

STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

Stalking Response Tips

for Community Corrections Officers

Did You Know?

Stalking—generally defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear—affects an estimated 6.6 million women and men each year. Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and the federal government; however, statutes and definitions of stalking and related crimes vary from state to state. In addition to serious and long-lasting emotional and psychological harm, stalking can involve severe—even lethal—violence. Community corrections officers who understand the nature and dynamics of stalking—and work together with law enforcement and others—can more effectively supervise offenders and thus help prevent future stalking victimization.

How Community Corrections Officers Can Help

1. Screen offenders to determine if they have previously, or are currently, engaging in stalking behavior. Screening for stalking behavior is crucial because an offender may have been convicted of a crime other than stalking such as vandalism, assault, battery, burglary, domestic violence, or violation of a protection order.
2. When supervising offenders who may be engaging in stalking behavior, focus on victim safety, changing offender behavior, and offender accountability. Supervising offenders at the highest level allowed may prevent further physical or emotional harm to victims and save lives.
3. Seek the stalking victim's input for a more comprehensive understanding of the offender under supervision. Collaboration with victim/witness coordinators, other advocates, and service providers can facilitate interactions with the victim.
4. Avoid increasing the risk of harm to the victim by keeping the victim's location and contact information confidential, and avoid sharing statement or other information from the victim with the offender.

For More Information

National Stalking Awareness Month
<http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org/>



Stalking Resource Center
www.victimsofcrime.org/src

Stalking
resource center