

## Scenario 1: Coffee

You receive a call. A woman is crying and gasping, struggling to speak on the other end. When she finally calms down, she says:

“There’s a cup of coffee in my car.”



In your group, discuss:

1. What is your initial reaction to hearing this (i.e., do you feel alarmed? Confused? Annoyed?)
2. Does this caller seem rational to you? Why or why not?
3. Does this call seem urgent to you? Why or why not? Do you think police would find this call urgent?
4. What possible situation(s) might be occurring that would cause this level of panic about a cup of coffee?

*After you’ve discussed, turn the page to learn about what really happened in this case.*

## Scenario 1: Coffee

Eventually, the victim says:

**“She’s here.”**

It turns out that the caller is a stalking victim who recently relocated. She did not believe that her stalker ex-girlfriend – who has threatened her repeatedly and physically abused her in the past -- knew where she was.

When she left for work this morning, there was a cup of coffee in her car with the pet name her ex uses for her on it.

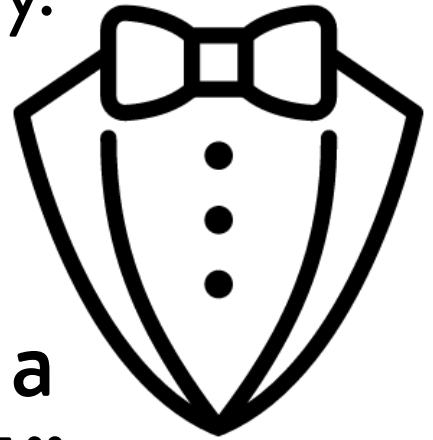
In your group, discuss:

1. Does this new information change your perception of the situation? If so, how?
2. What message might the stalker be trying to send?

Be ready to summarize your discussion for the larger group.

## Scenario 2: Facebook Post

You receive a call. A woman sounds highly agitated and angry. She is breathing heavily and almost yelling at you. She says: “He just posted a photo of himself in a tuxedo at the diner!”



In your group, discuss:

1. What is your initial reaction to hearing this (i.e., do you feel alarmed? Confused? Annoyed?)
2. Does this caller seem rational to you? Why or why not?
3. Does this call seem urgent to you? Why or why not? Do you think police would find this call urgent?
4. What possible situation(s) might be occurring that would cause this level of panic about a photo?

*After you've discussed, turn the page to learn about what really happened in this case.*

## Scenario 2: Facebook Post

You learn that the caller is a stalking victim.

Her ex-husband has been posting daily photos of himself on Facebook wearing the tuxedo he wore on their wedding day.

He posts photos in locations where she has recently been – she was just at that diner the night before. She is afraid because she knows this means he must be monitoring her, but she doesn't know how or why.

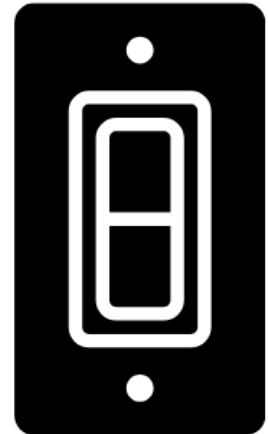
In your group, discuss:

1. Does this new information change your perception of the situation? If so, how?
2. The stalker did not directly contact the victim. Do you think he still may be a threat? Why or why not?

Be ready to summarize your discussion for the larger group.

## Scenario 3: The Lights are On

You receive a call. A man sounds panicked -- he is speaking quickly and keeps interrupting himself, unable to finish his sentences. Finally, he slows down and says:



**“All the lights are on in my house.”**

In your group, discuss:

1. What is your initial reaction to hearing this (i.e., do you feel alarmed? Confused? Annoyed?)
2. Does this caller seem rational to you? Why or why not?
3. Does this call seem urgent to you? Why or why not? Do you think police would find this call urgent?
4. What possible situation(s) might be occurring that would cause this level of panic?

*After you've discussed, turn the page to learn about what really happened in this case.*

## Scenario 3: The Lights are On

The caller's name is Steve, a business owner. Last month, he fired Mark – the front desk receptionist at his office. In the feedback/evaluation he provided of Steve's tenure at the company, he mentioned that coworkers complained that Steve often left the lights on when he was the last one in the office.

About a week after the incident, Mark began sending Steve angry e-mails about how unfair his firing was. Steve blocked the e-mail, and then he started receiving phone calls. He blocked the calls. Mark believes that Steve broke into his home and is trying to send him a message.

In your group, discuss:

1. Does this new information change your perception of the situation? If so, how?

Be ready to summarize your discussion for the larger group.











# Peggy's Story: Testimony from Debbie Riddle

Peggy Klinke's Sister and Founder of National Stalking Awareness Month

It all began in the fall of '98. At the age of 28, my sister Peggy began preparing for medical school with some undergraduate classes in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She met and began dating a man named Patrick Kennedy.

She brought him home to meet the family that New Year's, and he was a little too nice to all of us, a little too overbearing, and wanted Peggy all to himself. When he brought a gun to the beach on a family vacation, we warned Peggy to be careful with him.

After that, we only saw him a few more times. Peggy and Patrick's relationship lasted about three years altogether.

In March of 2002, Peggy cut all ties with him.

From the day she left him, he began stalking her. He followed her everywhere that she went. He called her cell phone constantly. He waited for her outside of her work and gym, and finally used his young daughter as a way to get Peggy to return his phone calls. When Peggy did not respond to any of this, he posted a vulgar flyer with Peggy's picture and her cell phone number on it around the city of Albuquerque, mainly at the places where Peggy had visited.



