

# Identifying and Responding to Stalking in Rural Jurisdictions

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[www.StalkingAwareness.org](http://www.StalkingAwareness.org)

- \*Practitioner guides
- \*Training modules
- \*Victim resources
- \*Webinars

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## Stalking Prevalence and Behavior



### 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.

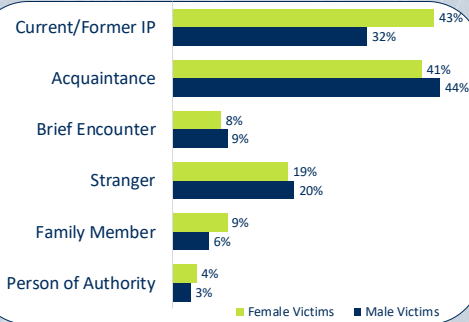
### Stalking Prevalence

NEARLY 1 in 3 women & NEARLY 1 in 6 men

experience **stalking** in their lifetimes.

Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Victim and Offender Relationships



Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Building Rural Stalking Cases

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## 4 Categories of Barriers in Rural Jurisdictions

- Availability
- Accessibility
- Acceptability
- Affordability

\*Logan, Evans, Stevenson, & Jordan, 2005

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## Availability of Resources/"Help"

- Long response times/wait lists
- Limited services *i.e.* "what resources?"
- Heavy caseloads

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## Overcoming Lack of Community Resources

- Shared spaces, cooperative relationships
- "Unusual partners":
  - Faith community
  - Humane society
  - Culturally specific agencies or gathering places, the "movers and shakers" in the community
  - Hairdresser

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## Accessibility

- Can you get there from here? Resources!
- Lack of awareness or misperception of services- does DV/SA cover stalking?
- Bureaucracy- recounting the victimization, paperwork, insurance problems
- Lack of staff training
- Lack of anonymity & confidentiality
- Individual & social factors

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## Overcoming Accessibility Issues

- Sources of transportation
- Satellite locations
- Discount rates at motels for staying the night before or after an appointment

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## Acceptability

- Shame and blame
- Lack of sensitivity
- Community and family backlash
- Confidentiality concerns
- “Politics”
- Stigma

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## How do we change the narrative?

- How do we engage with our community?
- Prevention efforts
- Agency reputations: how are you “marketing” your agency?
- User-friendly system- limiting survivors having to retell their lived experience
- Look inside your agency before critiquing other agencies

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## Affordability

- How do you make services affordable?
- What creative partnerships do you have?

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## Identify Stalking

- Go beyond the stereotypical definition to use a comprehensive framework to identify stalking
- Provide a coordinated response to ALL stalking cases not just IPV cases
- Provide community education

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Building a Stalking-specific CCR in Rural Communities

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## Why build a stalking-specific CCR?

- It is its own form of violence with its own risks, safety-planning needs and legal responses
- High prevalence rates
- Stalking is often a predecessor to homicide

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## SLII Framework



Lagan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. *Trauma, Violence and Abuse* 18(2), 200-222.

## SURVEILLANCE

- Follow
- Watch
- Wait
- Show up
- Tracking software
- Obtain information about victim
- Proxy stalking

## LIFE INVASION

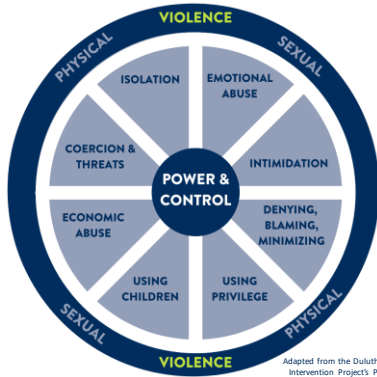
- Unwanted contact at home, work, etc.
- Showing up
- Phone calls
- Property invasion
- Public humiliation
- Harass friends/family

## INTIMIDATION

- Threats
- Property damage
- Symbolic violence
- Forced confrontations
- Threaten or actually harm self
- Threats to victim about harming others

## INTERFERENCE

- Financial and work sabotage
- Ruining reputation
- Custody interference
- Keep from leaving
- Road rage
- Attack family/friends/pets
- Physical/sexual attack



Adapted from the Duluth Model Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Power and Control Wheel

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**In 85% of attempted & 76% of completed intimate partner femicides, stalking occurred in the year prior to the attack.**

McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Wit, S., Ulrich, Y., & Xu, X. (1999.) Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. Homicide Studies 3 (4), 300-316.

### Stalking is a Lethality Risk

Top 10 risk factors for intimate partner homicide	Risk for male perpetrated & 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
3) Non-fatal strangulation	7-fold increase in risk
4) Perpetrated rape/forced sex	5-fold increase in risk
5) Controlling behaviors	6-fold increase in risk
6) Threatened to harm the victim	4-fold increase in risk
7) Abused victim while pregnant	4-fold increase in risk
8) Perpetrated stalking	3-fold increase in risk of IPH
9) Jealousy	2-fold increase in risk
10) Substance abuse	2-fold increase in risk

Spencer, C.M. & Smith, 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.

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**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.

### Screening for Stalking

Has the Offender...

