

PREVENTION AND SAFETY

If you are being stalked or harassed, take the behavior very seriously. There is no way to know if a stalker will become violent.

Notify the person to stop contacting you. Keep a record of that notification. After that, DO NOT contact the harasser—it may encourage the behavior and increase the risk to you.

File incident reports with law enforcement. Continually document times and types of all contacts; record names of witnesses, print out e-mails and photograph anything that could be used as evidence such as the stalker's vehicle driving by your home or any property damage.

Request that a magistrate issue a restraining order. The earlier a stalker is confronted officially, the more likely he/she is to obey the restraining order. If the stalker is a current or former intimate partner, ask CODA for help.

Limit the information you post on social media sites and increase your privacy settings. Ask friends not to post information about you. Block access to any "friends" who may talk about you to the stalker. Do not share your passwords with ANYONE!

Change your phone number, e-mail address, and passwords. Leave your old e-mail and phone contacts active, however, as a way to gather evidence. Alter your routine as much as possible. Alert your workplace security.

Get an individual cell phone plan (not a family plan); disable photo geotagging or ask your provider if it offers untraceable cell phones to victims of stalking.

If you find a GPS unit on your vehicle, photograph it in place and bring it to law enforcement to check for fingerprints and identifying serial numbers.

CODA SERVICES

CODA is a private, non-profit organization providing services to victims of domestic violence from Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.

CODA operates a 24-hour crisis line and provides emergency safe shelter in a comfortable, home-like setting.

CODA offers court accompaniment.

Trained counselors provide individual and group counseling for adults and children.

Case managers assist with practical concerns such as housing, employment and day care.

CODA's community educators are available for presentations tailored to community, business, school and/or church groups.

Services are available to shelter residents as well as victims of domestic violence living in the community.

*All CODA Services are
Confidential and Free of Charge.*



P. O. Box 1775
Beaufort, SC 29901
24-Hour Crisis Lines:
843-770-1070 or 800-868-2632

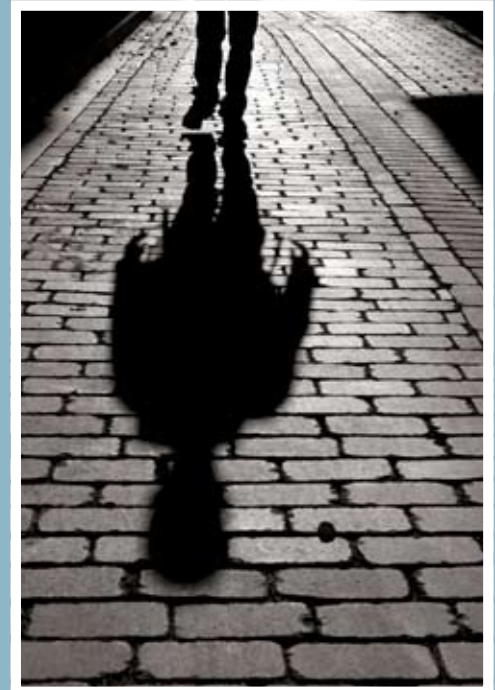


Administrative Line:
843-770-1074
E-mail: executivedirector@codabft.com
Web: codalowcountry.org
Fax: 843-770-1084



CODA provides equal opportunity in employment and client services and does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, race, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, religion, national origin or genetics.

STALKING *and* HARASSMENT



"Intimate Partner Terrorism"

C O D A

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ARE YOU BEING CRIMINALLY STALKED OR HARASSED?

⇒ *Are you receiving lots of texts, e-mails or calls after you have asked they be stopped?*

⇒ *Is someone posting false information about you on the internet?*

⇒ *Are you frightened because your former or current boyfriend/girlfriend/spouse always shows up where you are or knows what you've said?*

Many victims do not realize this behavior may be criminal stalking or harassment.

South Carolina law defines **harassment** as a pattern of intentional intrusion into a person's private life that serves no purpose and causes the person (and would cause a "reasonable person") **mental or emotional distress**.

Harassment includes surveillance of a home, workplace or other frequented location; leaving unwanted gifts; maintaining unwanted physical or visual contact; property damage and/or repeated verbal, written or electronic contact.

Stalking is a pattern of conduct or words (verbal, written or electronic) that serves no purpose and is intended to cause a person (and would cause a "reasonable person") to **fear** death to, injury to, kidnapping of or property damage to the person or a member of his/her family.

Both stalking and harassing can cause high levels of anxiety and fear, stalking trauma syndrome, missed work and forced relocation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS ARE FREQUENTLY STALKED

Stalking or harassing a current or former intimate partner is a form of domestic violence. Like other abusive techniques, they are intended to gain power and control over another person through intimidation and fear.

While both men and women are stalked, women comprise 78% of stalking victims. Of those, 77% know the stalker and 59% are current or former intimate partners of the stalker.*

Incidents of stalking and harassment which begin at the end of an intimate relationship pose the most danger. Not only does the stalker know the victim's routines, but he/she may do anything to regain control.



Because the abuse is not physical, stalking is an under-reported crime and its dangers are often underestimated. However, in addition to experiencing stress and disrupted lives, victims can be at risk of bodily harm. Of women killed by intimate partners, 76% were stalked in the 12 months prior to their deaths.*

Conduct that falls short of the legal definition of stalking may escalate to criminal stalking and should be taken seriously.

*National Center for Victims of Crime - Stalking Resource Center (ncvc.org)

CYBER-STALKING

Electronics, a Stalker's Best Friend

A federal crime, cyber-stalking involves tracking someone electronically and can provide a wealth of information.

Computer Spyware

Spyware enables a stalker to monitor your computer activity and gain access to passwords and personal information. Spyware devices can be physically attached to your computer or software can be installed remotely—usually embedded in e-mail attachments.

Global Positioning Systems (GPS)

GPS devices can be secretly mounted in your vehicle or included by your service provider in your cell phone. Spyware programs allow a stalker to track your location, monitor calls and record text messages.

Social Media Sites

Posts to social media sites like Facebook alert a stalker to your activities, plans, interests and friends. Instantly uploaded smart phone photos target your location through embedded geotags. Answers to security questions such as "Where did you go to school?" may be found in your profile information enabling someone to retrieve passwords to your e-mail and retail accounts. Harassers can then send photos or false e-mails, withdraw money or open retail accounts—all in your name!

Video

Tiny wireless video cameras can relay signals to remote computers—keeping track of you round-the-clock.

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