



For Victims of Stalking

**Pima County Attorney's Office
Victim Services Division**

Contact us Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(520) 740-5525

What is stalking?

Stalking is virtually any unwanted contact between two people that directly or indirectly communicates a threat or places the victim in fear. Stalking statutes vary from state to state. In general, stalking refers to repeated harassing or threatening behavior by an individual, such as following a person, appearing at a person's home or place of business, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects, or vandalizing a person's property. Stalking is a crime that can touch anyone, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, geographic location, or personal associations.

Unfortunately, there is no single psychological or behavioral profile for stalkers. Most stalkers are young to middle-aged men with above average intelligence. Every stalker is different. This makes it virtually impossible to devise a single effective strategy that can be applied to every situation. It is vital that stalking victims immediately seek the advice of local victim advocates who can work with the victim to devise a safety plan for his/her unique situation and circumstances.

Some stalkers develop an obsession for another person with whom they have no personal relationship. When the victim does not respond as the stalker hopes, the stalker may attempt to force the victim to comply by use of threats and intimidation. When threats and intimidation fail, some stalkers turn to violence.

The most prevalent type of stalking involves a previous personal or romantic relationship between the stalker and victim. This includes domestic violence cases and relationships in which there is no history of violence. In these cases, stalkers try to control every aspect of their victims' lives. The victim becomes the stalker's source of self-esteem, and loss of the relationship becomes the stalker's greatest fear. This dynamic makes a stalker dangerous. Stalking cases that emerge from domestic violence situations are the most lethal type of stalking. The stalker may attempt to renew the relationship by sending flowers, gifts, and love letters. When the victim spurns these unwelcome advances, the stalker often turns to intimidation. Attempts at intimidation typically begin in the form of an unjustified and inappropriate intrusion into the victim's life. The intrusions become more frequent over time. This harassing behavior often escalates to direct or indirect threats. Cases that reach this level of seriousness often end in violence.

If you are being stalked . . .

Any person who suspects that he or she is being stalked should report all contacts and incidents to local law enforcement. To make arrest and prosecution more likely, stalking victims should document every incident as thoroughly as possible, including videotapes, audiotapes, phone answering machine messages, photos of property damage, letters and notes received, objects left, and affidavits from eyewitnesses. Experts recommend that victims keep a journal to document all incidents, including the time, date, and other relevant information. Regardless of how much evidence is gathered, victims should file a complaint with law enforcement as soon as possible.

As a result of the stalking, you may experience a variety of physical, emotional, and financial consequences. The emotional trauma of constantly being on alert for the stalker, or the next harassment, may seem to use up all your energy. You may feel vulnerable and that your life is out of control. You may have nightmares. Your eating and sleeping habits may change. You may feel depressed or hopeless and lack interest in things you once enjoyed. This is not unusual. The constant stress in stalking situations is very real and harmful. Realize that what is happening to you is not normal, it is not your fault, and it is not caused by anything you have done.

If you need help . . .

Remember, as a stalking victim, you are not alone. Do not lose hope. The support network in Pima County includes victim advocacy, counseling services, and support groups. Trained victim advocates can provide vital information and a full range of support services, such as assistance through the criminal justice process and help finding out about your rights as a stalking victim. In Arizona, stalking is a felony per state law A.R.S §13-2923. Harassment charges may also be filed.

You may be able to obtain an injunction against harassment, or an order of protection through the clerk of the court. These are court orders signed by a judge telling the stalker to stay away from you and not to have contact with you in person or by phone. It is not necessary for a civil or criminal domestic violence case to be filed for these orders to be issued. Arizona state laws authorize law enforcement to make an arrest for violation of such an order. Victim advocates from the Pima County Attorney's Office can tell you how the process works in Pima County.

Victim Compensation

Arizona has a Crime Victim Compensation program that may reimburse victims for certain out-of-pocket expenses, including medical expenses, lost wages, and other financial needs considered reasonable. To be eligible, you must report the crime to the police within 72 hours and cooperate with the criminal justice system. The Pima County Attorney's Office Victim Services Division can provide you with compensation applications and additional information.

Important phone numbers

Emergency	911
Community Information and Referral	(800) 352-3792
Southern AZ Mental Health (S.A.M.H.C. 24 hours)	(520) 622-6000
Pima County Crime Victim Compensation	(520) 740-5525
Order of Protection Information (Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse)	(888) 428-0101
<u>Tucson Police Department</u>	
TPD Non-emergency	(520) 791-4444
TPD Records	(520) 791-4461 or 4484
Victim Notification	(800) 721-7937
Tucson City Court Victim Services	(520) 791-5483
Pima County Sheriff's Department - Non-emergency	(520) 351-4900
Pima County Sheriff's Department - Records section	(520) 351-4650
Pima County Pre-Trial Services	(520) 351-8282
Pima County Superior Court Calendar	(520) 740-4200
Pima County Consolidated Justice Court Calendar	(520) 740-3171
National Center for Victims of Crime Stalking Resource Center	(800) 394-2255
Arizona Coalition Against DV Hotline	(800) 782-6400



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