Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Campus Professionals

Stalking is a violation of student conduct codes and Title IX, and 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 universities to appropriately address stalking on campus and ensure services are accessible to all stalking victims.

In reviewing your university's response to stalking, consider the following questions:

➢ Does your university provide stalking-specific services to victims? For example, counseling services for victims of stalking, access to an advocate for safety planning, or information on campus no contact/protection orders and civil protection orders?

➢ How easy is it for a stalking victim to know they can seek services and from whom? For instance, is stalking mentioned specifically in outreach materials from your Title IX office, crisis center, gender resource center, office of residential life, and/or campus security/police?

➢ Do University policies and services address the needs of all victims of stalking, including those who do not primarily present as sexual assault victims and regardless of the victim-offender relationship, i.e. whether the stalker is/was an intimate partner, acquaintance, friend, stranger, family member, person of authority, etc.?

➢ Do University policies and services address stalkers and victims who are students, faculty, volunteers, alumni, and/or staff?

Use the checklist below to assess your campus efforts to respond to stalking.

Different offices and/or services vary in mission, scope and capacity, so not all categories or suggestions will be relevant or feasible. University programs that should consider this assessment include:

☐ Advocacy services
☐ Campus security/police/public safety
☐ Crisis center and/or hotline
☐ Gender resource center
☐ Greek life
☐ Health services

☐ Housing and residential life
☐ Mental health and counseling services
☐ Student affairs
☐ Student conduct and discipline
☐ Title IX office

1. Website Information

☐ Stalking is listed as a form of violence the university addresses.
☐ The website links to local community support services, such as a local domestic or sexual violence hotline that serves stalking victims, or the national Victim Connect hotline.
☐ The website provides definitional information/fact sheets on stalking (resources here and here).
☐ The website links to a stalking log that victims can use to document evidence of stalking (resources here).
☐ The website features stories that focus on or include stalking.
☐ The website acknowledges January as National Stalking Awareness Month (resources here).

2. Social Media

☐ The University participates in National Stalking Awareness Month in January by sharing relevant posts on social media platforms (resources here).

- [ ] The University's accounts feature stories that focus on or include stalking.
- [ ] The University's accounts post facts, statistics, and new studies about stalking on a regular basis.
- [ ] The University's accounts follow SPARC (@FollowUsLegally) through social media and share relevant posts/information.

3. Print Materials and Events

- [ ] Promotional and awareness materials (fliers, posters, brochures, postcards, etc.) specify that programs provide services to victims of stalking.
- [ ] Programs engage in public awareness campaigns and events that highlight stalking ([resources here](#) and [here](#)).
- [ ] Programs are mindful of educating the community without providing information that may enable or be helpful to potential stalkers.
- [ ] Programs call out stalker behaviors as unacceptable and aim to prevent stalking and trigger internal accountability for would-be stalkers.
- [ ] Programs distribute brochures about stalking as appropriate ([resources here](#)).
- [ ] Stalking information and awareness materials are promoted to diverse groups on campus, with particular outreach to groups at higher risk for experiencing stalking, including women, students of color, sexual minority and gender non-conforming students, students with disabilities, students living off campus, and younger students.

4. Training University Support Services

- [ ] All relevant University professionals receive training on stalking, are aware of reporting options for students, and distribute information on stalking as appropriate.
- [ ] Staff receive regular training and information about stalking victimization, including technology-facilitated stalking and how to respond to both victims and stalkers.
- [ ] Staff are trained on and use the [Stalking Harassment Assessment Risk Profile](#) (SHARP) when appropriate—a research-based assessment tool designed to assess risk associated with a wide variety of harms (including physical or sexual attack, harm to others, ongoing and escalating stalking and harassment, and life sabotage) when stalking behavior is present.
- [ ] Staff are trained to recognize and address the academic and social impacts of stalking (for example, increased anxiety, lower academic performance) and make appropriate accommodations.
- [ ] Staff are familiar with safety planning strategies for victims of stalking (suggestions [here](#)).
- [ ] Staff are aware of informational resources relevant to victims of stalking, such as [StalkingAwareness.org](#) and [NNEDV Safety Net](#) (for technology safety).

5. Serving Victims and Survivors

- [ ] Staff who provide support services to students are able to identify stalking even when it is not identified as such by the victim; for example, if a student says "my ex has gotten creepy," the staff would recognize the situation might include stalking.
- [ ] Staff who are tasked primarily with working with sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence victims are trained to identify stalking as a co-victimization; they ask victims of related crimes about stalking behavior(s) and safety plan appropriately.
- [ ] Staff are knowledgeable about what different University services are available to victims of stalking (for example, no contact orders, counseling, and accommodations like changing dorms or classes).

- ☐ Staff work to accommodate the immediate safety needs of all victims of stalking, including those stalked by someone who is not an intimate partner (for example, those stalked by an acquaintance, classmate, friend, or person of authority).
- ☐ Staff who provide support services to victims connect them with external agencies to assist with civil orders of protection specific to stalking or harassment and with criminal reporting options.
- ☐ Staff are aware of mandatory reporting requirements and how these requirements apply to stalking.
- ☐ Mental health services include professionals who have expertise working with victims of stalking.

6. Student Conduct

- ☐ The University provides clear language that all stalking victims will be supported, including students, faculty, and staff, no matter who the stalker is.
- ☐ The University provides clear language that stalking behavior by students, faculty, or staff will not be tolerated and that stalkers will face consequences.
- ☐ Stalking is named as an unacceptable behavior and a violation of the student conduct code, using a definition similar to that used in Title IX and the Clery Act, as follows: *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.*
- ☐ Members of student conduct and discipline boards are trained on stalking.
- ☐ Victim service providers, campus security, and student conduct and discipline boards coordinate with relevant disability service providers on and/or off campus to respond appropriately when students with Autism Spectrum Disorders are involved in a report of stalking.

7. Student and Community Education

- ☐ The University provides training on stalking to students and the campus community (resources here).
- ☐ When educating on intimate partner violence, programs use the word "stalking" to describe controlling behaviors that are stalking, such as surveillance or constant phone calls, texting, or messaging (resources here).
- ☐ Programs bring in guest speakers, survivors, and/or lead peer-to-peer programming that focus on stalking.
- ☐ Programs encourage relevant student groups to participate in National Stalking Awareness Month (January), including tabling, sharing print materials, and hosting special events (resources here).

8. Partnerships

- ☐ Programs have identified and built collaborative relationships on campus to provide wrap-around services and warm referrals to stalking victims no matter what services they need.
- ☐ Programs have identified external partners and built collaborative relationships to support stalking victims facing difficult jurisdictional issues and who need external victim services.
- ☐ Staff are familiar with both the state stalking statute and legal remedies as well as the campus policy and campus accommodations/processes.
- ☐ The University includes stalking in coordinated response efforts.
- ☐ The University shares information with partners about relevant trainings or webinars that address stalking.