- been tracking, following, or monitoring Victim in any way?
- repeatedly invaded Victim's life/privacy by initiating unwanted contact with Victim?
- significantly and directly interfered with Victim's life?
  - >physically/sexually assaulted Victim during course of conduct?
  - >forcibly kept Victim from leaving, held against will, caused serious accident, assaulted others, or seriously attacked Victim?
- more than one time, intimidated or scared Victim through threats, property damage, threatening or actual harming of pets, or other means?

Lugin, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. *Trauma, Violence and Abuse* 18(2), 200-222.

Who Should Be part of a Stalking CCR?

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## Stalking CCR Members

- Core Members:
  - Advocacy
  - Law Enforcement
  - Courts (prosecutors, pre-trial, corrections)
  - Medical
- Additional Members:
  - Education systems
  - Population-specific resources
  - Faith institutions



## Victim Services & Advocacy

- Screen victims for stalking
- Provide specific safety planning support
- Provide reporting options
- Work with victims to document
- Conduct risk assessments
- Assist with civil protection orders
- Identify shelter and support options
- Outreach and education on stalking



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



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**VICTIM ADVOCATE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

We invite community-based and systems-based victim advocates to register! These virtual meetings are held every-other-month to share experiences and resources, ask questions, and discuss promising practices on responding to stalking.

[StalkingAwareness.org/advocate-community-of-practice/](https://StalkingAwareness.org/advocate-community-of-practice/)

## Law Enforcement

- Thorough offender-focused investigations
- Intimate and non-intimate stalking investigations
- Identifying stalking and/within co-occurring crimes
- Review incident reports and call logs to identify/screen for stalking
- Assess threats, conduct risk assessments
- Enforce CPOS
- Enforce firearm surrenders and prohibitions



LAW ENFORCEMENT

**STALKING INVESTIGATIONS & REPORTS**

**IDENTIFYING STALKING**

ON LAW ENFORCEMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE

INSTITUTE FOR COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE  
Presented by Conference on Stolen Futures

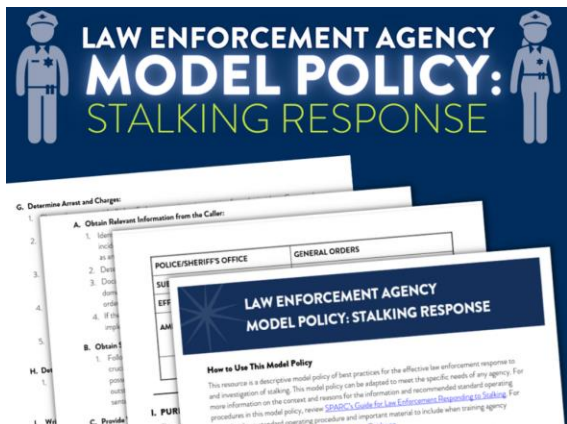
**STALKING**

Roll Call Training Videos for Law Enforcement

LAW ENFORCEMENT TIPS:

**IDENTIFYING SELF STALKING BEHAVIORS**

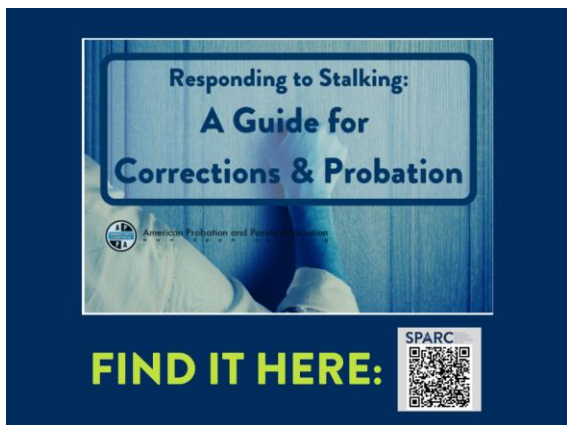
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### Prosecutors

- Communicate elements of crime and evidence needs to LE
- Charge stalking within IPV, CPO violations
- Use risk assessments
- Use firearm surrenders and prohibitions
- Oppose defense demands for private/confidential victim information
- Use expert testimony
- Leverage forfeiture by wrongdoing for unavailable victims

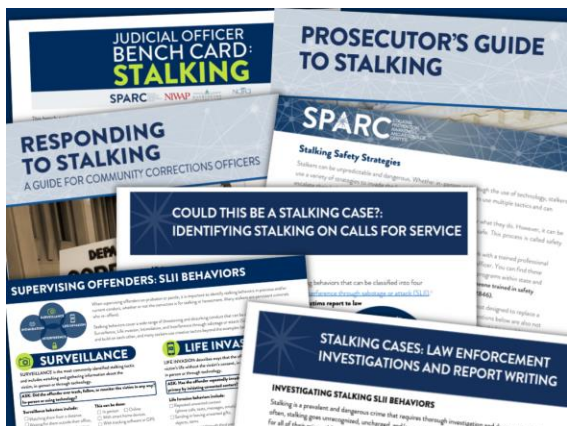
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### Pre-Trial Monitoring, Corrections, Courts

