



Solving the Puzzle: Investigating Stalking Cases

OVW Funding

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-24-GK-03011-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

SPARC Website

- URL: www.StalkingAwareness.org
- Available resources include:
 - Practitioner guides
 - Training modules
 - Victim resources
 - Webinar recordings
- Sign up for our newsletter
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
 - @FollowUsLegally

Solving the Puzzle: Investigating Stalking

Significance of Stalking Investigations and Response

- Maintain stalking lens
- Provide case management and support
- Understand escalation

Conducting a Thorough and Effective Stalking Investigation

- Identify stalking behaviors
- Determine context
- Assess for risk

SLII Framework

- Surveillance
 - Watching, following, gathering information
- Life Invasion
 - Showing up in the victim's life
- Intimidation
 - Threatening and/or scaring the victim
- Interference
 - Sabotaging, attacking, or otherwise changing the victim's life

Reference:

Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse* 18(2): 200-222.

Context is Critical

- Something may be frightening to the victim but not to you
- Stalking behaviors often have specific meanings
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior

Context Questions

- What is the nature and history of the relationship?
- How does Victim feel about the relationship?
- How does Victim feel about Offender contacting them?
- How does Offender know where Victim lives?
- What is the impact on Victim?
- Who could corroborate Victim's statements?

What's the Risk?

14 Risk Factors in Stalking Cases

- Big Picture
 - Course of conduct
 - Escalation, triggers
 - Nature and context of threats
 - Threat follow-through, capability
- Stalker History
 - History of abuse to victim
 - History of abuse to others
 - Guns, weapons & training
 - Criminal history, mental health, substance abuse
- Stalker Mindset
 - Resistance & persistence
 - Stalker motive
 - Proxy stalking
- Victim Vulnerability
 - Fear level, life impact
 - Use of technology
 - Victim vulnerability

Reference:

Logan, T.K. & Walker, R. (2017). Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse* 18(2): 200-222.

Case Study

- Details for 2 case studies have been redacted from this presentation at the request of the victim(s).

What Can We Learn?

- Keep in Mind

- Rate of escalation
- Gravity of the crime
- Behaviors serve as warning flags
- Consider context
- Requires intensive and robust response

- Practical Tips

- Important to closely monitor cases
- Must build a rapport with victims
- Look beyond the surface of behaviors

Challenges: Stalking Cases

- Contextual crime
- Individual acts may not be criminal
- Victim may not identify what they experience as stalking
- Evidence
- Long, resource-intensive responses required

Stalking Coordinated Community Response

- Victim Services
- Court
- Education
- Community-Specific Resources
- Culturally Relevant Services
- Law Enforcement
- Medical Services

Stalking Resources

- Resources available for judicial officials, prosecutors, community correction officers, and law enforcement
- URL: www.StalkingAwareness.org

SPARC Website

- URL: www.StalkingAwareness.org
- Available resources include:
 - Practitioner guides
 - Training modules
 - Victim resources
 - Webinar recordings
- Sign up for our newsletter
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
 - @FollowUsLegally

Contact Information – Natalie Ivey

Natalie Ivey, JD

Training & Criminal Justice Specialist

- Phone number: 202.815.8371
- Email: nivey@stalkingawareness.org
- URL: www.StalkingAwareness.org
- @FollowUsLegally – Instagram, Facebook, X (Twitter)