

Legal Resource Kit

Stalking

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Overview of Stalking

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“I changed my routine, I lived in constant fear of an attack... It was clear that this man, who was apparently crazy, was not going to let up and that the authorities were powerless to stop him. Though he was free to move about, I was living in a state of siege.”

—Stalking Victim¹

I. AN OVERVIEW OF STALKING

In the late 1980s, media attention focused the public eye on the phenomenon of stalking through a series of high-profile cases, most notably the 1989 murder of television actress Rebecca Schaeffer by a man who had stalked her for two years.² Since then, the public has recognized stalking as a crime that affects not only celebrities but also our relatives, friends and neighbors. Fortunately, new developments in both federal and state law and new research into stalking have made it possible to provide better protection to victims. This kit is intended to provide victims of stalking, advocates and others who are concerned about victims of stalking with suggested measures to help ensure a victim's safety and an overview of state and federal legislation on stalking. This article first provides a general overview of stalking by defining

stalking and its component behaviors. It then describes general characteristics of stalkers and the consequences of stalking for victims, and discusses two common forms of stalking -- stalking at the workplace and cyberstalking. Next, the article provides a checklist to help the reader determine if she or someone she knows is a victim of stalking, and suggests measures to ensure a victim's safety. Finally, the article provides an overview of state and federal laws against stalking, and discusses remedies. However, this kit is not a substitute for the services of an attorney.

II. STALKING DEFINED

Generally defined, stalking is when someone intentionally and repeatedly follows or watches another person, engages in unwanted communication with her,³ threatens her or engages in any combination of these behaviors.⁴ A stalker may have a real or imagined relationship with his victim and engage in a variety of behaviors. He may send unwanted letters or gifts, make unwanted phone calls and visits, make verbal or physical threats or monitor the victim's activities.⁵ His victim could be anyone: a woman who is trying to leave a relationship with him after years of abuse, a former employer, a former girlfriend or just someone who happens to walk past him on her way to work.

A 1998 study by the United States Department of Justice, through its National Institute of Justice, found that 8% of women and 2% of men in the United States had been stalked at some time in their lives.⁶ Annually, approximately 1,010,000 women and 371,000 men are the victims of stalking behavior.⁷ Women tend to be stalked much more often than men. Among the respondents surveyed in the report above, approximately 78% of the victims were female.⁸

While stalking behavior typically begins with activities that seem merely annoying, this behavior can be a prelude to violence.⁹ Stalkers sometimes harm or kill their targets. For example, one study found that female victims were first stalked in 68% of actual and attempted murders.¹⁰

Although women may be stalked by strangers, it is much more likely that they will be stalked by someone with whom they are or were romantically involved: 59% of stalking victims were stalked by former or current intimate partners.¹¹ Stalking by an intimate partner may be particularly dangerous for the victim 81% of women who were stalked by current or former partners were also physically assaulted and 31% were sexually assaulted.¹² Stalking victims may be particularly frustrated by other people's lack of awareness or understanding. Things that may frighten a stalking victim, such as receiving flowers, may seem innocuous or even enjoyable to others. Unfortunately, those who have not experienced stalking may not understand why seemingly harmless gifts actually can be signals of potential danger.

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF STALKERS

One of the greatest difficulties in addressing the problem of stalking is that no typical stalker exists.¹³ Stalkers exhibit a wide range of behavioral and psychological traits.¹⁴ They may appear completely normal or have obvious psychological problems.¹⁵ Nevertheless, stalkers do differ from other types of criminals. They are generally older, often educated, and frequently have been

unsuccessful in employment and relationships.¹⁶ Stalkers are also much more likely to be male than female and to target women; approximately 73% of stalkers are men stalking women.¹⁷

Researchers and law enforcement officials have devised categories for classifying stalkers.¹⁸ Those developed by Mullen, et al. in their book, Stalkers and Their Victims are among the more helpful.¹⁹ The authors divide stalkers into six basic categories: rejected stalkers, resentful stalkers, predatory stalkers, intimacy seekers, incompetent suitors and erotomaniac stalkers.²⁰

The rejected stalker pursues an ex-intimate with a goal of reconciliation, revenge or some combination of the two. The stalking, in this instance, allows the stalker to maintain some type of relationship with the victim.²¹

The resentful stalker seeks retribution against an individual whom the stalker believes has harmed him and intends to cause fear or apprehension in the target. The target could be anyone from an ex-girlfriend to a former employer. The resentful stalker usually feels justified in his actions and gains a sense of power and control through the harassment.²²

The predatory stalker's behavior stems from a desire to assault his victim. Generally, the stalker does not want to intimidate his victim until the planned attack. Consequently, the stalker's initial actions are information gathering and surveillance aimed at preparing for the planned assault.²³

The intimacy seeker desires to create a romantic relationship where none currently exists.²⁴ He may believe that the target already harbors unexpressed love. He imagines that the target has uniquely desirable qualities and will eventually succumb to his romantic overtures. The stalking usually takes the form of persistent communications and approaches to the target and complete indifference to any rebukes or negative

responses.²⁵

The incompetent suitor is similar to the intimacy seeker in that he doesn't have a prior close relationship with his victim. However, he has a strong sense of entitlement to a relationship with the target and he is indifferent to the target's preferences. He will persist in inept attempts at beginning a relationship with his victim.²⁶

An erotomaniac stalker has a psychological disorder in which he incorrectly believes that his victim loves him.²⁷ Although erotomania can be an independent disorder, it is generally a symptom of another underlying disorder, such as schizophrenia. When the underlying disorder is treated, the erotomania usually resolves.²⁸

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF STALKING

Stalking can have a variety of consequences for its victims, who often feel as if they are living in a constant state of fear.²⁹ In order to address the stalking, victims may make a number of changes in their lives including changing telephone numbers, installing security devices or switching cars.³⁰ Stalking victims report avoiding places where the stalker might be and generally limiting their social activities for fear of encountering the stalker.³¹ At the extreme, victims may be forced to move, change jobs, switch schools or even change their identity to escape the stalking.³² This has consequences not only for the victim, but also children, family and friends.

Not surprisingly, stalking can have a major psychological impact. In fact, 84% of female victims and 60% of male victims reported a change in their personality as a result of being stalked.³³ In another study, over 80% of the victims reported heightened anxiety and 25% reported suicidal thoughts.³⁴ The victims also experienced physical symptoms of stress including sleep disturbances, nightmares, weight changes, nausea, exhaustion and headaches.³⁵ A majority of the victims experienced one or more symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

(PTSD) and one-third of the victims qualified for a PTSD diagnosis.³⁶

V. STALKING AND THE WORKPLACE

Stalkers may target their victims at their worksites, creating disruption and havoc. Some perpetrators have been known to call their victims over 100 times per day at work.³⁷ Others bombard their victims with faxes and e-mails or leave messages with coworkers. The stalking may also have an impact on a victim's ability to work. Stalking victims may be absent or late because they need to attend court dates or seek medical help.³⁸ Unfortunately, employers sometimes fire stalking victims because of the disruptions caused by the stalker or just plain intolerance and discrimination.³⁹

Stalking victims, advocates, and employers alike should be aware of how to adjust the working environment to minimize potential danger and disruptions caused by stalking. (See "[Dealing with Stalking](#)" below for steps that can be taken in the workplace to help stop the stalking.) If the stalker is a coworker, day-to-day contact at work can aggravate and escalate the stalking. It permits the stalker to observe his target or learn more about her routine and habits. If unchecked, this harassment can be detrimental to business and productivity, as well as to the safety of individuals involved and may violate sex discrimination laws.⁴⁰

Several state and local governments have passed laws to address stalking and/or domestic violence and the workplace. The frequent connection between stalking and domestic violence, and the similarities that often exist between the two, mean that stalking victims may be able to use existing laws regarding domestic violence to help them deal with employment problems that arise from stalking. In addition, large companies may have policies that address stalking and domestic violence. Leave policies, sexual harassment policies and collective bargaining agreements may also offer stalking victims

helpful alternatives to minimize disruption to their jobs, while maximizing their personal safety.

See [Stalking Laws and Other Remedies](#) below for more information about the legal remedies available for stalking victims. More detailed information concerning legal remedies and issues related to violence and employment is available from Employment and Housing Rights for Survivors of Abuse (EHRSA), a project of Legal Momentum. Visit the EHRSA website at www.legalmomentum.org. The site contains a variety of information and publications including *Survivors Rights to Take Time off from Work to Participate in Criminal Proceedings* and *Eligibility for Unemployment Benefits*. For additional publications providing suggestions on what employers can and should do to protect the safety of a stalking victim e-mail ehrsa@legalmomentum.org and request *The Impact of Violence in the Lives of Working Women: Creating Solutions—Creating Change* or the legal resource kit *Employment Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment* or you may download these publications on our website. If you are unable to access the Internet or have additional questions please call Legal Momentum at (212) 925-6635.

VI. CYBERSTALKING

Cyberstalking refers to use of the Internet, e-mail or other electronic communication devices to stalk someone.⁴¹ With over 160 million people in the U.S. accessing the Internet, the potential for cyberstalking poses a large problem.⁴² The Internet offers stalkers greater anonymity and opportunities for abuse because they can hide their real identity.⁴³

The anonymity and lack of physical contact in cyberstalking sometimes creates the misperception that it is less dangerous than physical stalking. However, the Internet may allow cyberstalkers to gain a wealth of information about their victims, potentially creating new avenues of harassment and the threat of identity theft. Finally, cyberstalking may lead to physical stalking and/or

physical violence.

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have reported an increase in the number of cyberstalking complaints. For example, in 2001 one major ISP reported receiving an average of 15 complaints per month, compared to almost no complaints just a few years earlier.⁴⁴ Fortunately, companies have responded to the problem by implementing certain safety measures. Many ISPs have features that allow members to block messages from designated e-mail addresses or messages that contain explicit language.⁴⁵ Most ISPs have also taken steps to protect users from cyberstalking by establishing complaint centers. Additionally, some web-based e-mail services, such as Yahoo and Hotmail, allow registrants to protect their confidentiality.

According to a 2001 Department of Justice report, law enforcement agencies have not investigated or prosecuted many cyberstalking cases.⁴⁶ This may be due to some victims' failure to report incidents because they believe that no real crime has been committed. Furthermore, many law enforcement officers do not have the necessary training to recognize and investigate instances of cyberstalking.⁴⁷ Finally, police departments often face jurisdictional conflicts in cases of cyberstalking, because the stalker may be in one state and the victim in another.⁴⁸ In such situations, local or state police departments sometimes contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation or U.S. Attorney's offices.⁴⁹

As of 2004, forty-four states had statutes specifically addressing stalking through electronic means.⁵⁰ Even in states that do not specifically address cyberstalking, it may still be possible to prosecute cyberstalkers. Some stalking laws that do not mention stalking through electronic means may be broad enough to encompass cyberstalking when the prohibited conduct is defined in terms of "communication," "harassment," or "threats."

In addition, prosecutors may sometimes prosecute

behavior involving threats to kill, kidnap or injure a person through other state or federal laws.⁵¹ Nevertheless, without statutes expressly prohibiting cyberstalking, stalking through e-mail or Internet chat rooms may not always meet the statutory definitions necessary for prosecution.⁵²

Increased use of the Internet also means that children are at greater risk of being stalked. Parents often lack control over their children's Internet activities, and the absence of monitoring facilitates victimization by stalkers. Some states specifically address stalking of minors in their anti-stalking statutes, increasing

penalties for those who stalk or harass children under a certain age.⁵³ Federal law also prohibits on-line stalking of minors.⁵⁴

Efforts by some industry organizations have led to the creation of www.GetNetWise.com, a web site dedicated to giving parents information for promoting safe use of the Internet.⁵⁵ Additionally, some Internet providers have established "gated communities" that filter objectionable content and restrict the types of personal information that can be provided to others.⁵⁶ These sites also designate specific areas for children and teens.⁵⁷

Protecting Yourself if You are Being Stalked

I. STALKING CHECKLIST

To help determine whether you or someone you know is a victim of stalking, see if anything on the following checklist of sample stalking behaviors matches your situation.

Does a current or former spouse or boyfriend, friend, coworker, neighbor, casual acquaintance or complete stranger . . .

- ü Leave harassing, threatening or obscene messages on your answering machine at home or at your workplace?
- ü Call you repeatedly at your home or workplace, even when asked to stop?
- ü Insist on giving you unwanted gifts, cards, notes or letters?
- ü Watch you or follow you at a distance?
- ü Appear at or drive by your workplace, home or any other place you frequent in your daily activities?
- ü Harass or question your family members, friends, acquaintances or co-workers as to your whereabouts?

- ü Repeatedly send you unwanted e-mail messages?
- ü Photograph or video you repeatedly?
- ü Vandalize or deface your property, car, mail, etc.?
- ü Repeatedly confront you (or your family members) with verbal or physical threats?
- ü Act in some other manner so that your own personal safety feels compromised on a continuing basis?

Stalking can encompass a wide range of behaviors, only some of which are listed above. A stalker may employ very subtle forms of harassment that can, nonetheless, cause a great deal of fear.

II. DEALING WITH STALKING

Although no solution is foolproof, the strategies listed below can help reduce the potential danger of stalking. Some require dealing with the legal system and the courts, while others are self-help techniques that you can do on your own. A few of the strategies will help you prepare for taking legal action. Remember, even if you do not anticipate involving the police or the courts at this time, it is best to keep your options open in case something changes. You do not want to disregard a strategy now

that may help you take future action. You should also keep in mind that not all strategies will be right for you at all times. Some strategies may impose risks or costs that you do not want to take on, or you may find that different strategies are more or less helpful as your circumstances change. Only you can decide what is appropriate for you.

1. Keep Records

Maintain a stalking log. This can be a crucial part of your self-protection and can prove invaluable should you decide to take legal action. Keep a record of all of the stalker's activities or actions, noting the dates, and if possible, the times at which they occurred. This is an essential step to take because, in most states, you cannot obtain a conviction for a crime without knowing the date on which the crime occurred. Because you may need to give the police or your attorney a copy of your records, **do not** keep the log as part of your personal diary.

For an example of a stalking log, you can visit the National Center for Victims of Crime website at www.ncvc.org. Save all evidence documenting the stalking: letters, e-mails, notes, gifts or messages left on your answering machine. Take pictures of destroyed property. Make copies of everything you can, and keep the copies in a safe place or with someone you trust. Evidence of the stalker's acts can help establish the "intent" requirement present in many states' stalking statutes, facilitating a conviction.⁵⁸

2. Protect Yourself

Change phone numbers. Have the phone company keep your number unlisted or install caller identification on your telephone. If possible, have coworkers or the receptionist at work screen your calls. You may want to have your name and number removed from the automated phone directory at work.

