

SPARC

STALKING
PREVENTION,
AWARENESS,
AND RESOURCE
CENTER

Media Messages on Stalking

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The media does not cause stalking.

Stalkers cause stalking.

Facebook Stalking



“I was totally Facebook stalking you and I saw you went to Mexico – it looked awesome!”

Is this stalking? Why or why not?

Impacts of Media Normalization

- * Builds empathy with stalkers rather than victims.
- * Leads victims to minimize experiences.
- * Leads potential supports/friends of victims to dismiss experiences.
- * Misinforms general public about dangers and realities of stalking.
- * Creates an environment where stalkers can get away with stalking.

The Fantasy

The Reality

The stalker is an attractive stranger or “secret admirer.”

The stalker is usually known to the victim and is most often a current or former intimate partner.

The stalker has only good and pure intentions, usually romantic.

Stalkers have different motivations, but often intend to scare their victims and/or do not stop when the victim is scared.

The stalker’s actions range from sexy to flattering to harmless.

Stalking can escalate quickly and often co-occurs with or predicts serious violence.

The stalker’s target should feel amused, flattered and/or affectionate towards the stalker.

Many stalking victims report feeling extreme fear and emotional distress.

www.StalkingAwareness.org

- * Training modules
- * Victim resources
- * Practitioner guides
- * Webinars

   @followuslegally

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