcissistic personality disorders—you hurt me bad, you will fix it)

History of violence, esp. towards victim

Threats of murder/murder-suicide

More Dangerous Offenders

Actual pursuit

Possession and/or fascination with weapons

Vandalism, arson

Tendency towards emotional outbursts and rage

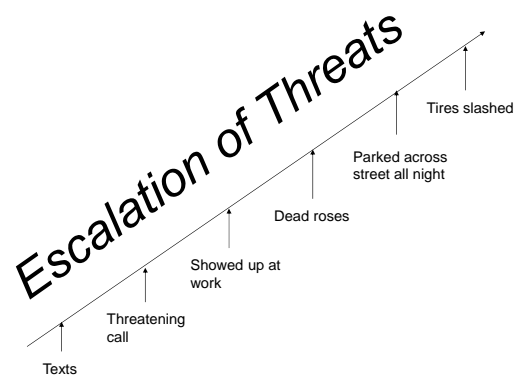
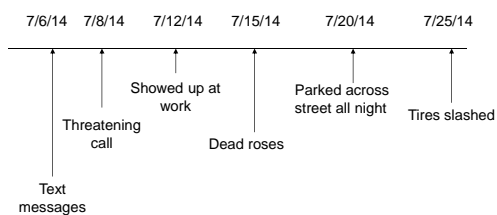
History of violating POs

Previous Abuse as Indicator

- Previous abuse indicates higher lethality risk
- Previous abuse arrest indicates higher lethality risk
- **Lack of previous arrest does not indicate reduced risk!**

- Adams, David. *Why Do They Kill?*, 2007

Escalation of Threats



What Does Threat Assessment Tell Us?

Which individuals show signs that demonstrate they pose a risk at a particular point in time

- All other individuals are of "unknown risk".
 - We can never use risk assessment to determine that a person is **not** a risk!
- Threat level **NEVER** fixed—can change over time
 - Constant assessment of threat is a **MUST**

Threat Assessment Tools

Among others...

- Spousal Risk Assessment Guide (SARA)
- Violence Risk Assessment Guide (VRAG)
- Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R)
- The Classification of Violence Risk (COVR)
- Danger Assessment - dangerassessment.org
- Mosaic - mosaicmethod.com

ANGER ASSESSMENT

The Danger Assessment Training Options In the Field

The Danger Assessment helps to determine the level of danger an abused woman has of being killed by her intimate partner.

take the training

I've Completed a Live Training ESCAPE NOW

Access Your Account

Email: [input] Password: [input]

www.dangerassessment.org

DANGER ASSESSMENT

Version 1.0 (Revised 11/11/11)

Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicide, including: access and use of a handgun, intimate partner violence, and a history of intimate partner violence. We cannot predict what will happen in your case, but we would like you to be aware of the danger of homicide in situations of abuse and for you to see how many of the risk factors apply to your situation.

(Using the asterisk, please mark the appropriate dates during the past year when you were abused by your partner or ex-partner. Items on that date had the incident was according to the following scale:

1. Sleeping, pushing, or injuries and/or feeling pain
2. Punching, kicking, bruising, cuts, and/or continuing pain
3. "Threatening": name, threats, name, broken bones
4. Threat to use weapon: head injury, internal injury, permanent injury
5. Use of weapon: wounds from weapon

(If any of the descriptions for the higher number apply, use the higher number.)

Mark Yes or No for each of the following. ("No" refers to your husband, partner, or husband, or partner, or someone is currently physically hurting you.)

1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Does he seem a good?
2. Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?
 - Yes
 - No
 - If you have ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?
 - Yes
 - No
3. Has he ever threatened to kill you?
 - Yes
 - No
4. Do you have a child that is not his?
 - Yes
 - No
5. Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
 - Yes
 - No
6. Does he ever try to choke you?
 - Yes
 - No
7. Does he use drugs/alcohol? (Drugs include "uppers" or amphetamines, "meds": speed, amphetamine, cocaine, "bans", street drugs or marijuana.)
 - Yes
 - No
8. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
 - Yes
 - No
9. Does he control most or all of your daily activities? For instance does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or where you can take the car? (If he has, but you do not let him, check here...)
 - Yes
 - No
10. Is he violently and constantly abusive of you? or instance, does he say "If I can't have you, no one can"?
 - Yes
 - No
11. Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by him, check here...)
 - Yes
 - No
12. Has he ever threatened or tried to control outside?
 - Yes
 - No
13. Does he threaten to harm your children?
 - Yes
 - No
14. Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
 - Yes
 - No
15. Does he follow or spy on you, send threatening notes or messages, checking your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
 - Yes
 - No
16. Have you ever threatened or tried to control outside?
 - Yes
 - No

Total "Yes" Answers: [input]

Thank you. Please talk to your nurse, advocate or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means in terms of your situation.

Lethality Assessment Project

A "Yes" response to any of Questions # 1 – 3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.

1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
2. Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.

Negative responses to Questions # 1 – 3, but positive responses to at least four (4) of Questions # 4 -11 trigger the protocol referral.

4. Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
5. Has he/she ever tried to choke you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
6. Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
7. Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
8. Is he/she unemployed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
9. Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
10. Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
11. Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.

- Louisville Metro Police Dept. DV Lethality Screen for First Responders

Danger Assessment App

- One Love Lite Danger Assessment
- Created by One Love Foundation
- Free download
- Includes:
 - risk assessment questionnaire
 - resource listing
 - safety plan for college students

MOSAIC mosaicmethod.com

HOME TRAINING FAQ WHAT OTHERS SAY GAVIN DE BECKER ASSOCIATES CONTACT US

Gavin de Becker Explains MOSAIC

If you believe you or another person is in danger right now, contact police immediately.

What type of situation are you currently assessing?

Domestic Violence MALE OFFENDER	Domestic Violence FEMALE OFFENDER
Workplace Violence CONCERNING A MALE	Workplace Violence CONCERNING A FEMALE
Threat by Student SCHOOLS	Threat by Student UNIVERSITY
Threats PUBLIC FIGURES	Threats JUDICIAL OFFICIALS

Major Federal Research Project Studies MOSAIC

Task Force on College Safety Recommends MOSAIC

Advanced Threat Assessment & Management Training

What is MOSAIC?

MOSAIC is an error avoidance method, a computer-assisted method for conducting comprehensive assessments - in the same way that diagnosis is a method used by a doctor. An effective medical diagnosis results when a doctor knows which questions to ask, knows which tests will produce the most accurate answers, and then knows how to draw relevant conclusions from all the answers combined together.

Similarly, assessing whether a situation has the combination of factors that are associated with escalated risk and danger requires that you know what questions to ask, and then know how to consider all your answers in a way that enhances insight. The MOSAIC method works by breaking a situation down factor-by-factor, like pieces of a puzzle, and then seeing what picture

Questions

1 out of 43 questions answered so far

1. Reason for Assessment
2. Age
3. Residency
4. Relationship Status
5. Law Enforcement / Military
6. Gender
7. Children - Ages
8. Race
9. Anniversary
10. Interactions
11. Court Cases
12. New Residency
13. Events
14. Expectations
15. Intimidation
16. Coercion
17. Outlets
18. Jealousy
19. Abuse
20. Childhood
21. Pet Abuse
22. Court Orders
23. Self Help
24. Religion
25. Responsibility / Blame
26. Substance Abuse
27. Conflict
28. Compromise
29. Suicide / Offender
30. Pre-Incident Indicators / Offender
31. Needs Associated w/ Violence
32. Prejudice
33. Contact
34. Threats
35. Temperament
36. Intoxication
37. Disregard - Person
38. Power / Intimidation
39. Power
40. Control / Coercion
41. Fear / Humiliation
42. Fear / Death
43. Suicide / Victim
44. Pre-Incident Indicators / Victim

Video Library Information Finish Assessment

<< PREVIOUS NEXT >>

39. Has Offender shown uninvited, followed, stalked, or undertaken destructive acts? (4.1% of this assessment)

Leave this question unanswered if it does not apply.

Click Here to learn the Premises of the Question

Resources: Inappropriate Pursuit and Stalking (video)

- a. Stalking
 - He has stalked Victim (surveyed harassed, followed, or shown up uninvited at a location Victim was at or believed to be at, etc.).
- b. Destructive acts
 - He has performed destructive acts directed towards Victim, Victim's significant others, and/or Victim's property (e.g., slashing tires, scratching car, breaking windows, burning pets).
- c. Harassment
 - He has harassed Victim or persons around Victim (e.g., telephonic, electronic, postal, uninvited followed, unwanted deliveries, unwanted mail).
- d. Extensive research
 - He has conducted extensive research to learn about Victim's habits, movements, schedule, or location. Select the answer for efforts that might precede unwanted encounter attempts (e.g., planning, calling to verify location, hiring detectives, stalking mail).
- e. Sought information
 - He has sought information that could be used to succeed at an unwanted encounter (e.g., new address, work address, location of family members, plans, schedule, type of car). See other answers before selecting this one.

Risk Identification for Stalking: History and Management Cases

This risk identification can be used in ALL cases of stalking and harassment. It should be completed by professionals if there are two or more incidents of stalking and harassment reported or anticipated within a 12-month period. If the victim is a witness, professional help should be sought. This document should be used to identify the risk of future incidents. It is not a substitute for a professional assessment. This form can be used to provide the higher the risk that the incident will recur or be repeated in any form.

Please ensure that you write the additional notes about the subject of what is going on and link the risk identification responses to a risk management plan.

The information on this form is provided to your supervisor, local and all case file/links or external notes. You may also use it to help you develop a risk management plan. It is not a substitute for a professional assessment.