Try to keep the stalker from gaining personal information

about you. Particularly if the stalker does not have your address or if you have moved, consider removing your home address from all checks, business cards and letterheads. Change your mailing address to a private post office box. Place property titles in a trust so that the stalker cannot obtain your address from public records. If your state or county authorizes it, request that voter registration and driver's license information remain confidential. If your local or state agencies do release addresses to anyone who requests them, you should request in writing that your address not be released to anyone but the authorities.

Change your passwords for e-mail or other computer access often and do not tell anyone your passwords or use passwords that a stalker or anyone else could easily guess. Pick a user identification that does not use your real name. Do not reveal any personal information in public spaces on-line, such as chat rooms.

You may want to protect your confidentiality online by not selecting any of the options for your Internet service to remember the user's name or password. You may also want to clear the search history on your browser to keep the stalker from knowing what sites you have recently viewed.⁵⁹ You may want to consult the police or other experts in dealing with stalkers before exercising this option, because knowledge of the stalker's behaviors may, in some cases, assist in anticipating future threats and potential danger.

In cases of cyberstalking, contact the stalker's Internet Service Provider (ISP). Many ISPs prohibit harassment through use of their system and will sometimes respond by closing the stalker's account. Identify the ISP through the domain name following the "@" sign, and contact the system administrator through the company's web site.

Remain aware of your surroundings. This will help you detect and prevent uncomfortable or dangerous situations.

Vary daily routines, driving and walking routes, and places where you shop. It is a good idea to change any social habits that the stalker knows. You may want to go to a new church, a different gym, and change which bars or clubs you frequent.

Try to avoid traveling alone especially in places where you will be away from the public. If you are being followed while driving, do not drive directly home. If the stalker does not know where you live, do not risk revealing it to him. If possible, when you leave work, have a security guard escort you to your car or to the nearest public transportation stop.

Consider informing friends, family and neighbors of the situation, as they could help keep you out of danger and/or serve as potential witnesses. If they do not know what the stalker looks like, show them any pictures you may have. If you do not have a picture, consider carrying a camera with you in the event that the stalker approaches you again.

Warn any friends, neighbors, family, landlords, security guards, employers, etc. that any cooperation with the stalker acts as encouragement. Request that they: 1) not cooperate or encourage the stalker in any way; and 2) realize that if they cooperate with or encourage a stalker, they may be held liable for any subsequent action that the stalker takes against you.

Do not give out information about friends, confidantes, or potential new partners to the stalker. Be leery of pleas for discussion, meetings or attempts to reconcile; this can put you within physical reach of a potentially dangerous person.⁶⁰

If you work in a large company, you may want to ask your supervisor for a transfer to another office area or branch. Depending on the specifics of the case, your employer may provide additional security measures to

reduce your exposure to the stalker. Informing coworkers also can be useful, as they may be more aware of unusual or suspicious activity in the workplace and may later be able to confirm your account of the stalking.

You may want to provide a copy of any protection orders that you have to your employer. You may want to give copies to your supervisor, the legal department, and security personnel. In some states your employer may also be able to get a protective order for you. (See below for more information on protective orders.)

Consider adding additional home protection, such as dead bolts, outdoor lights and, if possible, a home security system. Change your locks if the stalker has access to your keys.

You might also consider enrolling in a self-defense class and participating in support groups.

3. Involve the Police and the Courts

If it is safe for you to do so, report any and all threats to the police and notify the police of any illegal acts. If possible, contact the police as soon as an incident occurs. Should the police seem unhelpful, unresponsive or unwilling to help you, don't panic. Simply get their names and badge numbers and report them to their supervisor and attempt to report your complaint to another officer.⁶¹

You may want to obtain a [protective order](#) or restraining order. These orders can prohibit the stalker from coming within a specified distance of you, your home or your workplace.

§ Contact a local domestic violence program or go to your local courthouse and find out if you qualify for a protective order; if you do, apply for an order immediately. If you are told that you do not qualify, make absolutely sure (e.g., speak to a supervisor),

because the person you see initially may not have adequate training or awareness of recent changes in the law. A list of some state domestic violence coalitions is available on the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence website, www.ncadv.org.

§ Note that in some states, protective orders can be obtained in either criminal court or civil court.

§ Be sure not to place your home address or telephone number on the actual order, as this will probably become a public record and can easily be obtained by anyone, particularly a stalker who did not previously know your current address.

§ State laws vary. Consequently, after obtaining the order, find out what will be required of you if your stalker violates the order, and what type of proof or documentation you will need to begin prosecution, if necessary. Find out what a police officer who comes to your aid is obligated to do if the stalker violates the order. Also, find out when the order will be served on the stalker, as you may want to take special precautions for yourself and your family at that time.

When possible, file criminal charges against your stalker. Insist on your rights even if the police seem dismissive. After being encouraged to file charges by a female prosecutor, one woman encountered a police employee who only begrudgingly allowed her to file the complaint while another cracked jokes about it. She noted, however, that filing the complaint saved her life. “Last May, [the stalker] was caught by police on my block with a loaded gun. When the officers learned that I had lodged formal complaints, it made a crucial difference: They could arrest [the stalker] without his actually attacking me.”⁶²

If possible, bring a civil suit (a suit brought by you and your attorney, not by the state) against the stalker even if you decide not to press criminal charges. If you win your lawsuit, a court may order the defendant to pay you

money to compensate for medical and other expenses that resulted from the stalking or for the resulting pain, suffering and physical and mental injuries. Some states have statutes pertaining specifically to stalking behavior that enable you to sue for monetary damages.⁶³ In states that lack these provisions, potential claims include “assault and battery” (someone has touched you without your consent), “intentional infliction of emotional distress” (a person acted in a shocking way and intended for you to suffer severe emotional harm or knows that acting in that manner would cause you to suffer such harm) and invasion of privacy. Talk to an attorney about these options.

III. CONCLUSION

The strategies listed above provide useful tools for dealing with stalking. Some of them are relatively easy to undertake in terms of time and money. Unfortunately, though, some of the strategies may be costly and time-consuming. Similarly, regardless of cost, only certain strategies may be appropriate for you in your specific circumstances. Remember, though, that you are not alone. The lists provided at the end of this kit include contact information for organizations that may be able to assist you.

Stalking Laws and Other Legal Remedies

I. STATE LAWS AGAINST STALKING

Before states passed specific stalking laws, law enforcement officers were often unable to come to the aid of stalking victims until the stalker committed an act of violence—even if the stalker had followed his victim, sent her hate mail, or behaved in a threatening manner.⁶⁴

While women could turn to harassment and terrorizing statutes and criminal and civil protection orders, these measures were largely unused.⁶⁵ In stalking cases stemming from domestic violence, many women found reluctance on the part of law enforcement officials to intervene in what they deemed a “family” matter.⁶⁶

In 1990, California became the first state to pass anti-stalking legislation, and other states quickly followed.⁶⁷ In order to assist states with their efforts to respond to stalking, Congress in 1992 directed the National Institute of Justice, which worked with the National Criminal Justice Association, to develop model stalking legislation or a “model code” for states that would be both constitutional and enforceable.⁶⁸ They published *The Project to Develop a Model Anti-stalking Code for States*, which contains both the model anti-stalking code and recommendations for further action.⁶⁹ Today, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have some form of anti-stalking law.⁷⁰ Because the purpose of stalking laws is to intervene before the behavior results in physical harm, most statutes allow police to act before the stalker commits any violent act.⁷¹ With most state statutes, officials can make an arrest as long as there is evidence of a pattern of behavior and intent to cause fear.⁷²

Generally, most stalking laws require three legal elements in order to charge and convict a stalker.⁷³ First, there must be a pattern of behavior. Second, the behavior must

be such that it would cause fear in a reasonable person. Third, the stalker must have criminal intent.⁷⁴

For a person’s actions to be considered stalking, first there must be a “course of conduct” — a minimum number of acts that constitute a pattern of behavior.⁷⁵ Some states specify the number of acts required. Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, and North Carolina, for example, all require the stalker to commit two or more acts on different occasions.⁷⁶ Delaware, on the other hand, requires a minimum of three acts on separate occasions.⁷⁷ State statutes also contain varying approaches to describing the conduct. Some states enumerate the prohibited acts, while others do not list what counts as illegal behavior.⁷⁸

The second element in state stalking statutes is that the stalker must pose a threat to his victim or act in a way that would cause a “reasonable person” to feel fearful.⁷⁹ Threats need not be verbal or written.⁸⁰ A stalker can place dead animals in front of the victim’s house, send black roses, or form his hand in the shape of a gun and point at the victim to instill fear.⁸¹

Third, the defendant must exhibit criminal intent to cause fear in the victim.⁸² This means that the stalker’s behavior must be “willful,” “purposeful,” “intentional” or “knowing.”⁸³ However, some states do not need proof that the defendant intended to cause fear as long as he intended to commit the action that resulted in fear.⁸⁴ In other words, the “intent” requirement is met if the victim is reasonably frightened.⁸⁵ To obtain more information on a specific state’s laws and sentencing provisions, contact that state’s attorney general’s office or the local district attorney’s office.

Violations of stalking statutes range in classification from misdemeanor to felony offenses.⁸⁶ In general, misdemeanor stalking offenses have sentences of up to one year and felony stalking offenses carry sentences between three and five years.⁸⁷ Many states increase penalties for repeated stalking convictions or when additional elements are present, such as violation of a protective order or threatened use of a weapon.⁸⁸ In repeat stalking cases, some states allow incarceration for as long as ten years.⁸⁹

In most states, the first stalking offense is classified as a misdemeanor, which subjects stalkers to fines or jail sentences of up to a year.⁹⁰ In those states, stalkers will face felony charges and increased prison terms only after they have been convicted of violating an order of protection or of a prior misdemeanor stalking offense.⁹¹ This means the victim will have to invest a substantial amount of time and effort in the judicial system before she can achieve long-term relief. Because many stalking offenses are misdemeanors, law enforcement officials may give them less priority, less time, and allocate fewer resources, making the arrest and prosecution of stalkers less likely. And even if officials locate and arrest a stalker, he will not necessarily be incarcerated. Bail will likely be set at a minimum level, and the stalker may be freed while the case is pending. Recent legislation has attempted to address these problems. For example, Illinois authorized a procedure requiring judges to take the threat a stalking victim faces into consideration when determining bail.⁹²

Generally, states have made progress in amending existing legislation to cover gaps left by prior versions of stalking laws.⁹³ The main changes reflect the increased problem of cyberstalking.⁹⁴ Thus, states have added provisions addressing stalking or harassment via e-mail, the Internet, fax and electronic beepers, among others.⁹⁵ Additional changes include establishment of address confidentiality programs, authorization of warrantless arrests for persons who have violated orders of protection, and a general expansion of the types of behaviors that constitute stalking.

Finally, your state may have other laws, such as harassment laws, that are useful to address stalking.

Contact your state domestic violence coalition or a local attorney to find out more about the state and local laws that may offer more protection.

II. FEDERAL LAWS CONCERNING STALKING

Stalking legislation has also been enacted at the federal level. In 1996, Congress passed the Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act (Interstate Stalking Act), a federal statute to combat stalking.⁹⁶ The law makes it a felony to cross state lines “with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person,” if the result of doing so causes the person, her spouse or partner, or member of her immediate family to “fear death” or “serious bodily injury.”⁹⁷ Thanks to an amendment in 2000, the Interstate Stalking Act now contains provisions reaching other stalking behaviors, such as harassment through the mail, the Internet or any other “facility of interstate or foreign commerce.”⁹⁸

The Interstate Stalking Act improved upon the earlier federal domestic violence law by expanding protection to those who did not have an intimate relationship with the perpetrator.⁹⁹ Moreover, the Interstate Stalking Act eliminates the jurisdictional issues that might arise under prosecution through state laws and allows local law enforcement agencies to work with federal prosecutors who have greater access to information such as FBI resources. This cooperation and increased information facilitates the investigation of crimes committed across state lines.¹⁰⁰

The Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”)¹⁰¹ of 1994 authorized funding for: training of law enforcement officials and prosecutors concerning crimes of violence against women, including stalking; increased access to information databases in stalking or domestic violence cases; and developing and/or strengthening programs addressing stalking.¹⁰² VAWA also created new federal crimes for interstate violations of protective orders and interstate domestic violence, and provided for the possibility of life sentences for those whose stalking crimes result in the death of the victim.¹⁰³

Another important VAWA provision, the “full faith and

credit provision”, requires states to enforce another state’s protective orders.¹⁰⁴ Although states are developing procedures for enforcement of out-of-state orders, difficulties may arise in enforcing this provision, particularly with respect to stalking. For instance, Maryland protective orders do not directly mention stalking. One Maryland legislator expressed concerns that law enforcement officers there consequently may be reluctant to enforce an out-of-state protective order issued against a stalker.¹⁰⁵ Although the full faith and credit provision does not require that the protective order from the originating state be registered in the new state to be enforceable, each state’s procedures for enforcement may vary.¹⁰⁶ Advocates and those holding these orders should consult with the administrative office of the courts to determine what procedures they should follow.

In 2000, the Supreme Court decided that a key provision of VAWA was unconstitutional.¹⁰⁷ The provision, known as the Civil Rights Remedy of the Violence Against Women Act,¹⁰⁸ enabled victims of gender-based crimes to recover monetary damages from their perpetrators in federal court, provided that they could meet the statutory requirements. The Supreme Court determined that the Civil Rights Remedy was not a proper subject of federal legislation.¹⁰⁹ The opinion, however, did not challenge the validity of similar state and local initiatives, nor did it question the importance of providing a cause of action through which the victims of gender-based crimes could recover for their damages in state court.¹¹⁰

Also in 2000, Congress passed VAWA 2000, which made some important changes to protect stalking victims.¹¹¹ For example, provisions regarding interstate stalking, domestic violence, and sexual assault offenses were clarified to ease prosecution of these crimes and ensure increased protection for victims.¹¹²

III. PROTECTIVE ORDERS FROM STATE COURTS

A protective order informs the stalker that his behavior is unwanted and that if it continues, the police can arrest him or take other action. If the protective order is violated, courts may enhance any penalty received, hold

the violator in contempt of court, incarcerate the violator or impose fines. Until recently, stalking victims had to rely on domestic violence laws to obtain protective orders, and in many states only former spouses or intimate partners were eligible to obtain them. Therefore, a woman stalked by an acquaintance or stranger had little legal recourse to obtain protection. With the proliferation of stalking laws, many states have expanded their protective orders to include stalking and have not limited eligibility to spouses or former intimate partners. As of 2001, [twenty-nine](#) states provided for civil protection orders against stalkers.¹¹³

If the stalker is a former spouse or partner, victims may be able to use domestic violence laws. Depending on the state, victims can obtain protective orders through either or both the criminal and civil courts;¹¹⁴ these orders can keep the stalker away from the victim, her home, her place of employment and/or her children.¹¹⁵

Orders of protection, however, have many limitations and do not guarantee safety, especially because many orders remain unenforced or under-enforced. Obtaining a civil protective order in non-emergency situations can sometimes take weeks and involve formidable court costs and lawyer fees, especially in cases involving stalking or violence by a stranger. It is fairly easy and affordable, however, to obtain a protective order in emergency situations; filing fees are low and the court will respond quickly.¹¹⁶

It is important to note that protective orders do not always discourage stalkers. In fact, some studies indicate that as many as eighty percent of stalkers violate orders of protection.¹¹⁷ Victims who obtain protective orders should be aware of this possibility so that they continue to take appropriate measures to protect themselves. In some cases, a stalker may retaliate against his target when he learns that she has obtained an order of protection.¹¹⁸ Nevertheless, protective orders are important because they can help to establish a record against the stalker and may lead to harsher criminal penalties.

