IF YOU'RE STALKED

You might:

Feel **fear** of what the stalker will do.

Feel **vulnerable**, unsafe, and not know who to trust.

Feel **nervous**, irritable, impatient, or on edge.

Feel **depressed**, hopeless, overwhelmed, tearful, or angry.

Feel **stressed**, including having trouble concentrating, sleeping, or remembering things.

Have **eating problems**, such as appetite loss, forgetting to eat, or overeating.

Have **flashbacks**, disturbing thoughts, feelings, or memories.

Feel **confused, frustrated, or isolated** because other people don't understand why you are afraid.

These are common reactions to being stalked.

IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING STALKED, YOU CAN HELP.

Listen. Show support. Don't blame the victim for the crime. Remember that every situation is different, and allow the person being stalked to make choices about how to handle it. Find someone you can talk to about the situation. Take steps to ensure your own safety. For more ideas on how you can help, call 1-800-FYI-CALL.

We can help.

Stalking resource center

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

We can help you make a safety plan, learn more about your legal rights, and find help in your area.

1-800-FYI-CALL

TTY 1-800-211-7996

Monday-Friday

8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. EST

www.ncvc.org

gethelp@ncvc.org

Town of Ossining Police Department
914-762-6007 or 911
TOPD@OssiningTownPolice.com
www.townofossining.com/depts/police/

Westchester County Office For Women
914-995-5972
www.westchestergov.com/women/

Northern Westchester Shelter
24-Hour Hotline 888-438-8700
www.northernwestchestershelter.org

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are you being STALKED?

ARE YOU BEING STALKED?

Stalking is a series of actions that make you feel afraid or in danger. Stalking is serious, often violent, and can escalate over time.

Stalking is a crime.

A stalker can be someone you know well or not at all. Most have dated or been involved with the people they stalk. About 75 percent of stalking cases are men stalking women, but men do stalk men, women do stalk women, and women do stalk men.

Some things stalkers do:

- Follow you and show up wherever you are.
- Repeatedly call you, including hang-ups.
- Damage your home, car, or other property.
- Send unwanted gifts, letters, cards, or e-mails.
- Monitor your phone calls or computer use.
- Use technology, like hidden cameras or global positioning systems, to track where you go.
- Drive by or hang out at your home, school, or work.
- Threaten to hurt you, your family, friends, or pets.
- Find out about you by using public records or on-line search services, hiring investigators, going through your garbage, or contacting friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers.
- Other actions that control, track, or frighten you.

You are not to blame for a stalker's behavior.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

Stalking is unpredictable and dangerous. No two stalking situations are alike. There are no guarantees that what works for one person will work for another, yet you can take steps to increase your safety.

If you are in **immediate danger**, call 911.

Trust your **instincts**. Don't downplay the danger. If you feel you are unsafe, you probably are.

Take **threats** seriously. Danger generally is higher when the stalker talks about suicide or murder, or when a victim tries to leave or end the relationship.

Contact a crisis hotline, **victim services agency**, or a domestic violence or rape crisis program. They can help you devise a safety plan, give you information about local laws, refer you to other services, and weigh options such as seeking a protection order.

Develop a **safety plan**, including things like changing your routine, arranging a place to stay, and having a friend or relative go places with you. Also, decide in advance what to do if the stalker shows up at your home, work, school, or somewhere else. Tell people how they can help you.

Don't communicate with the stalker or respond to attempts to contact you.

Keep **evidence** of the stalking. When the stalker follows you or contacts you, write down the time, date, and place. Keep e-mails, phone messages, letters, or notes. Photograph anything of yours the stalker damages and any injuries the stalker causes. Ask witnesses to write down what they saw.

About one in 12 women and one in 45 men are stalked in their lifetimes.

Contact the **police**. Every state has stalking laws. The stalker may also have broken other laws by doing things like assaulting you or stealing or destroying your property.

Consider getting a **court order** that tells the stalker to stay away from you.

Tell **family, friends, roommates, and co-workers** about the stalking and seek their support. Tell security staff at your job or school. Ask them to help watch out for your safety.

1.4 million people are stalked every year in the United States.