Peggy Klinke

That June, our family gathered in Orlando, Florida, for my brother's wedding. Peggy brought a new man she had begun dating, Mark Sparks. While we were in Florida...Patrick left my brother a message saying how sorry he was that he could not attend the family wedding.

Patrick then flew to Ohio to spray-paint "P.K. is a whore" on my mother's garage.

He then returned to Albuquerque to set fire to Mark's house.

Patrick's behavior was escalating, and Peggy began to become terrified. She went to the police and filed for stalking charges and got a restraining order. She began to keep a record of everything Patrick did from then on and reported it all to the police.

Peggy asked the D.A., "Will it take a bullet to my head for you to do something about this?"

Peggy soon left for Turlock, California, to begin a new life. She did everything she could to leave no trace or trail, to protect herself. She notified local authorities about what had been happening. And she had an unlisted address, unlisted phone number, and got a new cell phone. She told everyone she worked with and all of her new neighbors about Patrick, showed them his picture, and urged them to call the police if they ever heard from him or saw him anywhere in the area.

# Peggy's Story: Testimony from Debbie Riddle

Peggy Klinke's Sister and Founder of National Stalking Awareness Month

During this time, my family and I were very careful talking on the phone with Peggy, never revealing her exact location. We began using Caller ID. My mother reactivated a security system that she had not used in years. My husband double-checked the neighborhood for strange cars while he was out running. I watched my girls like a hawk and kept our doors and windows locked at all times. Even a car parked in front of my sister's home one evening led her to call the police to have it checked out. These are things that we never ever had to do before.

Six days before her stalking trial was to happen, Patrick found Peggy after months of searching. He had hired a private investigator, flew to California and found her neighborhood. He then posed as a private investigator and showed a delivery man a photo of Peggy. The delivery man told Patrick where she lived.

He caught up with her on her way out of the house early Saturday morning. He duct-taped her hands together. He choked her and beat her. He beat her so severely with his gun that her blonde hair turned bright red.

Despite all of this, Peggy managed to break free and flee to a neighbor's apartment, where she was able to call 911. He followed her, broke through the sliding glass door, smashed through the door in the bedroom, where she was hiding. With the police now surrounding the building, he held Peggy to the floor at gunpoint.

I think Peggy knew at this point this was going to be the end of her life. And she called to the police officers outside the bedroom to get these messages to her family. "Please tell my mother that I love her. Please tell my niece that she will now have a guardian angel watching over her... And tell my sister to name her baby after me." Patrick shot Peggy in the back of the neck, and then he killed himself.

Peggy was a wonderful, vibrant young woman. She loved life and everything about it. She loved her family, and especially her three young nieces. She loved traveling and exploring new things, and she was trying to build a life for herself.

To honor my sister's last request and a tribute to her memory, the daughter that I am now carrying will be named after her. We can never have Peggy back, but maybe my testimony today can help keep other families from going through what my family has gone through. In America, no one should have to live the life of fear like Peggy did. And no one should have to experience the pain of losing a loved one the way we lost Peggy.



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## Supporting Loved Ones Experiencing Stalking

Most victims of stalking talk to a friend, family member, or someone else they know and trust about the situation before pursuing any sort of professional or legal help. If a stalking victim talks to you, your response makes a huge difference in if they feel validated and/or seek help.

### These tips can help you respond:

#### Believe and validate victims.

- Don't question or minimize what they tell you.
- For example, don't say "well maybe they just miss you" or "they probably didn't realize it was bothering you."
- Instead, say "that sounds scary" or "I can see why that would be upsetting."

#### Focus on the offender's actions, not the victim's responses.

- Even well-intentioned friends can accidentally blame victims.
- Don't ask questions such as "why did you respond to that text message?"
- Focus on the stalker's actions, for instance, "It is not right that they kept texting you."
- Nothing the victim did justifies the stalker's behavior.
  - Remind victims that this is not their fault.

#### Support the victim and encourage them to seek help and [document the stalking](#).

- Thank them for trusting you enough to have the conversation.
- Help the victim think through options – like learning more about stalking on the SPARC website, reaching out to local service providers, or calling police.
  - Victims may or may not want to take action. Respect their choices.

#### Respect the victim's privacy.

- Do not share any information about the victim with the stalker.
- Ask the victim who else they have told and respect their wishes about who to share this information with.

#### Refer them to resources to make an individual safety plan and learn more about stalking.

- Victim Connect. [VictimConnect.org](https://www.victimconnect.org). 855-4-VICTIM.  
Victim Connect can refer victims to local services.
- [CoerciveControl.org](https://www.coercivecontrol.org)  
A free, research-based assessment -- the Stalking & Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP) -- can help victims determine the risk in their situation and provides suggestions for safety.

- Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center (SPARC) of AEquitas  
[StalkingAwareness.org](https://www.stalkingawareness.org)  
SPARC provides information on stalking, including some general safety planning suggestions, statistics, and other information.
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Safety Net  
[TechSafety.org](https://www.techsafety.org)  
This free app helps to educate the public about digital privacy and safety tools.

### **Check In.**

- Stalking cases can last a long time, and your loved one's reactions, wants, needs, and feelings might change over time.
- Continue to check in and be a source of support. Ask questions like, "How can I help you feel safer?"
- Ask the victim how they feel the safest being contacted and use that medium to contact them. Some stalkers monitor victims' social media accounts, phones, and/or other forms of digital communication.