IV. SHOULD I MEDIATE?

In some circumstances in which a woman seeks an order of protection, courts may order or suggest mediation. Mediation is a bargaining process in which the parties are presumed to be equal and in which both parties share responsibility for the dispute. Mediation relies upon the fairness and goodwill of both parties. However, in stalking situations in general, and in those arising from domestic violence in particular, the balance of power between the parties is uneven and the criminal conduct is one-sided. This imbalance of power between the parties may be reflected during the mediation process. For example, for fear of reprisal or future harm, the victim may defer to the perpetrator or may not be able to identify or act in her own interests. Furthermore, stalkers frequently interpret any encounter with their victims as encouragement and as an indication that their behavior is likely to win the result they desire. Mediation in stalking cases is physically and emotionally dangerous to the target and should not be used as a method to stop stalking behavior.

V. MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO STALKING

Despite recent state and federal legislation on stalking, lapses in enforcement make it difficult for stalking victims to rely solely on officials for protection.¹¹⁹ Recognizing these limitations, the National Institute of Justice of the Department of Justice encourages in the Model Code a multidisciplinary approach to help victims receive the support and protection they seek.¹²⁰ For example, since the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) created a Threat Management Unit in 1990, it has not only studied long-term stalking behavior through psychological profiles and statistical research, but it has also coordinated the efforts of police, victims and the community to assess and reduce risks.¹²¹ The threat management response also used by other law enforcement departments focuses on early intervention and on alternatives to the criminal justice system when the criminal law fails to provide adequate protection.¹²² Research indicates that if the criminal justice system takes victims' fears seriously and reconsiders what "reasonable fear" is to a victim of stalking (the fear being different from other crime victims because of the repeated nature

of the crime), this validation not only helps the victim cope with the trauma and stress accompanying the stalking, but also enables her to cooperate better with law enforcement and to serve as a better witness for the prosecution.¹²³

The increase in cyberstalking has led to special task forces in several large cities to address the problem. Many local law enforcement agencies lack the necessary expertise to investigate cybercrimes, but cities such as New York and Los Angeles have created special units to focus on cyberstalking. For example, the New York City Police Department's Computer Investigation and Technology Unit trains and advises officers and prosecutors as to the complexities of these crimes.¹²⁴ The training focuses on issues such as how chat rooms work and how to trace and preserve electronic evidence.¹²⁵

Other multidisciplinary approaches to stalking may involve community policing, victim service organizations, and collaborative court approaches. For example, the Victim Services Stalking Unit of the Queens, New York Criminal Court Program offers stalking victims crisis intervention, assistance with safety planning, information about compiling evidence logs and legal advocacy.¹²⁶

New technology has also provided ways for stalking victims to protect themselves. In 1992, BI, Inc. of Boulder, Colorado introduced Juris Monitor, an electronic monitoring device worn by those under court order not to approach their victims.¹²⁷ If the wearer violates the order by getting too close, an alarm is triggered to warn the victim while calling 911 to alert authorities. Victims themselves can wear an analogous device to alert police in the event the stalker does not comply. The device has been used in several states.¹²⁸ Additionally, free wireless phones are available for victims of stalking and domestic violence through a variety of national and local programs.¹²⁹ The phones are programmed to call 911 automatically so that victims can contact law enforcement officials when they are traveling or when the stalker has blocked access to other phones.¹³⁰

VI. CONCLUSION

was not even considered a crime prior to 1990, is now a recognized offense in all 50 states and under federal law. Unfortunately, though, stalking victims must still contend with sometimes complex and confusing laws in order to get the help they need.

The legal process can be costly and very time consuming. This can be especially burdensome for lower-income women who flee former husbands or boyfriends. Fear of stalking endangers women's financial stability, particularly if they must relinquish aid

The state of stalking laws has changed dramatically over the past 15 years – mostly for the better. Stalking, which such as child support or former work references for fear of being located.¹³¹ Indeed, without financial support, women who leave abusive former partners are at high risk for homelessness.¹³²

The amendment of both state and federal stalking laws signals an increased awareness on the part of lawmakers of the seriousness of stalking and its complexities. These efforts coupled with the work of advocates, law enforcement agents, and communities, can dramatically aid stalking victims in maximizing safety and peace of mind.

Anti-Stalking Legislation

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FEDERAL LAW

It is a federal offense to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, or to enter or leave Indian country, or to use the mail or another instrument of commerce, with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person, when doing so makes the victim reasonably fear death or bodily injury to her-/himself, an immediate family member, spouse or intimate partner. 18 U.S.C. § 2261A (2005). *See also* 18 U.S.C. §§ 2261(b) (specifying punishments); 2262 (criminalizing interstate activity that violates a protective order).

STATE LAWS

Alabama

The crime of stalking is a felony, defined as intentionally and repeatedly following or harassing another person and making a credible threat with intent to make that person reasonably afraid of death or serious bodily harm. If the conduct violates an order of protection, the crime is a felony. ALA. CODE §§ 13A-6-90 (defining the offense); 13A-6-91 (effect of order of protection); 13A-6-92 (definitions) (2005).

Alaska

A person commits the misdemeanor crime of stalking by knowingly and repeatedly contacting someone who does not want to be contacted, thus placing that person in fear of death or injury either to themselves or to another person. If the conduct violates an order of protection, the crime is a felony. ALASKA STAT. §§ 11.41.270 (defining the offense); 11.41.260 (effect of order of protection) (Michie 2005).

Arizona

Arizona's stalking law makes it a felony offense for a

person to "intentionally or knowingly" engage in a course of conduct (defined as either continuing to stay near someone, or directing threats at someone, more than two times) that would make a reasonable person fear for their safety or the safety of an immediate family member. ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 13-2923 (2005).

Arizona law also prohibits harassment, defined as doing any of six acts specified by the statute with intent to harass another person, or knowing that it is harassing another person. If the victim of harassment has a valid order of protection against the harasser, harassment is a felony. ARIZ. REV. STAT. §§ 13-292 (harassment); 13-

2921.01 (effect of order) (2005).

Arkansas

It is a felony to purposely engage in a course of conduct that harasses another person and makes "a terroristic threat" (threatening someone with death or serious bodily injury in order to terrorize them) with the intent of making that person fear physical injury to themselves or an immediate family member. Aggravating circumstances include violating an order of protection, the perpetrator's prior convictions for certain offenses, and the perpetrator's being armed with a deadly weapon or representing being armed with a deadly weapon. ARK. CODE ANN. §§ 5-71-229 (defining stalking); 5-13-301 (defining "terroristic threat") (Michie 2005).

Arkansas law also prohibits harassment and harassing conduct, defined as doing specific acts with intent to harass, annoy or alarm another person. ARK. CODE ANN. §§ 5-71-208; 5-71-209 (Michie 2005).

California

Stalking is defined as willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly following or harassing another person and making a threat with intent to place that other person in fear for their or their family's safety. If the conduct violates an order of protection, the amount of punishment (a fine, a period of imprisonment, or both) is increased. The law also makes it possible for a victim to get an emergency order of protection against a stalker, if a peace officer testifies to imminence of danger. CAL. PENAL CODE §§ 646.9 (offense); 646.91 (aggravating circumstances) (West 2005). *See also* CAL. CIVIL CODE § 1708.7 (liability in civil court for stalking) (West 2005).

Colorado

A person commits the felony offense of stalking if, either directly or by enlisting another person's help, s/he makes a credible threat and in connection with that threat: 1) repeatedly follows or communicates with the victim or the victim's family; or 2) repeatedly follows the victim in such a way as to place a reasonable person in serious emotional distress and thereby places the victim in serious emotional distress. A valid order of protection or prior conviction heightens the level of the offense. The Colorado legislature has specifically announced that one purpose of the law is to prevent stalking from escalating, and peace officers have a statutory duty to respond and assist victims who make reports of stalking. COLO. REV. STAT. § 18-9-111(b) (2005).

Harassment is defined as committing specific acts, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm another person. COLO. REV. STAT. § 18-9-111(a) (2005).

Connecticut

There are two kinds of stalking. First, a person who "recklessly" causes another person to reasonably fear for her/his safety, by willfully and repeatedly following that person, has committed a criminal misdemeanor. CONN. GEN. STAT. § 53a-181e (2005).

Second, a person who "with intent to cause another person to fear for [her/his] safety" willfully and repeatedly follows that person and actually does cause

reasonable fear for physical safety has committed a more severe criminal misdemeanor. If the victim has a valid order of protection, if the offender has been previously convicted of this type of stalking, or if the victim is under 16 years old, this type of stalking is a felony. CONN. GEN. STAT. §§ 53a-181d (offense); 53a-181c (aggravating circumstances) (2005).

Delaware

The crime of stalking, a misdemeanor, is defined as intentionally and repeatedly maintaining visual or physical proximity to a person, making threats to a person, or doing anything that constitutes a criminal offense where that conduct would make a reasonable person fear physical injury or property damage against her-/himself, a member of her/his household, or a third person, or that her/his employment is threatened. Several things can elevate the offense to a felony: a prior court order that prohibited the conduct; the victim's actual fear; if the victim is under the age of 14 and the perpetrator is 21 or older; if the offense included a threat of death or serious physical injury; or if the perpetrator was armed with a deadly weapon and induced fear in the victim. DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 11 §1312A (2005).

A person who "with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm" engages in a course of conduct that would make a reasonable person suffer substantial emotional distress, or who persistently contacts someone with or without using obscene language, has committed the criminal misdemeanor of harassment. Repetition of the conduct more than ten times aggravates the offense. DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 11 §§ 1311 (harassment); 1312 (aggravated harassment) (2005).

District of Columbia

Stalking consists of willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly following or harassing another person, either with or without the intent to cause emotional distress or make that person reasonably fear death or serious bodily injury. A valid order of protection or a prior conviction increases the possible penalty for this offense, which can be a fine, imprisonment, or both. D.C. CODE ANN. § 22-404 (2005).

Florida

The crime of stalking is a misdemeanor, defined as willfully,

maliciously, and repeatedly following, harassing, or cyberstalking another person. Aggravating circumstances include credible threats, violation of a protective order against the perpetrator, and prior conviction of a sex offense against the victim. FLA. STAT. ch. 784.048 (2005).

Georgia

A person commits the misdemeanor crime of stalking when s/he follows, places under surveillance, or contacts another person, without that person's consent, for the purpose of harassing or intimidating (knowingly and willfully causing emotional distress by placing the other person in fear for her or her family's safety) that other person. Furthermore, if there is a court order against the perpetrator, and the perpetrator makes the victim's identifying information available to the public in order to cause other people to harass the victim, the perpetrator has committed the crime of stalking. A prior conviction of stalking or violation of an order of protection elevates the offense to a felony. GA. CODE ANN. §§ 16.5.90 (defining the offense); 16.5.91 (aggravated stalking) (2005).

Hawaii

Hawaii defines "harassment by stalking" as repeatedly engaging in conduct that involves pursuit, surveillance, or non-consensual contact, where the perpetrator intends to harass, annoy, or alarm the victim. A prior conviction for harassment by stalking elevates the crime from a misdemeanor to a felony. HAW. REV. STAT. §§ 711-1106.5 (offense); 11-1106.4 (aggravating circumstances) (2004).

Harassment is defined as any of the following: 1) subjecting another person to offensive physical contact; 2) verbally attempting to either provoke a violent response or to cause the victim to believe that the perpetrator intends to harm the victim; or 3) repeatedly attempting to communicate with the victim, whether or not the victim has asked the perpetrator to stop. HAW. REV. STAT. § 711-1106 (2004).

Idaho

The crime of stalking consists of knowingly and maliciously engaging in a course of conduct that either

seriously alarms, annoys, or harasses the victim, or that would cause a reasonable person to fear death or physical injury either for her/himself or a family member. Violation of a protective order or conditions of probation or parole, the perpetrator's possession of a deadly weapon, and prior convictions for specific offenses, will all increase the punishment (fine, imprisonment, or both) for this offense. IDAHO CODE §§ 18-7906 (defining the offense); 18-7905 (aggravating circumstances) (Michie 2005).

Illinois

A person who knowingly follows another person or places that person under surveillance two or more times, and who threatens that person or that person's family or places that person in fear for her/his own safety or the safety of family members has committed the crime of stalking, a felony. Aggravating circumstances include bodily harm, confinement of the victim, or violation of a protective order. 720 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/12-7.3 (stalking); 5/12-7/4 (aggravated stalking) (2005). *See also* 5/12-7.5 (cyberstalking).

Indiana

A person who knowingly or intentionally repeatedly harasses a victim, in a way that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated or threatened, and actually does make the victim feel that way, has committed the crime of stalking, a felony. Aggravating circumstances include making a threat during the course of stalking with the intent to place the victim in fear for her/his physical safety, and violation of a protective order. IND. CODE § 35-45-10-5 (2005); *see* § 35-45-10-1 (defining "stalk").

Iowa

The crime of stalking, an aggravated misdemeanor, has three elements: 1) purposeful action directed at the victim, where a reasonable person would fear bodily injury of the victim or the victim's family; when 2) the perpetrator knows or should know that the victim will fear bodily injury; and 3) the perpetrator actually makes the victim fear bodily injury. Among other things, prior convictions, violation of a protective order, and the perpetrator's possession of a dangerous weapon during the offense will make the crime a felony. IOWA CODE § 708.11 (2005).

Harassment is defined as the commission of specific acts with the intent to intimidate, annoy or alarm the victim. IOWA CODE. § 708.7 (2005).

Kansas

Stalking, a felony offense, is the intentional, malicious and repeated following or harassment of another person and making a credible threat with the intent to make that person in reasonable fear for that person's safety. Aggravating circumstances include violation of an order of protection and prior convictions. KAN. STAT. ANN. § 21-3438 (2004).

Kentucky

Stalking, a misdemeanor, is defined as intentionally and repeatedly engaging in action that has no legitimate purpose and that seriously alarms, annoys, intimidates, or harasses the person against whom the action is targeted. Aggravating circumstances include a threat intended to make the victim fear bodily harm, violation of a protective order, prior convictions, and possession of a deadly weapon. KY. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 508.130 (defining stalking); 508.140 – 508.150 (aggravating circumstances) (Banks-Baldwin 2005).

