WHAT IS STALKING?

Stalking is a crime. A stalker tries to control his or her victim through behavior or threats intended to intimidate and terrify. A stalker can be an unknown person, an acquaintance or a current or former intimate partner. A stalker’s state of mind can range from obsession to hatred. A stalker may follow or otherwise harass a victim off and on for a period of days, weeks or even years. Threats may be communicated to the victim in many ways.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM BEING STALKED?

The stalker may exhibit one or more of the following behaviors:

- follow the victim and/or victim’s family or household members;
- make telephone calls or send threatening mail, text messages or emails;
- drive by or park near the victim’s home, office or other place familiar to the victim;
- do damage to property - perhaps by vandalizing a car, harming a pet or breaking windows in the victim’s home; or
- break into the victim’s home.

HOW IS STALKING PROVEN?

- Intent of stalker: The stalker must have the intent or the knowledge that his/her actions will instill fear of death or serious bodily injury to the victim or a member of the victim’s family or household or will otherwise terrify or harass the victim. Threats can be explicit (e.g., stating that he or she is going to kill the victim or family members) or implied (e.g., veiled threats, hurting a family pet or damaging or destroying the victim’s property). Threats may be conveyed by the stalker or by someone acting on behalf of the stalker.

- Conduct of stalker: Generally, the conduct has to occur on more than one occasion and be directed toward the victim and/or the victim’s family or household members. However, there are some circumstances in which one incident will be sufficient to establish stalking (e.g., one incident of a person using electronic means to threaten to inflict bodily harm to a person or that

If you are a victim of stalking you may be eligible for reimbursement of certain out-of-pocket expenses related to the crime. Please check our website or call for information and an application form.

Crime Victim Compensation Division
P.O. Box 220
Jackson, MS 39205-0220

Phone: 1.800.829.6766 (Statewide)
601.359.6766 (Local)  Fax: 601.576.4445
www.agjimhood.com

Jim Hood
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
State of Mississippi

Crime Victim Compensation
Prevention and Awareness Guide
Write a description of each

If Caller ID is

Never give out personal

someone with whom you have a child, or a

from abuse or threatened abuse from a current

This is a civil court order that can help keep the

Get a Protective Order.

Depending on your

all stalking incidents should be reported to

witnesses. Complete records are essential to the

Keep a diary.

A written description of each

Complete records are essential to the

Request that each incident be documented.

Request a copy of the report from your local

Keep all correspondence.

Make a copy of anything

Keep your routine.

Vary routes of travel when

Stay alert.

Be aware of your surroundings and the

Change your routine.

Vary routes of travel when

Alert managers or security at your place of

business. Provide a picture or description of the

Have a security check of your home made by law

enforcement to ensure it can be locked safely.

Secure all doors and windows in your home and

Maintain an unlisted number.

If Caller ID is available in your area, obtain the service for your

Do not dismiss any threat, written or verbal.

Call the police or sheriff’s department and save any

Maintain privacy.

Never give out personal information to anyone in places where the

Develop a safety plan for yourself and family

members in case of emergency.

Decide on a safe place to meet and someone to call if problems

Carry a cell phone.

Take a self defense class.

Do not post personal information on social

networking sites.

For example, MySpace, Facebook, etc.) Stalkers can and do gain valuable

information about where you are going to be from

information about where you are going to be from

information about where you are going to be from

Maintain privacy.

Never give out personal information to anyone in places where the

Two different Mississippi laws address

stalking. Which law is applicable depends on the behavior of the stalker and the means

used by the stalker.

MISSISSIPPI CODE ANNOTATED §97-3-107

provides that “any person who willfully, maliciously

and repeatedly follows or harasses another person,

or who makes a credible threat, with the intent to

place that person in reasonable fear of death or great
ody injury…” is guilty of the crime of stalking.

MISSISSIPPI CODE ANNOTATED §97-45-15

is Mississippi’s cyber-stalking statute. Cyber-

stalking involves the use of electronic means to

communicate threats against a person, their family

or against their personal property or to harass

or terror another person. The use in electronic

communication of words or language threatening

bodily injury for the purpose of extorting money

constitutes the crime of cyber-stalking. It is also

a crime under this statute to knowingly permit

someone else to use your electronic communication

device to harass or terrify someone.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Mississippi law provides that the jail or law

enforcement agency has a duty, if provided a request

for notice, to notify a victim of the release or escape

of the offender. It is the victim’s responsibility to

notify the jail or law enforcement of any change

of address or phone number.