STALKING

PRESENTED BY:
HEATHER PUTNAM
JEN LACHANCE-SIBLEY
STALKING

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this module participant will be able to:

- Understand how the stalking laws in Maine and New Hampshire protect victims of stalking
- Understand the difference between state and federal stalking laws.
- Understand how to create a safety plan for a victim of stalking.
Stalking Presentation

- What is stalking?
- Stalking Statistics
- Stalking Laws (State v. Federal)
- Scenarios
- Working with a Stalking Victim
- Resources
National Stalking Statistics*

- 3.4 million people over the age of 18 are stalked each year in the United States.
- 3 in 4 stalking victims are stalked by someone they know.
- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method.
- 76% of female intimate partner homicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partners

*Stalking Resource Center – The National Center for Victims of Crime

National Stalking Statistics*

- 3.5 Million people are stalked every year
- 37% of males and 41% of females reported their stalking to police
- 20% of victims stated the police took no action

*US Bureau of Justice – National Crime Victimization Study (Jan 2009)

Stalking Laws

State vs. Federal

What are the differences/similarities?

How can we utilize both?
Over the course of this week....

Received training on:
- Advocates Role and Responsibilities
- Crisis Intervention/Advocacy Response
- Sensitivity to the Victim and Unique Circumstances
- Safety Planning
- Collaboration

Please apply this to the following scenarios

Scenarios
- Intimate Partner Relationship
- Co-worker
- Acquaintance

Working with a Stalking Victim
Some things to consider...
- Take time to have a feeling based conversation
- Contact victim before bail is set and ask for input
- Never underestimate a provider agency/mental health willingness to help
- Protect from sensationalizing
- Media response
- Be honest about limitations of law
- Consider/Incorporate services for defendants
  (Perpetrators of stalking are excellent candidates for pre-trial services)
Working with Victim...

- Partner with Law Enforcement – if victim chooses to do so
- **Communication and Documentation**
- **Safety Plan:** always consider reviewing and revamp plan before criminal charges are brought (arraignments, pending trial, after trial) or when they are not involved with the criminal justice system (if they relocate, change jobs, change routines)

Safety Planning

- Home, Car, Work, Public
- Advocates need to meet victims where they are at
- Stalking Kits
- Personal Alarms, Varda, ADT
- Become Tech Savvy-(cell phones, gps, internet, etc)
- Accompaniment to court/LE departments
- SA/DV 24 Hour Hotlines and Anti-Stalking programs

Information is Power

- Know the resources in community
- State and Federal Stalking Laws
- LE Agencies officers/detectives
- Internet Resources:
  - The Stalking Resource Center
  - www.ncvc.org/src or 202-467-8700
- Victim Helpline: 1-800-FYI-CALL
  (state by state listing of stalking laws)
Additional resources

Safety Tips with Cyber Stalking:
www.cyberangels.org
COPS Office of Community Oriented Policing Services – Stalking Guide and reports
www.cops.usdoj.gov
Teen Dating Violence:
www.loveisrespect.com and www.loveisnotabuse.com
Print Resources:
Emily Spence-Diehl, *Stalking: A Handbook for Victims*
Betsey Ramsey, *Stop the Stalker: A Guide for Targets*

---

*Heather Putnam*, Victim Witness
Coordinator and Law Enforcement Coordinator, US Attorney General’s Office
heather.putnam@usdoj.gov

*Jen LaChance Sibley*, Outreach Coordinator, Family Crisis Services
jen_s@familycrisis.org