Louisiana

Stalking is defined as intentionally and repeatedly following or harassing another person in a way that would cause a reasonable person emotional distress. A protective order or prior conviction, among other things, will increase the amount of punishment (fine, imprisonment, or both). LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 14:40.2 (West 2005).

Maine

Someone who intentionally or knowingly engages in a course of conduct, targeted at a specific person, that would cause both a reasonable person and that specific person to suffer intimidation, serious inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm, or to fear for the physical safety of themselves or a family member has committed the crime of stalking. ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 17-A § 210-A (West 1996).

Maryland

Stalking is a misdemeanor, defined as a malicious course

of conduct, including approaching or pursuing another person, with the intent or knowledge that the conduct makes that person reasonably fear physical harm to her/himself or to a third person. MD. CODE ANN. CRIM. LAW § 3-802 (2005).

Harassment is defined as following a person in a public place or maliciously engaging in a course of conduct that alarms or seriously annoys the target of the conduct, when the perpetrator intends to harass, alarm or annoy the victim, when the perpetrator has received a request to stop, and when the perpetrator has no legal purpose. MD. CODE ANN. CRIM. LAW § 3-803 (2005).

Massachusetts

Stalking is defined as willfully and maliciously engaging in a knowing pattern of conduct directed at a specific person, which would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress and alarms or annoys the victim, when the perpetrator makes a threat with intent to make the victim fear for her/his safety. An order of protection, or the perpetrator's prior conviction either for stalking, increase the punishment (fine, imprisonment, or both) for stalking. MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 265 § 43 (2005).

Harassment is defined as willfully and maliciously engaging in a knowing pattern of conduct directed at a specific person, which seriously alarms that person and would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional distress. MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 265 § 43A (2005).

Michigan

Stalking is a misdemeanor, defined as a willful course of conduct, involving repeated or continuing harassment of another individual, that would cause a reasonable person to feel frightened and that actually causes the victim to feel that way. Threats to the victim or the victim's family or household member, violation of conditions of probation or parole, and violation of a protective order are all aggravating circumstances. MICH. COMP. LAWS §§ 750.411h (defining the offense); 750.411i (aggravated offense) (2005).

Minnesota

Minnesota law prohibits any person from engaging in intentional conduct which the perpetrator knows or should know will frighten, threaten, oppress, persecute, or

intimidate the victim, and which causes that reaction on the part of the victim, where such conduct includes manifesting an intent to injure another person. A valid protective order, among other things, elevates the offense from a misdemeanor to a felony. MINN. STAT. § 609.749 (2005); *see also* 2005 Minn. Laws 136 (including electronic communication as a prohibited form of contact).

Mississippi

The crime of stalking consists of willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly following or harassing another person, or making a credible threat with the intent to place another person in reasonable fear of physical harm. A valid protective order and multiple convictions increase the level of punishment (fine, imprisonment, or both). MISS. CODE ANN. § 97-3-107 (2005).

Missouri

Stalking is defined as a person repeatedly and purposefully engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific individual that would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional distress, and that actually causes the victim emotional distress. If the perpetrator makes a threat with the intent to make the victim fear death or serious physical injury, or if the perpetrator has prior convictions, the level of offense is elevated from a misdemeanor to a felony. MO. REV. STAT. § 565.225 (2005).

Harassment is defined as contact by phone or in writing, with or without a threat to commit a felony and with or without using coarse language. MO. REV. STAT. § 565.090 (2005).

Montana

Stalking is defined as following, harassing, threatening or intimidating the victim, when the perpetrator intends to cause the victim substantial emotional distress or fear of physical injury. A protective order or a prior conviction for stalking will increase the punishment (fine, imprisonment, or both). MONT. CODE ANN. § 45-5-220 (2005).

Nebraska

A person who, with intent to injure, terrify, threaten or

intimidate another person willfully engages in a pattern of conduct that seriously terrifies, threatens or intimidates that other person, has committed the crime of stalking. Stalking is a misdemeanor; prior convictions for stalking aggravate the offense to a felony. NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 311.02 (defining “harass” and clarifying legislative intent to end stalking); 311.03 (prohibiting stalking); 311.04 (penalties) (2005); *see also* NEB. REV. STAT. §28-311.09 (2005) (providing for protective orders against harassment; criminalizing violations of the orders).

Nevada

A person who willfully or maliciously engages in a course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated or harassed, and that actually causes the victim to feel that way, commits the crime of stalking, a misdemeanor. Prior convictions, use of electronic media (e.g. the Internet or e-mail), or threats to the victim, aggravate the offense to a felony. NEV. REV. STAT. § 200.575 (2005).

Nevada also criminalizes harassment, defined as one person threatening another person to cause bodily injury, physical damage to property, restraint, or any other harmful act, when the target of the threats reasonably fears that the threat will be carried out. NEV. REV. STAT. § 200.571 (2005).

New Hampshire

A person commits the crime of stalking, a misdemeanor, if s/he knowingly engages in a course of conduct (including maintaining physical proximity to the victim or making threats repeatedly over time) that would either make a reasonable person fear for their own or their family’s safety, or does in fact make the victim fear for her/his own safety. Additionally, if the perpetrator’s act violates a protective order, the perpetrator has committed stalking even if the act was only committed once. Prior convictions for stalking elevate the level of the offense to a felony. N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 633:3-a (2005).

New Jersey

Stalking is defined as purposefully or knowingly engaging in a course of conduct, directed at a specific person, that would make a reasonable person fear physical injury to him-/herself or a family member. N.J. STAT. ANN. § 2C:12-

10 (West 2005).

New Mexico

Stalking is a misdemeanor, defined as a course of conduct intended to make the targeted person fear for her-/himself or a family member, when the perpetrator commits at least one of these acts at least once as part of the course of conduct: 1) following the victim in a place other than the perpetrator's residence; 2) being present outside any place frequented by the victim, thus placing the victim under surveillance or; 3) harassing the victim. Aggravating circumstances include prior convictions, violation of the terms of a protective order or bail order, and possession of a deadly weapon during the offense. N.M. STAT. ANN. §§ 30-3A-3 (defining the offense); 30-3A-3.1 (aggravated stalking) (Michie 2005).

Harassment, under New Mexico law, is defined as a pattern of conduct intended to annoy, seriously alarm or terrorize another person, where that conduct would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. N.M. STAT. ANN. § 30-3A-2 (Michie 2005).

New York

Stalking is a misdemeanor, defined as a perpetrator intentionally engaging in a course of conduct, directed against a specific person, with the knowledge that: 1) the victim is likely to be reasonably afraid of physical harm because of the course of conduct, or; 2) that by following or initiating communication or contact, the perpetrator actually causes material harm to the victim's mental or emotional health, *and* the victim has already told the perpetrator to stop or; 3) that by initiating communication at the victim's workplace, the perpetrator is likely to make the victim fear job loss, *and* the victim has already told the perpetrator to stop. Aggravating circumstances include prior convictions, possession or threat of a deadly weapon during the course of conduct, and actual physical injury. N.Y. PENAL LAW §§ 120.45 (stalking); 120.50-120.60 (aggravating circumstances) (McKinney 2005).

Although New York has not criminalized harassment, menacing is a crime. A person who uses physical menace to intentionally place another person in fear of

death or physical injury has committed the crime of menacing. Aggravating circumstances include repetition of the act, use or threat of a weapon, or violation of a protective order. N.Y. PENAL LAW §§ 120.15 (defining the offense); 120.14-120.15 (aggravating circumstances) (McKinney 2005).

North Carolina

Stalking, a misdemeanor, consists of willfully and repeatedly following or harassing another person, intending to make the victim reasonably fear for their or someone else's physical safety or intending to make the victim suffer substantial emotional distress because of fear of physical harm or continued harassment, when the victim does suffer distress. N.C. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 14-277.3 (2005).

North Dakota

Stalking, a misdemeanor, is an intentional course of conduct that targets a specific person, and makes that person or a member of their immediate family frightened, intimidated or harassed. Aggravating circumstances include prior convictions for this or certain other offenses, or a valid protective order. N.D. CENT. CODE. §12.1-17-07.1 (2005).

Harassment is defined as the commission of specific acts with the intent to frighten or harass another person. N.D. CENT. CODE § 12.1-17-07 (2005).

Ohio

The crime of "menacing by stalking" is a misdemeanor, defined as either: 1) engaging in a pattern of conduct intended to cause the victim mental distress or make the victim believe that the perpetrator will cause physical harm to the victim; 2) a perpetrator who uses an electronic forum (such as a computer network) to encourage another person to cause the victim to feel mental distress or fear. Aggravating circumstances include prior convictions, threats of physical harm, trespass at the victim's home, workplace, or school, the perpetrator's history of violence, possession of a deadly weapon, or a protective order. OHIO REV. STAT. ANN. § 2903.211 (Anderson 2005).

Oklahoma

Stalking, a misdemeanor, is defined as willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly following or harassing of another person, in

such a way as to make a reasonable person or the victim's immediate family member frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested, when the victim actually feels that way. Violation of a protective order and the perpetrator's prior convictions, among other things, makes the crime a felony. OKLA. STAT. tit. 21 § 1173 (2005).

Oregon

Stalking is defined as knowingly alarming or coercing another person by repeatedly contacting that person without consent, where it is objectively reasonable for the victim to have been alarmed or coerced and the victim is reasonably apprehensive that the victim's personal safety is threatened. If the perpetrator has previously been convicted for stalking, or if there is a stalking protective order against the perpetrator, the level of the offense is elevated from a misdemeanor to a felony. OR. REV. STAT. §§ 163.730 (defining terms); 163.732 (defining the offense); 163.750 (specifying the offense of violating a court's stalking protective order) (2005); *see also* OR. REV. STAT. § 30.866 (2005) (providing standards for a protective order and a civil remedy for violation of a protective order).

Pennsylvania

Stalking is a course of conduct or directed at a specific person, or repeated communication with a specific person, under circumstances that demonstrate the perpetrator's intent to make the victim reasonably fear bodily injury or suffer substantial emotional distress. Prior convictions for stalking or certain other crimes, or a valid protective order, elevate the level of the offense from a misdemeanor to a felony. 18 PA. CONS. STAT. § 2709.1 (2005).

Harassment is defined as doing the following things with the intent to harass, annoy, or alarm the victim: subjecting the victim to physical contact, following the victim around a public place, engaging in a course of conduct with no legitimate purpose, communicating to or about the victim in lewd language, repeated anonymous communication, repeated communication at extremely inconvenient hours, or repeated communication of another sort. 18 PA. CONS. STAT. § 2709 (2005).

Rhode Island

Rhode Island defines stalking, a felony, as harassment of another person or the willful, malicious, and repeated following of another person with intent to make that person fear bodily injury. R.I. GEN. LAWS §§ 11-59-2 (defining the offense); 11-59-1 (defining terms) (2004).

South Carolina

As of January 1, 2006, South Carolina law defines stalking as a pattern of words or conduct with no legitimate purpose, intended to cause the targeted person to fear for their own or their family's physical safety. S.C. CODE ANN. § 16-3-1700 (Law Co-op 2005), *amended by* 2005 S.C. ACTS 106.

Additionally, as of January 1, 2006, South Carolina defines harassment as a pattern of intentional and substantial intrusion into a person's private life that would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional or mental distress, and where the victim suffers distress. *Id*

South Dakota

A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses another person, or makes a credible threat in order to make that person fear death or bodily injury, or harasses that person by communicating through any means, has committed the crime of stalking. A valid protective order prohibiting the behavior at issue elevates the level of the offense from a misdemeanor to a felony. S.D. CODIFIED LAWS §§ 22-19A-1 (defining the offense); 22-19A-2 (effect of protective order) (Michie 2005).

Tennessee

Stalking is a misdemeanor, defined as a willful course of conduct, involving repeated harassment, that would cause a reasonable person to feel threatened or fearful and that does in fact cause the victim to feel that way. Aggravating circumstances include the display of a deadly weapon during the course of conduct, prior conviction, threats to the victim with intent to cause fear of death or bodily injury, or a protective order. TENN. CODE ANN. § 39-17-315 (2005).

Texas

A person commits the crime of stalking, a felony, if s/he

engages in a course of conduct targeted at a specific person, if the conduct would make a reasonable person fear physical injury or property damage *and* does in fact make the victim fearful. A prior conviction for stalking elevates the level of the offense. TEX. PENAL CODE ANN. § 42.072 (Vernon 2005); *see also* TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE ANN. § 85.001-85.006 (Vernon 2005) (civil remedy for stalking).

Utah

A person who intentionally or knowingly engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person, thus making the victim fear bodily injury or suffer emotional distress, or who violates a stalking injunction, has committed the crime of stalking, a misdemeanor. Aggravating circumstances include the perpetrator's possession of a deadly weapon, or prior convictions. UTAH CODE ANN. § 76-5-106.5 (2005).

Vermont

The crime of stalking consists of engaging in a course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to fear physical safety, or suffer substantial emotional distress. A protective order, prior conviction of certain crimes, or the perpetrator's possession of a deadly weapon will increase the amount of punishment (fine, imprisonment, or both). VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 13 §§ 1061-1063 (2005), *amended by* 2005 Vt. Acts & Resolves 83.

Virginia

Stalking, a misdemeanor, is defined as repeatedly engaging in conduct targeted at a specific person in order to make that person fear for their own or their family's physical safety. On convicting someone of stalking, the court will issue an order prohibiting contact between perpetrator and victim. The third (or subsequent) conviction within five years is a felony. VA. CODE ANN. § 18.2-60.3 (Michie 2005).

Washington

A person who intentionally and repeatedly harasses or follows another person intending to create fear in the other person, and who thereby makes the other person reasonably fear physical injury, has committed the crime of stalking, a misdemeanor. Prior convictions and a protective order, among other things, make the crime a felony. WASH. REV. CODE § 9A.46.110 (2005).

West Virginia

The crime of stalking is defined as willfully or repeatedly following or harassing another person, where the perpetrator has had or seeks to establish a personal or social relationship with the victim or certain associates of the victim. A valid protective order raises the level of the offense from a misdemeanor to a felony. W. VA. CODE § 61-2-9a (2005).

Wisconsin

A person who repeatedly commits certain enumerated actions directed at a specific person that would make a reasonable person suffer emotional distress or bodily harm (and that does make the victim feel that way), knowing that a likely consequence of any of those acts is that the victim will feel that way, has committed the crime of stalking, a felony. Aggravating circumstances include prior conviction for certain crimes, actual bodily harm to the victim, and the perpetrator's use of a deadly weapon. WIS. STAT. § 940.32 (2005).

Wyoming

Under Wyoming law, a person who engages in a course of conduct (including following or repeated communication in a harassing manner) that is reasonably likely to seriously alarm the victim, and that would make a reasonable person suffer substantial emotional distress, has committed the crime of stalking, a misdemeanor. Aggravating circumstances include the perpetrator's prior conviction within the last five years, or actual bodily harm to the victim or another person during the course of the crime. WYO. STAT. ANN. § 6-2-506 (Michie 2005).

