

PLAN ADVICE FOR VICTIM

- Be observant of environment and adjust schedules and routes to make it more difficult for a stalker to predict movements.
- Have a plan to go elsewhere, some where safe, should the stalker become frightening — take stalker seriously even when he/she appears to be a non-threat (if victim is afraid it is a valid fear).
- Contact law enforcement and stay in contact with family and/or friends so that any serious change in behavior will be noticed.
- File paperwork on all reports of stalking and request protective order.



INTERNET STALKING

Do not dismiss simply because this happens online. Take all stalking seriously.

DOES YOUR AGENCY ACTIVELY PURSUE STALKERS?

- Adopt a policy (written or unwritten) that aggressively fights stalking and establish a reputation as an agency that does so.
- Listen to the victims—Victims often are anxious to tell someone. Due to shifts and waiting calls, officers do not always give them the attention they need and deserve.
- TRAINING—we all refer to our training. Get the training.
- Put training into practice...

STALKING END RESULTS:

- Victims are commonly injured, beaten, as well as mentally and emotionally battered from the abuse of stalking
- Victims often feel law enforcement did little or nothing to help them with their stalker, we can help repair this.
- Stalking violence may even result in death.

Stalking is Serious.
Help prevent more serious crimes by taking Stalking seriously.

We must be vigilant to protect these victims!

Stalking... Crime & Victims



Signals of Danger

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ARDMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



ARDMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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non-emergency 223-1212
Ardmore CrimeStoppers 580-504-4LAW

IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911



ARDMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT
ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA



They are NOT harmless

Often, stalking follows a relationship that has gone bad or ended for one reason or another. Law enforcement may or may not know about the break-up and has, in some cases, failed to take the report seriously because it appears to be a civil matter or a relationship issue. This only empowers the stalker to become more bold.

Personally knowing the suspect or victim does not make the case easier, it makes it more difficult. One must always remember that actions taken by stalkers do not make sense. If these actions do not make sense to us, how would we know if there was a problem, prevent the problem, or predict the it?

Take down all information offered by the victim. The victim has insight into the problem and can identify the elements of stalking through their description of what has happened. Unlike other reports, stalking requires active involvement from the victim and an on-going case with continued documentation.

Methods of Stalking

Stalking comes in various forms and stalkers often use more than one form of stalking and more than one approach when stalking.

- Following, photographing, taking video
- Constantly calling, texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, and other forms of contact
- Monitoring one's movements through surveillance, GPS, computer program software to watch and record computer use and movements
- Calling or speaking with family and friends to determine what one is doing, when, and where
- Visiting a person's place of work or school repeatedly
- Send letters, flowers, candy, jewelry, or other items to influence a person, sometimes as a message in itself — sometimes a stalker has said something like "you'll get flowers from me the day you die" and the receipt of flowers is actually a threat— only by speaking with the victim in depth can an officer learn about this important background information
- Use or threaten to harm or use a weapon on victim
- Threaten to hurt you or the children?
- Force you to have sex against your will?



Stalking Facts

- Talk to someone. Part of the abuser's power comes from secrecy. Victims are often ashamed to let anyone know about intimate family problems. Go to a friend or neighbor, or call a domestic violence hotline to talk to a counselor.
- Plan ahead and know what you will do if you are attacked again. If you decide to leave, choose a place to go; set aside some money. Put important papers together — marriage license, birth certificates, checkbooks — in a place where you can get them quickly.
- Learn to think independently. Try to plan for the future and set goals for yourself.



- There are no easy answers, but there are things you can do to protect yourself.
- Call the police by dialing 911. Assault — even by family members — **is a crime**. The police can provide you information about shelters and other agencies that help victims of domestic violence.