

# STALKING RESPONSE STRATEGIES FOR COLLEGE CAMPUSES



**7.5 million  
PEOPLE are  
STALKED  
each year**



## WHAT IS STALKING?

While legal definitions of stalking vary from one jurisdiction to another, Title IX and the Clery Act have a good working definition:

*Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to*  
**(1) Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or**  
**(2) Suffer substantial emotional distress.**

### DID YOU KNOW

Stalking is a violation of student conduct codes and Title IX, and is a crime under the laws of the 50 states, District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and Federal government. Adults 18-24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking, making it vital for colleges to appropriately address stalking on campus and ensure services are accessible to all stalking victims. Campuses face the challenges of high prevalence rates and predictable victim schedules that make it relatively easy for stalkers to access victims.

The majority of campus victims are stalked by someone they know and most stalkers are fellow students. Stalking interferes with victims' academics and extracurricular activities. In addition to serious and long-lasting emotional and psychological harm, stalking can involve severe — even lethal — violence. Campuses that understand the nature and dynamics of stalking, the impact of stalking on victims, and the jurisdictional complexities of stalking cases can support victims and hold stalkers accountable.

### HOW CAMPUS PROGRAMS CAN HELP

1. Recognize that stalking is a pattern of behavior, and a stalking victim's level of fear and need for resources and assistance may vary and change based on the stalker's behaviors.
2. Listen closely to victims — even if what they say sounds unbelievable — and refer them to seek additional support. Some college employees are mandated to report stalking while others may not be. Ensure that the campus community is aware of who is and is not a confidential assistant.
3. Documentation can be extremely helpful in stalking cases. Victims could consider using [this campus documentation log](#).
4. Support victims by providing appropriate accommodations in their academics, housing, extracurricular activities, and/or whatever else they need to feel safe.
5. Collaborate with other programs on campus, external support services, and the criminal and civil justice systems to protect victims and hold stalkers accountable.
6. Investigate incidents to see if they establish a pattern of behavior and are a violation of campus policies.

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