Resources List

This list has been compiled to aid women with legal issues arising from stalking. The groups below provide information and referrals, as well as many other services. This list, however, is not comprehensive. For more local referrals, contact the organizations listed for your state. Additionally, please contact us at (212) 925-6635 if you discover that any part of this list is out of date or if you know of a resource that should be included.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence
740 15th St., N.W., 9th floor
Washington, DC 20005-1022
(202) 662-1737 or 1744
www.abanet.org/domviol
CDV@staff.aba.net
Training and educational materials for attorneys and other professionals who serve victims of domestic violence

Ayuda, Inc.
1736 Columbia Rd., N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 387-2870
www.ayudainc.org
Community-based legal services, advocacy and education for foreign-born, low-income people in the areas of immigration and domestic violence; bilingual and culturally sensitive services in Washington DC only.

Battered Women's Justice Project
2104 4th Ave. South, Suite B
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(800) 903-0111
www.bwjp.org
Promotion of systemic change within community organizations and governmental agencies engaged in the civil and criminal justice response to domestic

violence; a collaborative effort of Minnesota Program Development, Inc., The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and The National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women

National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center
Department of Psychiatry, USC
165 Cannon St., #310
Charleston, SC 29425
(843) 792-2945
www.vawprevention.org
www.musc.edu/cvc
Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; prevention of violence against women through public education, research and a collaboration of advocates, practitioners, policy makers and researchers

National Domestic Violence Hotline
P.O. Box 161810
Austin, TX 78716
(800) 799-7233 (Hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.ndvh.org
Database of more than 4,000 shelters and service providers across the United States, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands

National Network to End Domestic Violence
660 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 303
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 543-5566
www.nnedv.org

Legislative lobbying and impact litigation; website provides links to state domestic violence coalitions and other organizations

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

6400 Flank Dr., Suite 1300

Harrisburg, PA 17112

(800) 537-2238

(717) 545-6400 (fax)

(800) 553-2508 (TTY)

www.pcadv.org

Technical assistance to victims; support to organizations and individual advocates; general information; program materials and access to publications; database of national experts, case law and state statutes; policy analysis; public education campaigns

National Center for Victims of Crime

2000 M St., N.W., Suite 480

Washington, DC 20036

(800) 394-2255

www.ncvc.org

Comprehensive victims' services referral program for shelters, criminal and juvenile justice departments, prosecutors, victim survivor groups, advocacy organizations and victim compensation offices; stalking resource center, training institute, teen victim project, outreach and publications

National Crime Victims Bar Association

(800) 394-2255

(202) 467-8753

(202) 467-8701 (fax)

2000 M. Street NW, Suite 480

Washington, DC 20036

www.victimbar.org

victimbar@ncvc.org

Conducts outreach activities to increase general awareness about the availability of civil remedies for crime victims. Refers crime victims to civil attorneys.

National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)

(202) 232-6682 office

(800) 879-6682 referral hotline

(202) 462-2255 fax

1730 Park Road, NW

Washington, DC 20010

www.trynova.org

Engages in national advocacy to further the protection of victims' rights. Provides referrals, publishes victim resource directories, offers professional support to other victims' rights advocates and hosts membership activities. Direct services include crisis intervention and advocacy.

Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN)

635-B Pennsylvania Ave., S.E.

Washington, DC 20003

(800) 656-4673

www.rainn.org

Programs that prevent sexual assault, support for victims

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

Hot Peach Pages

www.hotpeachpages.net

Worldwide list of agencies against domestic violence, global inventory of hotlines, shelters, refuges, crisis centers and women's organizations, searchable by country, along with an index of domestic violence resources in over 60 languages

Women Against Violence Europe (W.A.V.E.)

www.wave-network.org

A network of European women's non-governmental organizations working to combat violence against women and children; currently the network focuses specifically on violence in the family and intimate relationships

Global List of Women's Organizations

www.distel.ca/womlist/womlist.html

A comprehensive list of women's organizations, sorted by country or territory; some links to agencies

STATE RESOURCES

Alabama

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 4762
Montgomery, AL 36101
(334) 832-4842
www.acadv.org
Training for local programs, referrals to statewide programs and shelters

Alaska

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
130 Seward St., Room 209
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-3650
www.andvsa.org
State network of local centers, referrals, lobbying, legal advocacy project

Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
P.O. Box 111200
Juneau, AK 99811
(907) 465-4356
www.dps.state.ak.us/cdvsa/asp
Referrals, batterers' intervention programs, victims' services through shelters, pro bono attorney services

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Legal Advocacy Project
P.O. Box 6631
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-7545
(888) 988-3725 legal information hotline
www.andvsa.org
Civil legal services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, pro bono program

Alaska Women's Resource Center

610 C St., Suite 2A
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 276-0528
awrc@awrconline.org
www.awrconline.org
Legal referrals, general information, parenting classes, domestic violence counseling, home visit program, vocational counseling, substance abuse counseling, no shelter

Emergency Services Mobile Team Crisis Line
4020 Folker St.
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 563-3200 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Support for victims, information, severity and risk assessment, links to emergency rooms and hospitals, connection with a detoxification center and psychiatric hospital, referrals to Alaska Legal Services

Northwest Women's Law Center
3161 Elliott Avenue, Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98121
(206) 682-9552
(206) 621-7691 (referral line)
www.nwwlc.org
Information and referrals about family law and discrimination, impact litigation, self-help programs
Serves Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington

Arizona

Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
100 West Camel Back Rd., Suite 109
Phoenix, AZ 85013
(602) 279-2900
www.azcadv.org
Legal advocacy and referrals, training department

CASA – Center for Prevention of Abuse and Violence
77 E. Thomas, Suite 112
Phoenix, AZ 85012

(602) 254-6400
www.casacares.org
Prevention classes, counseling, collaboration with some law firms, no shelter

Family Advocacy Center
2120 N. Central Ave., Suite 250
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 534-2120

For victims of crime, including domestic violence; assistance with orders of protection, crisis counseling, information and referral service, legal advocacy, shelter access, support at court, support groups, medical services and examinations

Tucson Center for Women and Children
2545 E. Adams Street
Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 765-4880 (office)
(520) 795-4266 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.tucsoncenters.com
Two shelters in Pima County for women and children, counseling, case management, information and referrals, advocacy, children's center

Arkansas

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1401 W. Capitol, Suite 170
Little Rock, AR 72201
(800) 269-4668
(501) 907-5612

www.domesticpeace.com
Training and technical assistance, forums, public education, lending library; website provides information about local shelters

Project for Victims of Family Violence
P.O. Box 1923
Fayetteville, AR 72702
(501) 442-9811

pvfv@nwark.com
Shelter, advocacy for women and children, referrals to pro bono attorneys

Women and Children First Center Against Family Violence
P.O. Box 1954
Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 376-3219
(800) 332-4443 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Shelter for women and children, referrals to Legal Aid, life skills training, job assessment, GED classes, no child custody work

California

California Alliance Against Domestic Violence
926 J St., Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 444-7163
(800) 524-4765
www.caadv.org
Coalition represents about 100 California organizations responding to the needs and interests of battered women

Statewide California Coalition on Battered Women
P.O. Box 19005
Long Beach, CA 90807-9005
(562) 981-1202
(888) 722-2952
www.sccbw.org
Coalition of advocates and agencies throughout California dedicated to stopping domestic violence; website provides links to domestic violence crisis hotlines and a family violence referral directory

Family Violence Law Center
P.O. Box 22009
Oakland, CA 94623
(510) 208-0220
www.fvlc.org

info@fvlc.org
Counseling, referrals, help with obtaining restraining orders, accompany victims to court

California Women's Law Center
3460 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1102
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 637-9900

www.cwlc.org
Although mainly a public policy organization, also provides advocacy, outreach, educational materials and legal referrals

Next Door: Solutions to Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Program
234 E. Gish Road, Suite 200
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 279-7550

Support groups for women, children's groups, one-on-one counseling, safe home for women and children in emergency situations, batterer's intervention program, teen groups, accompany victims to court when trying to obtain protective orders

Colorado

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 18902
Denver, CO 80218
(303) 831-9632
(888) 778-7091

www.CCADV.org
Statewide agency that coordinates services for domestic violence victims and their families

Center for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 2662
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
(719) 633-3819 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
(719) 633-1462

Shelter for women and children, referrals to Colorado Legal Services, help in obtaining protection orders, domestic violence classes for women and children, antiviolence program, empowerment program

Denver Victim Service Center
P.O. Box 18975
Denver, CO 80218
(303) 894-8000 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
(303) 461-8587 (Spanish hotline)
(303) 860-9555 (TTY hotline)

www.denervictim.org
Counseling, support groups, advocacy, help with restraining orders, referrals to shelters and legal advisors

Project Safeguard
(888) SAFEGRD
(888) 723-3473
Denver County: (303) 863-7233 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Arapaho County: (303) 344-9016 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Adams County: (303) 637-7761 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.projectsafeguard.org
Help with obtaining temporary restraining orders and permanent restraining orders, pro se divorce and custody clinics for battered women, community education, legal advocacy

Connecticut

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
90 Pitkin St.
East Hartford, CT 06108
(860) 282-7899
(800) 774-2900 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.ctcadv.org
Statewide network of community-based programs providing shelter, support and advocacy to battered

women and their children; website includes list of local shelters

Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven
P.O. Box 1329
New Haven, CT 06505
(203) 789-8104 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(888) 774-2900

www.dvsgnh.org

Individual counseling, support groups, community education, emergency shelter, children's program, family violence victim advocacy program, pro se temporary restraining order program

Delaware

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
100 W. 10th St., Suite 703
Wilmington, DE 19801

(302) 658-2958

Hotlines based in shelters:

(302) 762-6110

(302) 422-8058

(302) 745-9874 (serving immigrants and Hispanics)

www.dcadv.org

Victim counseling and support services; website includes information about local shelters and advocacy services

Delaware Helpline

(800) 464-4357 (instate)

(800) 273-9500 (out-of-state)

www.delawarehelpline.org

Information on state government agencies and referrals to community resources

Domestic Violence Advocacy Center

P.O. Box 922

Dover, DE 19903

(302) 739-6552

(302) 856-5843

(302) 422-8058 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Referrals, shelter, support for court proceedings, accompany victims to hearings, good ties with Legal Aid, offices located in Family Court building

District of Columbia

D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1718 P St., N.W., Suite T-6

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 299-1181

www.dccadv.org

Individual and systems advocacy, research, local and national resources on domestic violence, Victim Advocacy Program, Targeted Offender Program, Supporting Our Survivors Center, coalition-building projects

Florida

Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
425 Office Plaza Dr.

Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 425-2749

(800) 500-1119

(800) 621-4202

www.fcadv.org

Safety planning, legal assistance, public benefits information, services for immigrants, list of local domestic violence shelters

Women In Distress

P.O. Box 676

Ft Lauderdale, FL 33302

(800) 500-1119 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(954) 760-9800 (administrative office and family center)

www.womenindistress.org

Advocacy, counseling, shelter, childcare services locations

Georgia

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
3420 Norman Berry Dr., Suite 280

Atlanta, GA 30354

(404) 209-0280

(800) 33-HAVEN

www.gcadv.org

Statewide member-based organization committed to eliminating violence against women by promoting systems change and supporting intervention programs

Georgia Coalition on Family Violence, Inc.

1827 Powers Ferry Rd., Bldg. 3

Suite 325

Atlanta, GA 30339

(770) 984-0085

(800) 33-HAVEN

www.4women.gov/violence

Information on domestic and intimate partner violence, dating violence, sexual assault and abuse, and elder abuse

Project Safe

P.O. Box 7532

Athens, GA 30604

(706) 543-3331 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Safe shelter, referrals and support groups for women and their children, confidential location serving 40 counties in North and Central Georgia

Partnership Against Domestic Violence

619 Edgewater Ave., Suite 101

Atlanta, GA 30312

Fulton County: (404) 783-1766

Gwinnett County: (770) 963-9799

www.padv.org

Emergency shelter for women and their children, children and youth program, transitional services, legal advocacy, community support groups for

women, parenting groups, community outreach, welfare assistance, services to women with disabilities

Hawaii

Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

716 Umi St., #210

Honolulu, HI 96819

(808) 832-9316

(808) 841-0822 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.hscadv.org (contains a list of 24-hour shelters on each island)

Coalition comprised of the directors of spousal abuse shelters and psycho-educational counseling programs for victims and perpetrators of spouse abuse, the Victim Witness Assistance Division of the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office and the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline

Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline

P.O. Box 3198

Honolulu, HI 96801

(808) 531-3771

www.stoptheviolence.org

Legal hotline services, legal information and referrals for child custody, help with restraining orders, child support, and counseling

Idaho

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

815 Park Blvd., Suite 140

Boise, ID 83702

(208) 384-0419 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

(800) 293-6118

www.idvsa.org

Education, assistance and support to individuals, programs and organizations

Alternatives to Domestic Violence: Women's Center
1010 Ironwood Dr., Suite 110

Couer d'Alene, ID 83814

(208) 664-9303

(208) 664-1443 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Advocacy for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, counseling for children and adults, support groups, shelter for women and children, no child custody services

Volunteer Lawyers Program

525 West Jefferson

Boise, ID 83702

(208) 334-4510

(800) 221-3295

www.state.id.us\isb

Representation in civil cases, including divorce and custody

Northwest Women's Law Center

3161 Elliot Ave., Suite 101

Seattle, WA 98121

(206) 682-9552

(206) 621-7691 (referral line)

www.nwwlc.org

Information and referrals about family law and discrimination; impact litigation, self-help programs
Serves Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington

Illinois

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

801 S. 11th St.

Springfield, IL 62703

(217) 789-2830

(800) 799-7233 (national domestic violence hotline)

www.ilcadv.org

Statewide training of service providers, information and referral to local resources, technical assistance, public education materials, lending library, public policy work

Women's Center

610 S. Thompson

Carbondale, IL 62901

(618) 529-2324 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(800) 334-2094 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.thewomensctr.org

Legal services and advocacy, counseling, children's programs with therapist, shelter for women and children, no child custody work

Oasis Women's Center

111 Market St.

Alton, IL 62002

(618) 465-1978

(800) 244-1978 (IL hotline, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Shelter for women and children, legal advocates, no child custody work

Uptown Center Hull House

4520 N. Beacon St.

Chicago, IL 60640

(773) 561-3500

www.hullhouse.org

Domestic violence court advocacy program, family care, Head Start, women's counseling center

Mercer County Family Crisis Center

110 N.W. Third Ave.

Aledo, IL 61231

(309) 582-7233 (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Child advocacy, referrals to housing and children's services, legal advocacy

