



# PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CITIZEN INFORMATION BULLETIN #7 STALKING

1. It is the policy of the Philadelphia Police Department to aggressively investigate all reports of stalking and to arrest perpetrators of stalking.
2. In every report alleging stalking, the police will advise the victim of safety measures, and the appropriate social services. In domestic violence cases the police shall advise the victim of the proper procedure for filing a Petition for Protection From Abuse (PFA) or seeking a Restraining Order in non-domestic situations.
3. A person may be guilty of Stalking if that person engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly commits acts toward another person, including following the person without proper authority, under circumstances which demonstrate either an intent to place the person in reasonable fear of bodily injury or an intent to cause substantial emotional distress to the person
4. A person may be guilty of Stalking by Communication if that person engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly communicates to another under circumstances which demonstrate or communicate either an intent to place the person in reasonable fear of bodily injury or an intent to cause substantial emotional distress to the person.
5. Examples of stalking conduct can include but not limited to:
  - A. Violations of a PFA and/or a protective order from another jurisdiction.
  - B. Repeated harassing, threatening, or obscene telephone calls to the victim.
  - C. Mailing of un-welcomed or un-solicited cards, letters, e-mail or gifts to the victim.
  - D. Spying or monitoring of the victim's activities.
  - E. Trespassing.
  - F. Burglary of the victim's home.
  - G. Following the victim on foot or in a vehicle.
  - H. Showing up at the victim's place of employment or other frequented establishments.
  - I. Making repeated slanderous statements or false reports concerning the victim to the victim's work, police or judicial authorities.
  - J. Delivery of objects to the victim intended to cause fear to that victim.
  - K. Threats made to the victim (can be either direct, veiled, or conditional).
  - L. Vandalism or theft of the victim's property, home, vehicle, workplace, or vandalism to the property, etc., of any friend or family member who helps the victim, especially by allowing the victim to stay at their home.
  - M. Vandalism affecting the security of the victim's home, such as unscrewing outside lights or disabling the alarm system.

- N. Disabling the victim's vehicle(s).
- O. Transferring the victim's phone line to another line in order to monitor messages, or disabling the phone or planting listening devices in the victim's home.
- P. Filing "change of address" forms at the Post Office under the victim's name in order to "intercept" the victim's mail.
- Q. Harassing or threatening the victim by use of computers or the Internet.

4. Safety Measures and Tips:

- Stop all contact with the suspect.
- Obtain a Protection From Abuse (PFA), or Protection/Restraining Order (Stay Away Order) from the court.
- Obtain an answering machine / caller I.D.
- Alter schedule and routes traveled.
- Stay with a friend or relative.
- Obtain protective devices (dog/mace).
- Contact telephone security for tracing procedures.
- Change personal E-mail address(s). Keep a diary of all instances the suspect has contacted the victim, including dates, times, witnesses, evidence, etc.
- Victim should retain all evidence (cards, letters, e-mails, recordings, etc.) sent by the suspect.
- Do not keep it a secret, let your friends, relatives, neighbors, employer and colleagues know about the problem and provide them with a picture of the suspect (if possible). Have them call 9-1-1 if they see him/her near you, your house, car or work place.

5. If a person you believe to be stalking you makes repeats contacts, call 9-1-1 and make a report to the Police.

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