Name of Victim: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Name of Offender: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Relationship: _____
 Is the victim very frightened? Yes No

1. Has treatment of victim... (engaged in harassment on previous occasions)? Yes No
 2. Has treatment of victim... (ever stalked or harassed the victim's property)? Yes No
 3. Does victim of abuse... (lost the victim at work, home, etc., more than five times per week)? Yes No
 4. Has... (behaved around the victim's home, workplace etc)? Yes No
 5. Has... (made any threats of physical or sexual violence to the current harassment incident)? Yes No
 6. Has... (harassed any third party since the harassment began)? Yes No
 7. Has... (acted out violently towards people within the current stalking incident)? Yes No
 8. Has... (persuaded other people to help stalk/harass)? Yes No
 9. Has... (known to be abusing drugs and/or alcohol)? Yes No
 10. Has... (known to have been violent in the past)? Yes No

Other relevant information: _____

Stalking Risk Identification Checklist

- Lorraine Sheridan & Karl Roberts (UK)

See webinar at victimsofcrime.org/src

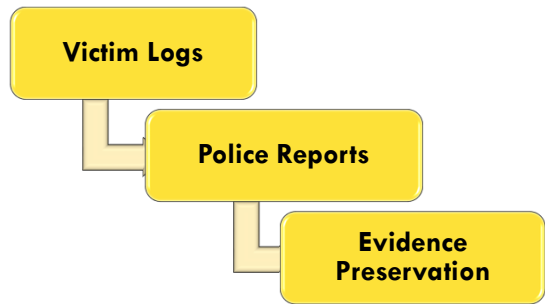
Subjective Threat Assessment

Victim-Centered Approach (Subjective)

- Victim's perception of risk is most important
- Scale of fear
 - Explanation
 - Consider minimization
- History of violence
 - Triggers
 - Time patterns in prior abuse?

Documentation

Documentation is Key

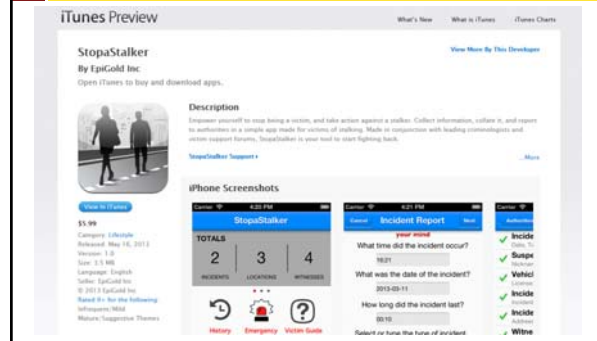


Documentation

STALKING INCIDENT LOG

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

Stopastalker App



Advocacy

Allow victims to tell their story

- Telling the story allows survivor to remember more details and put all the pieces in place
- Telling the story facilitates the transition from traumatic memory to day-to-day memory

Provide validation

- Validation is the process by which service providers teach victims that most reactions to traumatic events are normal
- Validation should reinforce that most reactions of anger, fear, frustration, guilt, and grief are natural and common

Advocacy & Support

- Prediction & Preparation
 - Victims need **information**
 - Reporting
 - Justice process
 - Criminal
 - Civil
 - Can help the victim regain control
- Support services and counseling
- Assistance with Safety Planning



Safety Planning

What Is Safety Planning?

An individualized plan that identifies specific strategies and interventions that may increase a survivor's safety.

- Strategies should:
 - Respond to the stalking
 - Meet victim's basic human needs
 - Adapt to the victim's broader life plan

Safety Planning

Risk Reduction

- Practical tips for safety

Resources

- Services
- Individuals

Empowerment

- Coping Skills
- Autonomy

Safety Plan

Identify the Problem	Are there things that increase the risk?	Who else is affected?
Safety Strategies (What will help?)		
Who can help?	How?	What do they need to help?

Identify the Problem	Are there things that increase the risk?	Who else is affected?
Offender shows up at work	Works at night	other employees, employer
Offender knows where I live		roommate, neighbors
Home is not secure	bad locks, poor lighting	roommate
Offender knows my family		family
What will help?		
ask employer to increase safety measures		
change locks		
ask neighbors to keep an eye out		
get police to scene quickly		
Who can help?	How?	What do they need to help me?
employer	Keep offender off premises; enhance security	copy of protective order, photo
police	Arrest offender	copy of protective order, photo
neighbors	Inform me/call police when offender shows up	photo
roommate	Inform me/call police when offender shows up	copy of protective order, photo
domestic violence program	counseling/advocacy/support	
church	\$ to help change locks	application for funds

Issues to Discuss with Victim

How to balance freedom and safety

Next steps in case something does happen

How often to reassess the safety plan

Risk reduction versus absolute safety

Resources for Victims

- Are You Being Stalked? (Brochure for Victims)
- Stalking Questions and Answers
- Stalking Incident Behavior Log
- Safety Plan Guidelines
- Cyberstalking: Dangers on the Information Superhighway
- Ten Things You Should Know About Stalking

www.victimsofcrime.org/src

Stalking resource center

Training

- In person training
- Webinars

Technical Assistance

- Individual & organizational assistance
- Fact sheets, brochures, manuals, guides
- Policy/protocol development & consultation

Resources

- Videos
- Online resources
- Stalking Awareness Month materials

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