Indiana

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault

1915 W. 18th St.

Indianapolis, IN 46202-1016
(317) 917-3685 (closes at 5:00 p.m. C.S.T)
(800) 332-7385 (crisis line open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.violenceresource.org
Information and referrals, advocacy, technical assistance to shelters, training, monitoring of batterers' intervention programs, public awareness and legislative campaigns

Albion Aloes Bacon Center

P.O. Box 3164

Evansville, IN 47731

www.albionfellowsbacon.org

(800) 339-7752

(812) 422-5622 (domestic violence hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(812) 424-7273 (sexual assault hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Shelter for women and children, individual and support group counseling, legal and peer advocacy program, children's program, information and referrals, community outreach programs

Turning Point Domestic Violence Services

P.O. Box 103

Columbus, IN 47202

(812) 379-9844

(800) 221-6311 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Shelter, advocacy for sexual assault and domestic violence victims, staff attorney who can provide advocacy and advice

Iowa

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

515 28th Street

Des Moines, IA 50321

(515) 244-8028

(800) 942-0333 (state hotline, not affiliated with this agency)

www.icadv.org

Resource clearinghouse, public policy initiatives, professional education and training, consultant to other agencies on how to counsel battered women; provides expert testimony and legal representation through appellate work or the Battered Women's Immigrant Law Clinic

Family Violence Center

1111 University Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50314

(515) 243-6147-24 hour

(800) 942-0333 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.cfiowa.org

Safe shelter, outreach services, individual and group counseling, legal advocacy at court house for both civil and criminal cases, community education, Spanish and Bosnian speakers

Iowa Mediation Services

6200 Aurora Ave., Suite 608W

Urbandale, IA 50322

(515) 331-8081

Mediation for divorce and custody issues

Catholic Charities—Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Program/ Phoenix House Shelter

411 East Broadway

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

(712) 328-0266 (in-state hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(888) 612-0266 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Accompany and assist victims in criminal and civil court cases, management of police reports, referrals to pro bono programs

Kansas

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
220 S.W. 33rd St., Suite 100

Topeka, KS 66611
(785) 232-9784
(888) END-ABUSE
www.kcsdv.org
Referrals to local programs

Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas
203 S. Santa Fe Rd.
Salina, KS 67401
(785) 827-5862
(800) 874-1499
Support groups, crisis hotline, counseling services

YWCA Women's Crisis Center and Safe House
P.O. Box 1740
Wichita, KS 67201
(316) 263-9806
Provide shelter

Kentucky

Kentucky Domestic Violence Association
P.O. Box 356
Frankfort, KY 40602-0356
(502) 695-2444
(800) 799-7233 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
(800) 787-3224 (TDD)
www.kdva.org
Support agency for domestic violence shelters, training

Center for Women and Families
226 W. Breckinridge St.
P.O. Box 2048
Louisville, KY 40201
(877) 803-7577 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.thecenteronline.org
Help and advocacy for victims of rape, sexual assault, and incest; creative employment program; individual development account program (for economic abuse

survivors who have no credit or stable finances)
Crisis & Information Center
c/o 7 Communities Services Corp. Office
101 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 589-4313
(800) 221-0446

Mental health resource center that takes some calls from people in immediate domestic violence situations and makes referrals to shelters

Louisiana

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 77308
Baton Rouge, LA 70879
(225) 752-1296
www.lcadv.org
Community education, advocacy, technical assistance, coordination of statewide network of domestic violence programs that offer direct services, referrals to attorneys or legal advocates

YWCA Battered Women's Program
601 S. Jefferson Davis Parkway
New Orleans, LA 70119
(504) 482-9922
(888) 411-1333 (in-state hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Individual and group counseling, shelter referrals, legal advocacy, transportation to shelters in and out of town, information

Maine

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
170 Park St.
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 941-1194
www.mcedv.org
Umbrella office for the ten projects around the state that offer hotline services; some regions have shelters, safe houses, training, educational programs, court advocacy

services

Child and Family Protective Services
25 Anthony Ave.

Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 624-8222 (child protective services)

(207) 624-8060 (adult services)

www.maine.gov/dhhs/bcfs/protection

Representative from the Family Violence Project serves as a liaison to the “Men’s Work” program, a 48-week program for male batterers; information, referrals, counseling services

Abused Women's Advocacy Project

P.O. Box 713

Auburn, ME 04212

(800) 559-2927

(207) 795-4020

www.awap.org

Support groups, individual advocacy, batterers’ intervention program, community advocates, programs for child abuse victims

Counties: Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford

Maryland

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

6911 Laurel Bowie Rd., Suite 309

Bowie, MD 20715

(301) 352-4574

(800) 634-3577 (MD-HELPS)

www.mnadv.org

Educational training and advocacy, no direct services

Turn Around

Three locations:

330 N. Charles St., Suite 300

Baltimore, MD 21201

(410) 837-7000

401 Washington Ave., Suite 300

Towson, MD 21204

(410) 377-8111

9100 Franklin Square Dr., Suite 317

Baltimore, MD 21237

(410) 391-2396

www.turnaroundinc.org

Individual and group counseling for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and child sexual abuse; community education, emergency shelters, accompany victims to the emergency room

House of Ruth Maryland

2201 Argonne Dr.

Baltimore, MD 21218

(410) 889-0840 (office)

(410) 889-RUTH (7884) (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.hruth.org

Counseling and direct representation for battered spouses in civil protection order proceedings, divorce and child custody cases

Massachusetts

Jane Doe, Inc. - Massachusetts Coalition Against Assault and Domestic Violence

14 Beacon St., Suite 507

Boston, MA 02108

(617) 248-0922

(877) 785-2020 (hotline open 24 hours, 7 days a week)

Information and referrals to statewide shelters and programs

New Center for Legal Advocacy

257 Union St.

New Bedford, MA 02740

(800) 244-9023

www.ncla.net

Family law services with focus on domestic violence; on-site family law clinic

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center

1 West St.

Cambridge, MA 02139

(617) 661-1010
www.clsacc.org
Legal program includes family law (child custody)

Michigan

Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence
3893 Okemos Rd., Suite B2
Okemos, MI 48864
(517) 347-7000
www.mcadsv.org
Technical assistance and training to member organizations, no direct services

The Harbor House Women's Center
1310 South Front St.
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 226-6611
(906) 225-1346
Shelter, advocacy and support services for resident and non-resident clients; sexual assault program

Underground Railroad, Inc.

P.O. Box 2451
Saginaw, MI 48605
(989) 755-0411
www.undergroubdrailroad.org
Shelter for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, support groups, advocacy

Women's Justice Center/My Sister's Place
615 Griswold St., Suite 1520
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 962-4945
(313) 922-3000 (hotline open 24 hours, 7 days a week)
Legal representation in family law cases, including child custody

Minnesota

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
590 Park Street, Suite 410

St. Paul, MN 55103
(651) 646-6177/(800) 289-6177
(651) 646-0994 (local hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
(800) 289-6177 (national hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.mcbw.org
Resources on welfare, referrals to local family violence waiver programs (TANF), technical assistance with child protection cases, youth and children's issues

Harriet Tubman Family Alliance
3111 S. 1st Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 825-3333
Shelter: (612) 825-0000
Legal Program Advocacy Program: (612) 673-2244
www.harriettuban.org
Help with orders of protection, housing advocacy, JET Program (jobs, education and training that also helps women receive MFIP benefits), family resiliency program, support groups, low cost activities, licensed childcare center on site, holistic program for abusers, high school education program

Mississippi

Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 4703
Jackson, MS 39296
(601) 981-9196
(800) 898-3234 (during business hours the phone rings to the office in Mississippi, after hours it will ring to the national hotline)
www.mcadv.org
Education of youth, clergy, and members of the bar; violence at work training; victims referral service; legislative education; work with the assistant attorney general; connections with state Legal Aid Societies

Missouri

Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence

718 E. Capitol Ave.
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 634-4161

www.mocadv.org

mocodv@mocadv.org

Shelter referrals, public education, training, policy work, technical assistance, conferences, research

The Shelter

P.O. Box 1367

Columbia, MO 65205

(573) 875-1370

Local and statewide hotline, emergency shelter, crisis intervention, domestic violence and sexual assault education programs, support groups on and offsite, counseling, case management, children's programs to reduce violent tendencies, parenting program, court and hospital advocacy, victims' advocates who work with the criminal justice system

The Family Violence Center

P.O. Box 5972

Springfield, MO 65801

(417) 837-7777

(800) 831-6863

(417) 864-SAFE

www.pages.sbcglobal.net/fvc

Shelter, transportation to appointments, childcare, counseling, domestic violence education classes, anger management and parenting classes; every week, a case manager from Legal Aid goes to court with clients

Montana

Montana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

P.O. Box 633

Helena, MT 59624

(406) 443-7794

(888) 404-7794 (toll-free number available during business hours)

www.mcadsv.com

Referrals to shelters, Legal Aid, governmental agencies and other membership organizations; resource library available on web

The Friendship Center of Helena

1503 Gallatin St.

Helena, MT 59601

(406) 443-3360 (rape crisis line)

(800) 248-3166 (general number that will direct you to appropriate hotlines)

www.thefriendshipcenter.org

Shelter, legal referrals, counseling and children's programs

Northwest Women's Law Center

3161 Elliott Ave., Suite 101

Seattle, WA 98121

(206) 682-9552

(206) 621-7691 (referral line)

www.nwwlc.org

Information and referrals about family law and discrimination, impact litigation, self-help programs

Serves Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington

Nebraska

Nebraska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition

825 M St., Suite 404

Lincoln, NE 68508

(402) 476-6256

(800) 876-6238

www.ndvsac.org

Shelters, referrals, collaboration with social services, technical assistance

DOVES

P.O. Box 434

Scottsbluff, NE 69363

(308) 436-4357 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.doveshome.com

Crisis line, support and advocacy, safe shelter, safety

planning, criminal justice advocacy, assistance with protection orders, accompany victims to court, emergency transportation, financial assistance, 911 cell phones, weekly support groups
Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center
2545 N Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 476-2110
(402) 475-7273 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.rsacc.org
Crisis line, counseling, medical and legal advocacy, support groups, referrals to legal services

Women Against Violence
YWCA
222 S. 29th St.
Omaha, NE 68131
(402) 345-7273 (hotline open 24 hours, 7 days a week)
www.ywcaomaha.org
Group and individual therapy, domestic violence and sexual assault counseling, batterers' groups

Nevada
Safe Nest
P.O. Box 43264
Las Vegas, NV 89116
(702) 646-4981/(800) 486-7282 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.safenest.org
Shelter for women and children, separate shelter for men at a different location, counseling, batterers' treatment, juvenile counseling, legal advocacy, outreach, educational outreach, court advocacy

New Hampshire
New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
P.O. Box 353
Concord, NH 03302

(603) 224-8893 (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST)
(866) 644-3574 (domestic violence crisis center)
(800) 277-5770 (sexual assault crisis center)
www.nhcadv.org
Umbrella organization for 14 member programs that provides community education, coordination, training, resource sharing and advocacy for public policy changes

Women's Crisis Services for Rape Victims and Battered Women at the YWCA
72 Concord St.
Manchester, NH 03101
(603) 668-2299 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Shelter for women and children, court advocacy, support groups for sexual assault and domestic violence victims, accompany victims to hospital and/or police

New Jersey
New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women
1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Rd.
Trenton, NJ 08690
(609) 584-8107
(800) 572-7233 (statewide hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—TTY and Spanish available)
(800) 224-0211 (battered lesbian's hotline)
www.njcbw.org
Referrals to other programs

New Mexico
New Mexico State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
200 Oak, N.E., Suite 4
Albuquerque, NM 87106
(505) 246-9240
www.nmcadv.org
Referrals to local shelters and providers

New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs and the New Mexico Clearinghouse for Assault Services
4004 Carlisle, N.E., Suite D
Albuquerque, NM 87107

(505) 883-8020

www.swcp.com/nmcsaas

Referrals to organizations that provide direct services, training, library searches for social workers, informational pamphlets, posters, rape kits
New Mexico Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 773-3645 (in-state only)

Women's Community Association

P.O. Box 25363

Albuquerque, NM 87125

(505) 247-4219

www.swcp.com/wca

Shelter, family transitional program, counseling, referrals to Legal Aid, a secondhand store that offers discount items to families, business attire for women to wear for job interviews

New York

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
350 New Scotland Ave.

Albany, NY 12208

(800) 942-6906 (English hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(800) 942-6908 (Spanish hotline)

(800) 818-0656 (TTY)

www.nyscadv.org

Crisis intervention, referrals and information, prevention programs, technical support, training, advocacy on statewide and federal level, technical assistance to state domestic violence programs

Safe Horizon

2 Lafayette St.

New York, NY 10002

(212) 577-7777 (office)

(800) 621-HOPE (Domestic violence hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(212) 277-3000 (Rape, sexual assault, and incest crime victims hotline)

www.safehorizon.org

Immediate assistance, including shelter, referrals, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, long and short term support, and counseling; free legal consultations for family law and domestic violence issues with the Domestic Violence Law Project

National Coalition for Family Justice

(914) 591-5753 (helpline)

www.ncfj.org

Women can attend monthly meetings and get free legal advice from attorneys; helpline answers general questions and provides referrals on all family law issues; workshops and court-watching program

North Carolina

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

115 Market St., Suite 400

Durham, NC 27711

(919) 956-9124

www.nccadv.org

Community of agencies and individuals that provides technical assistance, training and information about public policy initiatives and activities to increase public awareness

ARISE

P.O. Box 52028

Durham, NC 27717-2028

(919) 403-9425 (office)

(919) 403-6562 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.durhamresponse.org

Support, resources, shelter for women and children, case management, court advocacy, free legal clinic, community education, accompany victims to hospital and/or court

Durham Center Crisis Line

(919) 683-8628

Emergency counseling and referrals

North Dakota

North Dakota Council on Abused Women's

Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault
418 East Rosser Ave., Suite 320
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 255-6240
(888) 255-6240 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. CST)
www.ndcaws.org
Referrals to statewide agencies, educational programs

Ohio

Ohio Domestic Violence Network
4807 Evenswood Dr., Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43229
(614) 781-9651
(800) 934-9840 (local programs can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but caller can talk to live people between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 pm. EST only)
www.odvn.org
Referrals to local programs and state Legal Aid programs

Domestic Violence Center
P.O. Box 5466
Cleveland, Ohio 44101
(216) 391-HELP (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
(216) 651-8484 (legal advocacy)
www.domesticviolencecenter.org
Emergency housing, bus fare, advocacy, employment and housing specialists, youth and women's programs, program for abusive partners, group and individual counseling for both women and children

Muskingum Counseling Center Crisis Hotline
2845 Bell St.
Zanesville, OH 43701
(800) 344-5818
(740) 454-9766
Anger management programs for abusers, outpatient and inpatient counseling for domestic violence victims

Every Woman's House/STEPS
104 Spink St., 1st Floor
Wooster, Ohio 44691
(800) 686-1122 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
(330) 263-6021
www.steps-ewh.org
Emergency shelter available 24 hours a day, individual and group counseling for adults and children, accompany victims to court, hospital advocacy, legal referrals, help with filing orders of protection

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
3815 N. Santa Fe Ave., Suite 124
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 524-0700
(800) 522-9054 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.ocadvsa.org
Educational programs and statewide referrals

Domestic Violence Intervention Services
4300 South Harvard, Suite 100
Tulsa, OK 74135
(918) 585-3163
(918) 585-3143 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.dvis.org
Help with protective orders

Oregon

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
659 Cottage St., N.E.
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 365-9644
Statewide referrals

Central Oregon Battering and Rape Alliance
1425 N.W. Kingston Ave.

