

Stalking

Stalking is any repeated, unwanted contact that communicates a direct or indirect threat and that causes the victim to fear for her/his safety and/or the safety of friends or family members. Stalking affects people of all identities, and can occur within any community.

Unwanted contact can include:

- Following or surveillance
- Inappropriate approaches and confrontations
- Appearing at a place of work or residence
- Physical assault
- Sexual Assault
- Unwanted or threatening gifts
- Damage to property
- Unwanted phone calls or letters
- Cyberstalking – unwanted e-mail or Instant Messages

Did you know?

- 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetime (Tjaden Report, NVAW Survey, 1998).
- 60% of female victims and 30% of male victims are stalked by an intimate partner (current/former spouse, cohabitant, boyfriend or girlfriend) (Ibid).
- 13.1% of college women indicated that they had been stalked in one college year (Ibid).
- 25% of stalking incidents among college women involve cyberstalking (Ibid).
- There are three laws that pertain to stalking behaviors, which are *Stalking*, *Criminal Harassment* and *Annoying Telephone Calls*. Stalking and Criminal Harassment both involve behaviors that “seriously alarm a person and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress.” Stalking has more serious penalties than Criminal Harassment and also involves a “threat with the intent to place the person in imminent fear of death or bodily injury.”

Resources and Options:

- Call the *Everywoman’s Center* 24-hour hotline for free and confidential safety planning and counseling: (413) 545-0800 (TTY/VOICE) or (888) 337-0800 (local long distance).
- Contact the *Mount Holyoke College Department of Public Safety at 538-2304* to find out about Massachusetts stalking laws. *All 50 states and the District of Columbia have anti-stalking laws that can be used to prosecute stalkers.*
- Contact the *Dean of Students Office* for assistance or information about the campus judicial system: (413)538-2550.
- Contact *Health Services (7 days/week 8am – 11pm when college is in session)* for emergency care and information about contraceptives, STI’s, etc.: (413)538-2121.
- Visit Everywoman’s Center’s website for more information: <http://www.umass.edu/ewc/ea/stalking>

What to do if you think you are being stalked:

- Keep a record of the incidents (date, time, place, event and witnesses).
- Alter your travel routes frequently.
- *Know that you are not alone.*



everywoman’s center

university of massachusetts, amherst, MA. 01003
ewc main office: (413) 545-0883 (TDD)
24-hour hotline: (413) 545-0800 or 1-888-337-0800
