

Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Domestic and Sexual Violence Organizations

Because there are very few stalking-specific service providers, stalking victims rely on domestic and/or sexual violence programs to assist them with safety planning and resources. In reviewing your agency's response to stalking, consider the following questions:

- Does your organization provide services to victims of stalking?
- If so, how easy is it for a stalking victim to know they can seek services from your organization? For instance, is stalking specifically mentioned in your outreach materials?
- Do your organization's services address the needs of all victims of stalking – including those stalked by someone who is not an intimate partner?

Please use the checklist below assess your agency's efforts to respond to stalking.

Of course, different agencies vary in mission, scope, and capacity, so not all categories or suggestions will be relevant to or feasible for every service provider.

Organization Mission and Values

- Serving victims of stalking is included as part of your organization's statement of mission and values.

Website

- "Stalking" is mentioned on your website as a form of violence your agency addresses.
- Your website links to [Victim Connect](#) (the referral hotline for victims of crime, including stalking).
- Your website provides definitional information/fact sheets on stalking (see [these resources](#)).
- Your website provides a link to a [stalking log](#) or the [VictimsVoice website](#) for a legally admissible tool that victims can use to document evidence of stalking.
- Your website features stories that focus on or include stalking.
- Your website notes that January is National Stalking Awareness Month ([resources here](#)).

Social Media

- Your organization participates in National Stalking Awareness Month in January by sharing relevant posts on your social media platforms.
- Your social media platforms feature stories that focus on or include stalking.
- You post facts, statistics, and new studies about stalking with some frequency.
- You follow SPARC (@FollowUsLegally) on social media and share relevant posts/information.

Print Materials

- Promotional and awareness materials (fliers, posters, brochures, postcards, etc.) state that you provide services to victims of stalking.
- You engage in public awareness campaigns that highlight the crime of stalking.
- If you provide fact sheets, brochures, or other print resources for distribution by local law enforcement or other collaborative partners, you include resources devoted to stalking.

Staff Training

- Victim advocates, hotline staff, and shelter staff receive regular training and information about stalking victimization.
- Your organization regularly seeks and participates in trainings and webinars on the topic of stalking.
- Your staff is familiar with safety planning strategies for victims of stalking (some suggestions [here](#)).
- Staff are aware of resources relevant to victims of stalking, such as www.stalkingawareness.org and [NNEDV Safety Net](#) (for technology safety).

Serving Victims and Survivors

- Staff are able to identify stalking even when it is not identified as such by the victim. For example, if a victim states “my ex has gotten creepy,” staff would be alert to the potential of a stalking situation.
- Staff are knowledgeable about what services they can and cannot provide to victims of stalking.
- Staff use the [Stalking Harassment Assessment Risk Profile](#) (SHARP) when appropriate – a research-based assessment tool designed to assess risk when stalking behavior is present.
- Staff work to accommodate the immediate safety needs of all victims of stalking, including those being stalked by someone who is not an intimate partner (for example, those stalked by a coworker or neighbor).
- If your agency is unable to provide assistance to those stalked by someone other than an intimate partner, you have identified one or more other agencies that can assist.
- Court advocacy staff are able to assist with civil orders of protection specific to stalking or harassment (if applicable) and know how to highlight any stalking behavior that occurs within the context of an intimate relationship for purposes of obtaining a domestic violence protection order.
- Your mental health referral network includes professionals who have expertise working with victims of stalking.

Community Education

- You provide community training on stalking ([ready-to-teach programs available here](#)).
- When educating on intimate partner violence tactics, you use the word “stalking” to describe controlling behaviors that are stalking such as surveillance or constant phone calls or text messaging.

Partnerships

- You have identified and built collaborative relationships with organizations and are able to provide a warm referral to stalking victims.
- You include stalking in your coordinated response efforts.
- Your organization provides training to law enforcement, mental health practitioners, attorneys, probations/corrections officers and other relevant partners in addressing stalking.
- You share information with your partners about relevant trainings or webinars that address stalking.

For additional assistance in ensuring your program is accessible to stalking victims, please contact SPARC at info@stalkingawareness.org or visit our website at www.stalkingawareness.org.