- Screen offenders for stalking, especially in IPV cases
- Make contact with victims (directly or through CCR partner)
- Have frequent field contacts
- Utilize specialized caseloads
- Conduct risk assessments
- Use and enforce specialized conditions
- Make specific finds of fact regarding stalking as a record of the behavior

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### Medical

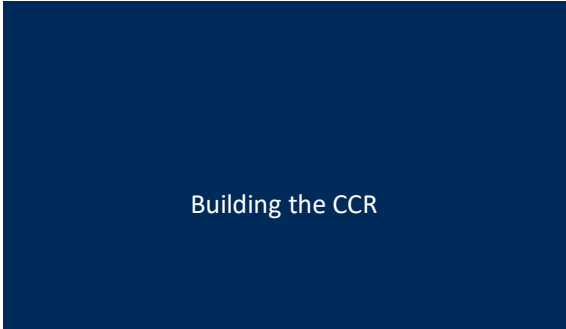
- Identify stalking behaviors and the specific risks posed to victims' health
- Provide appropriate medical care/referrals

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“

*Is your agency/jurisdiction working with stalking victims and if so WHICH stalking victims?*

*How does your rural area contribute to the barriers stalking victims face?*



### CCR Strategies

- Focus on risk**
  - > Stalking & Harassment Assessment & Risk Profile (SHARP)
- Frequent multi-disciplinary case review**
- Comprehensive and integrated approaches**
- Supervision strategies (restrictions, monitoring)**
  - > Guide for Community Corrections & Probation Officers
- Victim safety planning**
  - > Safety planning guidance

### CCR Response

<h4>TRAINING</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; SPARC training request form</li> <li>&gt; SPARC archives</li> </ul>	<h4>POLICIES/PROCEDURES</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; SPARC Guides: Victim Services, Prosecution, Corrections, Law Enforcement (Coming soon!)</li> <li>&gt; Individualized technical assistance</li> </ul>	<h4>PRACTICES</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Victim Services check list</li> </ul>
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### Holding offenders accountable

1. Approach stalking as homicide prevention: collect information on risk factors, intervene quickly and appropriately and put victim safety first!
- Maintain records, do a risk assessment, seek multiple sources of information



### Identifying Risk in Stalking Cases

- Approximately 1/3 of stalking cases involve a current or former intimate partner, so IPV assessments aren't always applicable
- When IPV assessments are performed, stalking behavior may be unidentified or underestimated
- Properly identifying risk allows for increased offender accountability at all stages and, importantly, increased safety planning



### IPV Assessments & Stalking

Many IPV assessments used in the U.S. have questions that may indicate stalking:

- Controlling/jealous behavior
- Following/spying
- Destroying property
- Obsession with the victim
- Threats/intimidation



SHARP:  
Stalking & Harassment Assessment & Risk Profile

[www.CoerciveControl.org](http://www.CoerciveControl.org)  
[www.StalkingRisk.com](http://www.StalkingRisk.com)



Narrative Report & Risk Profile

Safety Planning Suggestions



### "They Have a Gun"



## Holding Offenders Accountable

2. Impose swift, clear, consistent, predictable and meaningful consequences

- Monitor the enforcement of court orders
- Seek convictions, prosecute repeat offenders, prioritize stalking cases (reduce routine delays)

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## Holding Offenders Accountable

3. Provide a consistent message that stalking is a serious and unacceptable crime

- Serious crime = serious consequences
- Enhance system-wide accountability and safety

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## Responding to Victims & Safety Planning

## 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



## Working with Stalking Victims



## Advise Disengagement

Recommend no contact with the stalker

- Explain intermittent reinforcement

**BUT** realize victims engage in behaviors to keep themselves safe.

- Maintain contact, negotiation, minimizing threat
- Contact may be a safety strategy






“...the victim’s attempts to distance themselves from their stalker actually frustrate or anger the stalker, leading to an increase in the physical threat to their lives.”

Quinn-Evans, L., Keasley, D.A., Arnfield, M., & Sheridan, L. (2019). A Behavior Sequence Analysis of Victims' Accounts of Stalking Behaviors. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 00(0): 1-19.

### What is Safety Planning?


An individualized plan that identifies specific strategies and interventions that may increase safety.

- Provides practical ways to decrease risk
- Puts victims in contact with a variety of services, agencies, and individuals who can help
- Focuses on physical AND emotional well-being



### Basic Considerations

- Trust victim instincts
- Safety planning should evolve
- Consider stalker’s next tactic
- Anticipate stalker reaction
- Balance safety and freedom

JOIN SPARC ON INSTAGRAM LIVE AS WE PROUDLY PRESENT THE



JANUARY 17, 2025  
2-2:30 PM Eastern  
@FollowUsLegally

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 18

DAY OF ACTION FOR STALKING AWARENESS

SPARC invites you to spark a dialogue around stalking! Wear something sparkly or shiny on January 18th and share your picture as part of the NSAM Day of Action.

#SparkleAgainstStalking

[www.StalkingAwareness.org](http://www.StalkingAwareness.org)

- \*Practitioner guides
- \*Training modules
- \*Victim resources
- \*Webinars

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