Bend, OR 97701

(541) 382-9227

(541) 389-7021 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(800) 346-2388 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Shelter for women and children, support groups, community and legal referrals

Portland Women's Crisis Line

P.O. Box 42610

Portland, OR 97242

(503) 235-5333

Crisis line, referrals, support

Northwest Women's Law Center

3161 Elliott Avenue, Suite 101

Seattle, WA 98121

(206) 682-9552

(206) 621-7691 (referral line)

www.nwwlc.org

Information and referrals about family law and discrimination, impact litigation, self-help programs
Serves Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

6400 Flank Dr., Suite 1300

Harrisburg, PA 17112

(717) 545-6400

(800) 932-4632

(888) 23-LEGAL (legal office)

www.pcadv.org (contains a full list of programs)

Statewide and national referral service, legal assistance, civil litigation through the Battered Women's Justice Project

Pennsylvania Women's Law Project

125 S. 9th St., Suite 300

Philadelphia, PA 19107

(215) 928-9801

www.womenslawproject.org

Telephone counseling service that provides legal information about child custody, child support, spousal support and divorce; no legal representation

Women Against Abuse Legal Center

100 South Broad St.

Philadelphia, PA 19110

(215) 686-7082

Legal representation and court advocacy for Philadelphia domestic violence victims; representation for child custody cases if already a client

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

422 Post Road

Warwick, RI 02888

(401) 467-9940

(800) 498-8100 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.ricadv.org

Referrals to direct and legal services, training, policy work
Women's Resource Center of South County

61 Main St.

Wakefield, RI 02879

(401) 782-3990 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.wrcsc.org

Shelter, expressive arts therapy for child victims, support groups, outreach and education

South Carolina

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

P.O. Box 7776

Columbia, SC 29206-7776

(803) 256-2900

(800) 260-9293

(843) 763-7333

www.sccadvasa.org

Statewide referrals

Safe Harbor
P.O. Box 174
Greenville, SC 29602
(864) 467-3636 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
(800) 291-2139 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Shelter for women and their children, counseling, housing and employment assistance, collaboration with a legal services agency, court advocacy

My Sister's House
P.O. Box 5341
North Charleston, SC 29405
(483) 747-4069 (office)
(843) 744-3242 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.Charleston.net/org/mysister
Shelter for women and children, case management, legal referrals to the Center for Equal Justice

South Dakota

South Dakota Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
P.O. Box 141
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 945-0869 (office)
(800) 572-9196 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
P.O. Box 306
Eagle Butte, SD 57625
(605) 964-7103 (office)
(888) 728-3275 (information and referrals)
www.southdakotacoalition.org
Coalition building, support for community-based nonviolent alternatives, public education and technical assistance, policy development, innovative legislation

Rape and Domestic Abuse Center

401 E. 8th St., Suite 311
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
(605) 339-0116
(877) 462-7474 (toll free)
Family violence project, batterers' intervention, court watching, women's empowerment program

211 Helpline
1000 N. West Ave., Suite 310
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(605) 334-6646 (office)
(605) 339-4357 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.helplinecenter.org/211
In Sioux Falls, dial 211 from any phone: support for those in crisis situations, referrals and information about shelters across the state, legal referrals when possible

Children's Inn
409 N. Western Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(605) 338-4880
www.chssd.org/ci/cihome.asp
Shelter for women and children, legal advocacy and referrals, help with protection orders, assistance for male victims of domestic violence

Tennessee

Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
P.O. Box 120972
Nashville, TN 37212-0972
(615) 386-9406
(800) 356-6767 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
www.tcadsv.org
Public policy, advocacy, referrals, resources, technical assistance to local domestic violence programs

Texas

Texas Council on Family Violence

P.O. Box 161810
Austin, TX 78716
(512) 794-1133
(800) 525-1978

www.tcfv.org

Direct service through national hotline, training to those that work with domestic violence victims

Women's Advocacy Project, Inc.

P.O. Box 833

Austin, TX, 78767-0833

(512) 476-5377 (office)

(800) 374-HOPE (family violence legal hotline)

(800) 777-FAIR (family law hotline)

(888) 296-SAFE (sexual assault legal hotline)

(888) 325-SAFE (technical assistance)

www.women-law.org

Project attorneys answer the statewide, toll free legal hotline and provide assistance to women with a variety of legal concerns relating to domestic violence and family law

Safe Place

P.O. Box 19454

Austin, TX 78760

(512) 440-7273

(512) 267-SAFE (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.austin-safeplace.org

Hospital and legal advocacy, two emergency shelters for women and children, referrals to free and sliding-scale legal assistance, parenting education

Houston Area Women's Center

1010 Waugh

Houston, TX 77019

(713) 528-6798

(713) 528-7273 (sexual assault hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(713) 528-2121 (domestic violence hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.hawc.org

Counseling, housing assistance, referrals to individual attorneys

Utah

Utah Domestic Violence Advisory Council

320 West 200 South, # 270B

Salt Lake City, UT 84403

(801) 521-5544 (office)

(800) 897-LINK (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.udvac.net

Statewide effort to eliminate violence; shelters, legal referrals, child custody case management

Information and Referral

Dial 211 from any phone in the state

(801) 978-3333

(800) 897-5465

www.csc-ut.org/211infobank.htm

Help only for Utah residents, referrals to counseling agencies, legal advocacy, victims' assistance

Vermont

Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

P.O. Box 405

Montpelier, VT 05601

(802) 223-1302 (statewide network office, can make referrals to out-of-state programs, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-F, EST)

(800) 228-7395 (in-state domestic violence hotline)

(800) 489-7273 (in-state sexual assault hotline)

(802) 658-1996 (out-of-state domestic violence hotline open 24 hours, 7 days a week)

(802) 254-6954 (out-of-state sexual assault hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

www.vtnetwork.org

Member programs can make referrals to Legal Aid if caller is located in a county that has a Legal Aid program

Virginia

Virginian Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

1010 N. Thompson St.

Richmond, VA 23230

(804) 377-0335

www.vsdvalliance.org

Information and referrals, advocacy, legal information

Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Hotline

YWCA

6 N. 5th Street

Richmond, VA 23219

(804) 643-0888 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(804) 643-6761 (office)

www.ywcarichmond.org

Individual and support group counseling, two shelters for women and their children, relationship with Legal Aid

Services to Abused Families

P.O. Box 402

Culpeper, VA 22701

(540) 825-8891

(800) 825-8876/(570) 825-8876 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

safe.inc@earthlink.net

www.safe-shelter.org

Legal representation and other services for domestic violence and child custody issues in Culpeper, Madison, Rappahannock, Fauquier and Orange Counties

The Laurel Shelter

P.O. Box 23

Gloucester, VA 23061

lsi@ccsinc.com

(888) 289-2102

(804) 697-1144

Free attorney services for child custody cases involving domestic violence in Gloucester, Middlesex, King William, Mathews, King and Queen Counties

The Turning Point - Salvation Army

815 Salem Ave.

Roanoke, VA 24016

tsatp@aol.com

(540) 345-0400

Shelter, counseling, outreach, transitional housing, childcare and legal representation for domestic violence victims involved in custody battles

Samaritan House

P.O. Box 2400

Virginia Beach, VA 23450

(757) 430-2120 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(757) 430-2642

www.reachnkids.org

VELA (Victims Empowered through Legal Assistance) is the legal branch of the shelter; legal representation and assistance with protective orders, etc.

Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter

9 Loudoun St., S.E.

Leesburg, VA 20175

(703) 777-6552 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

(703) 771-3398

(703) 771-3397 (legal assistance)

www.lcsj.net

Shelter, outreach, transitional housing, counseling, an attorney that helps domestic violence victims with custody, protective orders and child support issues

Washington

Domestic Violence Hotline

2 Appelo Lane

Naselle, WA 98638

(800) 562-6025 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Crisis intervention, information, referrals to local organizations

Northwest Women's Law Center

3161 Elliott Avenue, Suite 101

Seattle, WA 98121

(206) 682-9552

(206) 621-7691 (referral line)

www.nwwlc.org

Information and referrals about family law and discrimination, impact litigation, self-help programs
Serves Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington

West Virginia

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

4710 Chimney Dr., Suite A

Charleston, WV 25302

(304) 965-3552

www.wvcadv.org

Referrals to local agencies, policy work, training, a legal advocate on staff

YWCA Family Violence Prevention Program

1100 Chaplaine St.

Wheeling, WV 26003

(800) 698-1247 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Support groups, legal advocacy, shelter, counseling, child advocacy

Information Helpline Upper Ohio Valley

51 11th St.

Wheeling, WV 26003

(304) 233-6300

Can be contacted through The United Way web site:

www.unitedwayuov.org

Emergency assistance and referral service, work with YWCA that has a shelter and advocates for women

and children

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence

307 South Paterson, Suite 1

Madison, WI 53703

(608) 255-0539

www.wcadv.org

Referrals to state-wide programs

Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.

230 Wells Street, #800

Milwaukee, WI 53203

(414) 278-7722

31 S. Mills St.

Madison, WI 53715

(608) 256-3304

www.legalaction.org

Referrals and direct legal services for low-income clients; civil legal services in family law, domestic violence, custody and divorce

Wisconsin Family Law Self-Help Clinic

Milwaukee County Courthouse

901 N. 9th St., North Hallway

Milwaukee, WI 53233

(414) 278-2106

Self-help center, one-on-one free assistance with forms and procedures, referrals on a variety of family law matters

State Offices—Division of Crime Victims Services

P.O. Box 7951

Madison, WI 53707

(307) 777-7200

www.doj.state.wi.us/cvs (includes list of local programs and victims' compensation application)

Funding for local nonprofits, no referrals

Passages: Domestic Violence Crisis Line

P.O. Box 546

Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-3617
(800) 236-HEAL (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Emergency shelter for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, counseling, referrals, support groups, legal advocate who may provide assistance in domestic violence and child custody cases

Manitowoc County Domestic Violence Center
P.O. Box 1142
Manitowac, WI 54221-1142
(920) 684-4661 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. CST)
(877) 275-6888 (local hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Shelter for domestic violence victims, counseling, advocacy, transitional living programs, transportation, group counseling, referrals to Legal Aid and other legal services

Wyoming
Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
409 S. 4th St.
Laramie, WY 82070

(307) 755-0992 (civil legal assistance)
(307) 755-5481
(800) 990-3877 (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. MST)
www.users.qwest.net/~wyomingcoalition
Civil legal assistance project that provides pro bono legal services (including child custody legal assistance) to victims of domestic violence, public awareness campaign, referrals

Women's Center Collective
(307) 672-3222 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Support, referrals, help with legal issues

Safehouse: Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Services
P.O. Box 1885
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 634-8655 (main office)
(307) 637-7233 (hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Advocacy, assistance with orders of protection and stalking cases, shelter, transitional housing, support groups, referrals to Legal Aid attorneys

Notes

¹ *Senate Anti-Stalking Legislation, 1992: Hearings on S. 2922 Before the Comm. on the Judiciary*, 102d Cong., 2d Sess. (1992) (statement of M. Jane McAllister).

² NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALKING, AND ANTI-STALKING LEGISLATION: ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS (Mar. 1996), available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocpa/94Guides/DomViol/welcome.html>; specific citation at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocpa/94Guides/DomViol/chap1.htm> (last visited August 2, 2004).

³ While recognizing that men may be the victims of stalkers and women the stalkers, this document will refer to the perpetrators with male pronouns and the victims using female pronouns. This reflects the actual gender composition of the vast majority of stalkers and victims. Women comprise 78% of all stalking victims and men comprise 87% of all stalkers and 94% of the stalkers stalking women. See PATRICIA TJADEN & NANCY THOENNES, NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE AND CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, STALKING IN AMERICA: FINDINGS FROM THE NATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY 2 (Apr. 1998), available at <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles/169592.pdf>.

⁴ See VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANTS OFFICE, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE THIRD ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS UNDER THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT 5(1998), available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/grants/stalk98> [hereinafter STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 1998] (visited August 2, 2004).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ TJADEN & THOENNES, *supra* note 3, at 2.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ See *id.* at 5.

⁹ John Nicoletti & Kathryn Porter, Stalkers and Their Victims, Workshop hosted by Ankeny, Iowa Police Department (Mar. 13, 1996) (on file with authors).

¹⁰ Judith M. McFarlane, Jacquelyn C. Campbell & Kathy Watson, *Intimate Partner Stalking and Femicide: Urgent Implications for Women's Safety*, 20 BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND THE LAW 51, 64 (2002).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ See Brian McGuire & Anita Wraith, *Legal and Psychological Aspects of Stalking: A Review*, 111 THE JOURNAL OF FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY 316, 317 (2000).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ See PAUL E. MULLEN, MICHELLE PATHÉ, & ROSEMARY PURCELL, STALKERS AND THEIR VICTIMS (2000).

¹⁶ McGuire & Wraith, *supra* note 13, at 317.

¹⁷ See STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 1998, *supra* note 4, at 10-11.

¹⁸ MULLEN, PATHÉ & PURCELL, *supra* note 15, at 65.

¹⁹ *Id*

²⁰ *Id* at 75-76.

²¹ *Id* at 89.

²² *Id* at 96.

²³ *Id* at 101.

²⁴ Generally, intimacy seekers desire a romantic relationship although they may sometimes want a parental, filial or other type of close relationship. *Id* at 118.

²⁵ *Id*

²⁶ *Id* at 124.

²⁷ Some researchers and law enforcement professionals use the term “erotomania” to refer to types of stalkers who do not have a recognized psychological disorder. *Id* at 143.

²⁸ *Id* at 143-144.

²⁹ McGuire & Wraith, *supra* note 13, at 323.

³⁰ *Id*

³¹ Paul E. Mullen & Michelle Pathé, *Stalking* 2002 CRIME AND JUST. 273, 296-297 (2002).

³² *Id*

³³ Doris Hall, *Outside Looking In: Stalkers and Their Victims*, Paper presented at Claremont Graduated School Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (Mar. 16, 1996).

³⁴ Mullen & Pathé, *supra* note 31, at 297, citing Michele Pathé & Paul E. Mullen, *The Impact of Stalkers on Their Victims*, 170 BRITISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY 12 (1997).

