

# STALKING VICTIM SERVICES ON THE NHTI CAMPUS

#### What is Stalking?

New Hampshire State RSA 633:3-a defines Stalking as a course of conduct targeted at a specific person which would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her personal safety or the safety of a member of that person's immediate family, and the person is actually placed in such fear.

Stalking is serious, often violent, and can escalate over time.

#### Some things stalkers do:

- Follow you and show up wherever you are
- Send unwanted gifts, letters, cards, or electronic communications (e-mail, social media)
- Damage your home, car, or other property
- Monitor your phone calls or computer use
- Use technology, like hidden cameras or global positioning systems (GPS), to track where you go
- Drive by or hang out at your home, school, or work
- Threaten to hurt you, your family, friends, or pets
- Find out about you by using public records or online search services, hiring investigators, going through your garbage, or contacting friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers
- Posting information or spreading rumors about you on the Internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth
- Other actions that control, track, or frighten you

# If you are being stalked, you may:

- · Feel fear of what the stalker will do
- Feel vulnerable, unsafe, and not know who to trust
- Feel anxious, irritable, impatient, or on edge
- Feel depressed, hopeless, overwhelmed, tearful, or angry
- Feel stressed, including having trouble concentrating, sleeping, or remembering things
- Have eating problems, such as appetite loss, forgetting to eat, or overeating
- Have flashbacks, disturbing thoughts, feelings, or memories
- Feel confused, frustrated, or isolated because other people don't understand why you are afraid

### What do you do if you are being stalked?

Stalking victims should be highly involved in choosing what actions need to be taken. Whatever steps are taken, the primary concern for everyone involved is the victim's safety.

- If you are in immediate danger:
  - o Call 911 to notify law enforcement.
  - Contact Campus Safety:
    - A Code Blue Phone
    - Emergency line at 603-224-3287

- Office line at 603-230-4042
- If you are not in immediate danger, contact:
  - o Law enforcement
  - Contact Campus Safety:
    - A Code Blue Phone
    - Emergency line at 603-224-3287
    - Office line at 603-230-4042
- If you have been injured, seek medical treatment.
- Tell family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about what has happened.
- Attend a support group for survivors of relationship abuse.
- Create a safety plan for whether you are leaving or staying in the relationship.
  - o <u>Information on leaving an abusive relationship</u>
- You should document everything:
  - Save and date any threatening letters, voicemail messages, emails, and/or social media posts from the abuser, as these can be used for future legal action or can serve as evidence that an existing civil protection order was violated.
- Contact your telephone/wireless service provider to get an unlisted number, change your number, and to report threatening calls.
- Block or change social media account information to deny access to your abuser
  - Do not record any conversation without telling the abuser he or she is being recorded beforehand. It is illegal to record someone without his/her knowledge/consent and renders such evidence useless.
- When feasible, change the locks of your home and/or car.
- If you do not have a cellphone, consider obtaining one.
- Law enforcement agencies log complaints each time they receive a call. Request a copy of each report.

## **Obtaining a Stalking Order**

If you would like to obtain a protection order against your stalker, you will need to contact the local district court where the abuse occurred. If you contact law enforcement, they can assist you with information on obtaining a protection order.

- Once you petition the court, you may be granted a temporary order of protection.
- You will be provided a hearing date.
- Protection orders should specify restrictions at NHTI if both parties are students.
- Obtain and keep copies of warrants, protective orders, court orders, and any other legal documentation.
- It is important for stalking victims to obtain any police report number, court docket, or file number of your complaint so you can follow up on the complaint.

### **Stalking Services and Resources at NHTI**

- Campus Safety may assist you in contacting law enforcement if you wish to report a Stalking incident, violation of a protection order and/or need information on obtaining a Stalking protection order.
- Stalking victims are encouraged to provide Campus Safety with any information regarding a Stalking incident/order and are only able to honor protection orders if a copy is on file with the department:
- Please provide Campus Safety with a photocopy of:
  - Bail conditions

- o Temporary and/or final protective Stalking orders
- Photograph or physical description of the offender
- The Title IX office and/or Campus Safety may open a Title IX investigation if the CCSNH Sexual Misconduct Policy was violated. Please refer to the NHTI Title IX Resource Page for more information.
- Campus Safety will provide Stalking victims with:
  - Alternative parking arrangements
  - Escorts on campus.
- Stalking victims should also be referred to NHTI Health and Counseling Services.
  - They will consult with any student who discloses they are a victim of Stalking.
  - o Referral information for follow-up assistance will be provided.

#### **Reporting Requirements by School Officials**

Staff and Faculty and those designated as Campus Security Authorities who receive information that an individual is being Stalked are required to report it to the Title IX Coordinator or Campus Safety.

NH RSA 169-C:29 requires victims of Stalking who are under the age of 18 be reported to specific authorities.

NH RSA 161-F:46 requires victims of Stalking who are 18 years of age or older and is referred to under Division of Elderly and Adult Services guidelines as dependent on others to manage personal, home, or financial affairs or as a vulnerable person that it be reported to specific authorities.

Persons who do not fall into any of the categories, but are victims of Stalking must be asked whether they object to having their injuries reported to the police.