³⁵ *Id*

³⁶ Mullen & Pathé, *supra* note 31, at 297. The symptoms of PTSD include among other things: efforts to avoid thoughts, feelings, or conversations associated with the trauma; efforts to avoid activities, places, or people that arouse recollections of the trauma; feeling detached or estranged from others; restricted range of emotion (e.g., unable to have loving feelings); difficulty falling or staying asleep; irritability or outbursts of anger; difficulty concentrating; hyper-vigilance and an exaggerated startle response. See AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS, 4TH ED. (DSM-IV) (1994) for full diagnostic criteria.

³⁷ Nicolletti & Porter, *supra* note 9.

³⁸ See Karen M. Abrams & Gail Erlick Robinson, *Occupational Effects of Stalking* 47 CANADIAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY 468, 469 (2002).

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ See LEGAL MOMENTUM, THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE IN THE LIVES OF WORKING WOMEN: CREATING SOLUTIONS—CREATING CHANGE at 5 (1996), available at <http://www.legalmomentum.org/pub/pubs/CreatingSolutions.pdf>.

⁴¹ U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: REPORT TO CONGRESS (2001), available at <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojp/186157.pdf> (last visited July 27, 2004) [hereinafter STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001].

⁴² ClickZ Staff, *Geographics: Population Explosion!*, ClickZ Stats, at http://www.clickz.com/stats/big_picture/geographics/article.php/5911_151151 (last visited July 15, 2004).

⁴³ Amy C. Radosevich, Note, *Thwarting the Stalker: Are Anti-Stalking Measures Keeping Pace With Today's Stalker?* 2000 U. ILL. L. REV. 1371, 1387 (2000).

⁴⁴ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 4.

⁴⁵ REPORT FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT, CYBERSTALKING: A NEW CHALLENGE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INDUSTRY (Aug. 1999), available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/cybercrime/cyberstalking.htm> (last visited August 3, 2004) [hereinafter REPORT FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL].

⁴⁶ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 5.

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ *Id.* at 6.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ See *id.* at 32 - 36 n.7. These states include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon,

Pennsylvania, Rhode island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

⁵¹ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 6.

⁵² OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, STRENGTHENING ANTISTALKING STATUTES (2002), *available at* <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/bulletins/legalseries/bulletin1/ncj189192.pdf> (last visited July 27, 2004).

⁵³ See STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 1998, *supra* note 4, at 26, B-2 through B-4 and STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 32 – 37. Depending on the state, minors for these purposes are defined as either under 16, or under 18. *Id.* at 26. As of 2000, the following states had increased penalties for stalking of minors: Alaska, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, and Vermont. *Id.* South Dakota has a separate provision for stalking of minors under 12, which it recently amended to increase the penalty for the stalking of children 12 years or younger. 2002 S.D. Laws 1138 (codified at S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 22-19A-7 (2003)).

⁵⁴ Protection of Children from Sexual Predators Act of 1998, 18 U.S.C. § 2425 (Lexis 2004).

⁵⁵ GetNetWise *at* <http://www.getnetwise.org> (last visited July 15, 2004).

⁵⁶ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 9.

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ Carole E. Jordan et al., *Stalking Cultural, Clinical and Legal Considerations*, 38 BRANDEIS L.J. 513, 573 (2000).

⁵⁹ For more practical information on how to prevent cyberstalking, see Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse Electronic Clearing House (MINCAVA), *at* <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/privacy> (last visited July 15, 2004). MINCAVA is housed out of the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota.

⁶⁰ Nicoletti & Porter, *supra* note 9, at 12.

⁶¹ For other personal safety tips, see *Survivors of Stalking If You're A Victim, Personal Safety*, *at* <http://www.soshelp.org> (last visited July 15, 2004).

⁶² *Getting Answers: A Stalker's Victim, Denied Peace of Mind By a Plea Bargain*, L.A. TIMES, July 10, 1995, at B7.

⁶³ As of 2004, these states included California, CAL. CIV. CODE § 1708.7 (Deering's 2004), Kentucky, KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 411.220 (Lexis 2003); Michigan, MICH. COMP. LAWS ANN. § 600.2954 (Lexis 2003); Oregon, OR. REV. STAT. §30.866 (Lexis 2003), Virginia, VA. CODE ANN. § 8.01-42.3 (Lexis 2004); and Wyoming, WYO. STAT. §1-1-126 (Lexis 2003). If your state is not included in this list, you should still investigate making a claim for potential money damages, as state laws are continually being updated and just because a state does not specifically authorize seeking money damages for stalking cases does not mean that they are not available through more generally applicable statutes. See Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime, http://www.ncvc.org/src/main.aspx?dbID=DB_State-byState_Statutes117 (last visited July 30, 2004), which provides a regularly updated list of state stalking statutes.

⁶⁴ See NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, *supra* note 2, at 9.

⁶⁵ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 1998, *supra* note 4, at 24.

⁶⁶ See Katherine M. Schelong, Note, *Domestic Violence and the State: Responses to and Rationales for Spousal Battering Marital Rape & Stalking* 78 MARQ. L. REV. 79, 100 (1994).

⁶⁷ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 5.

⁶⁸ NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, *supra* note 2, at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocpa/94Guides/DomViol/chap1.htm> (last visited July 27, 2004).

⁶⁹ See NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, PROJECT TO DEVELOP A MODEL ANTI-STALKING CODE FOR STATES (1993) [hereinafter MODEL CODE].

⁷⁰ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 11.

⁷¹ NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, *supra* note 2, at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocpa/94Guides/DomViol/chap2.htm> (last visited August 1, 2004).

⁷² *Id.* at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocpa/94Guides/DomViol/chap2.htm> (last visited August 2, 2004).

⁷³ *Id.* at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocpa/94Guides/DomViol/chap3.htm> (last visited August 2, 2004).

⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ COLO. REV. STAT. § 18-9-111(4)(c)(IV) (Lexis 2003); 720 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/12-7.3(a) (Lexis 2004); MICH. COMP. LAWS. § 750.411h(1)(d) (Lexis 2003); N.C. GEN. STAT. § 14-277.3(a) (Lexis 2004).

⁷⁷ DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 11, § 1312A(b)(2) (Lexis 2004).

⁷⁸ See Radosevich, *supra* note 43, at 1382-83.

⁷⁹ NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, *supra* note 2, at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocpa/94Guides/DomViol/chap2.htm> (last visited August 2, 2004).

⁸⁰ *Id.*

⁸¹ *Id.*

⁸² *Id.*

- 83 *Id.*
- 84 *Id.*
- 85 *Id.*
- 86 *Id.* at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocpa/94Guides/DomViol/chap2.htm> (last visited August 2, 2004).
- 87 *Id.*
- 88 *Id.*
- 89 *Id.*
- 90 *Id.* See also STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 1998, *supra* note 4, at 24-25.
- 91 NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, *supra* note 2, at 7.
- 92 725 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/110-4(a) (Lexis 2004).
- 93 OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, STRENGTHENING ANTISTALKING STATUTES 2-3 (2002), <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/bulletins/legalseries/bulletin1/ncj189192.pdf> (last visited August 3, 2004).
- 94 *Id.* at 5; STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 6 & n.7, 10.
- 95 OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME, *supra* note 93, at 5; STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 6 & n.7, 10.
- 96 Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act, Pub. L. No. 100-690, 102 Stat. 4486 (codified at 18 U.S.C. § 2261A (Lexis 2004)).
- 97 *Id.*
- 98 Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1498 (codified at 18 U.S.C. § 2261A (Lexis 2004)).
- 99 Interstate Domestic Violence Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2261 (Lexis 2004).
- 100 Joseph C. Merschman, Note, *The Dark Side of the Web: Cyberstalking and the Need for Contemporary Legislation*, 24 HARV. WOMEN'S L.J. 255, 270-71 (2001).
- 101 Violence Against Women Act, Pub. L. No. 103-322, 108 Stat. 1902(codified at 42 U.S.C. §§ 13701 *et seq.*) (1994).
- 102 Pub. L. No. 103-322, 108 Stat. 1911 (codified as amended in 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 3796gg-1 (Lexis 2004)).

¹⁰³ Pub. L. No. 103-322, 108 Stat. 1926 (codified as amended in various sections of 16, 18, and 42 U.S.C.).

¹⁰⁴ See 18 U.S.C.S. § 2262(a)(1) (Lexis 2004).

¹⁰⁵ George Lardner, *The Stalking Game; Our Anti-Abuse Laws Are Tougher, But Our Prosecutors Aren't*, WASH. POST, June 2, 1996, at C3.

¹⁰⁶ Memorandum from the Battered Women's Justice Project, A Resource Center on Civil and Criminal Justice for Women, on the Full Faith and Credit Provision of VAWA, to the State Domestic Violence Coalitions (Apr. 30, 1996) (on file with Legal Momentum).

¹⁰⁷ *United States v. Morrison*, 529 U.S. 598, 619-27 (2000).

¹⁰⁸ 42 U.S.C. § 13981 (1994). The Civil Rights Remedy was enacted as part of the Violence Against Women Act, Pub. L. No 103-322, 108 Stat. 1902 (1994), 42 U.S.C. § 13701 *et seq.*

¹⁰⁹ *Morrison*, 529 U.S. at 619, 627.

¹¹⁰ *Id.* at 627. On December 19, 2000, New York City passed legislation, modeled on the VAWA Civil Rights Remedy, that enables victims of gender-motivated crimes to pursue a civil remedy for their harm. Victims of Gender-Motivated Violence Protection Act, N.Y. CITY ADMIN. CODE §§ 8-901 to 8-907 (2000) available at <http://webdocs.nycouncil.info/textfiles/Int%200752-2000A.htm?CFID=85862&CFTOKEN=64864395> (last visited July 27, 2004); see also *Victims of Gender-Motivated Violence Protection Act: Joint Hearing on Intro 750-A Before the General Welfare and the Women's Issues Comms.*, 2000 Leg. (N.Y.C. 2000), (statement of Julie Goldscheid, Acting Legal Director NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund). Indeed, the law goes further by allowing victims seven years to file a civil action under the law. N.Y. CITY ADMIN. CODE § 8-905 available at <http://webdocs.nycouncil.info/textfiles/Int%200752-2000A.htm?CFID=85862&CFTOKEN=64864395> (last visited July 27, 2004).

¹¹¹ Pub. L. No. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464 (codified as amended in various sections of 42 U.S.C.) (2000).

¹¹² VAWA 2000 extended annual funding of provisions enacted in 1994 until 2005. 42 U.S.C. § 14032 (Lexis 2004). It also authorized funding for increased computer technology to better enforce protective orders among different states. 42 U.S.C. § 3796hh (Lexis 2004). Additionally, the Interstate Stalking Act was amended to include interstate cyberstalking, while also expanding the law to include Indian territories. 18 U.S.C. § 2261A (Lexis 2004).

¹¹³ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 17.

¹¹⁴ In most states, protective orders may be obtained from civil courts. Criminal courts in a few states, including those in New York and Ohio, may issue protective orders. See N.Y. CRIM. PROC. § 530.12 (2004), OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 2919.26(a)(1) (Page 2004) (providing for protective orders specifically in cases of stalking). Massachusetts criminal courts grant limited orders of protection. See MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. ch. 276, § 42A (Lexis 2004). Check your local laws or contact a state domestic violence program to see what protections your state courts offer. A list of domestic violence coalitions is included at the end of this kit.

¹¹⁵ NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, *supra* note 2, at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocpa/94Guides/DomViol/chap3.htm> (last visited August 2, 2004).

¹¹⁶ *Id.*

¹¹⁷ *See* NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, THE CRIME OF STALKING: HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM? (1997); B. Benjamin Haas, Comment, *The Formation and Viability of Anti-Stalking Laws*, 39 VILL. L. REV. 1387, 1392 (1994).

¹¹⁸ Elizabeth A. Patton, Note, *Stalking Laws: In Pursuit of a Remedy*, 25 RUTGERS L.J. 465,475 (1994).

¹¹⁹ *See* Carole E. Jordan et al. *Stalking: An Examination of the Criminal Justice Response*, 18 JOURNAL OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE 148 (2003).

¹²⁰ MODEL CODE, *supra* note 69.

¹²¹ Mullen & Pathé, *supra* note 31, at 275–275.

¹²² *See* Joseph G. Jarrett, *Column: Criminal Law: Following the Crime of Stalking* 71 Fla. Bar J. 97, 98 (1997). *See also* Los Angeles Police Department, Detective Support Division at http://www.lapdonline.org/organization/oo/db/dsd/det_support_division.htm (last visited July 27, 2004) (for a brief description of the Los Angeles Threat Management Unit) and City of Brea Threat Management Unit at <http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/page.cfm?name=pd-threat> (for a description of a unit that was modeled after the Los Angeles unit) (last visited July 27, 2004).

¹²³ Rubler Jones & Julie Elaine, *A Program Design Aimed at Helping Police Agencies Help Victims of Stalking* 63 (2-B) DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS INTERNATIONAL (2002).

¹²⁴ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 7.

¹²⁵ *Id.*

¹²⁶ STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2001, *supra* note 41, at 26. For more information on the program call 718-286-6084.

¹²⁷ Sandra Dallas, *Stalker, Keep Your Distance*, BUS. WK., May 13, 1996, at 8.

¹²⁸ *Id.* *See also* <http://parole.state.ny.us/specialoperations.html#electronic> (last visited August 2, 2004); <http://www.govtech.net/magazine/gt/2000/apr/News/aprilnews.phtml> (last visited August 2, 2004) and <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca/fatality.htm> (last visited August 2, 2004). Local governments such as Hamilton County, Ohio have implemented the Juris Monitor program as part of their bail determination procedures. *See e.g.* HAMILTON COUNTY MUN. CT. ADMINISTRATIVE R. 12, *available at* http://www.hamilton-co.org/MunicipalCourt/Administrative_Rules/Rule_12.htm#TOP (last visited August 2, 2004).

¹²⁹ *See* The Wireless Foundation at <http://www.wirelessfoundation.org/CalltoProtect/index.cfm> (last visited August 2, 2004) for information on the Call to Protect Program and HopeLine from Verizon Wireless which provides wireless phones to victims of domestic violence at <http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/aboutUs/communityservice/hopeLine.jsp> (last visited August 2,

2004).

¹³⁰ Charles W. Hall, *Women Get a New Line of Defense: Cell Phones May Help Deter Domestic Violence*, WASH. POST, May 23, 1996, at V1; Tessie Borden, *Help Is At Hand For Women: Victims Get Cell Phones So They Can Call For Aid*, SUN-SENTINEL (Fort Lauderdale) Mar. 22, 1996, at 2B.

¹³¹ See Martha F. Davis & Susan J. Kraham, *Protecting Women's Welfare In The Face Of Violence*, 22 FORDHAM URB. L.J. 1141, 1152-53 (1995).

¹³² *Id.*