

GREYHOUNDS TAKE A STAND ~ **Against Stalking**

If you need help or need to report a violent act such as bullying, domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or substance abuse for a student contact the Dean of Students by phone at 620-223-2700 ext. 3500 or for an FSCC employee contact Human Resources at 620-223-2700 ext. 5201. In an emergency contact the Fort Scott Police Department at 620-223-1700.

The Facts

Approximately 3.4 million people in the United States are victims of stalking each year. The primary target is young adults between the ages of 18-24 years old. Most victims know their stalker. About 1 in 4 victims experienced some form of cyberstalking. Stalking creates uncertainty, instills fear and can completely disrupt lives. Refer to the National Institute of Justice for a legal definition and information concerning stalking.

Stalking Involves

- Repeated undesired contact such as phone calls, emails, letters, showing up unexpectedly, etc.
- Following or lying in wait for the individual.
- Making threats to the individual or their family.
- Any harassing or threatening behavior used to contact, track, or place fear in the individual.
- Cyberstalking includes threatening behavior to create unwanted advances using the Internet and other forms of online and computer communications. Some forms of cyber stalking can include harassment using threatening or obscene emails, live chat, texting, hacking or monitoring a victim's computer and online activity.

Who is a Stalker?

- A stalker can be someone you know well or not at all. Most stalkers have dated or been involved with the people they stalk. Most stalking cases involve men stalking women, but men do stalk men, women do stalk women, and women do stalk men.
- Intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their targets, and their behaviors escalate quickly.
- Almost 1/3 of stalkers have stalked before.
- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method.
- 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach.
- Weapons are used to harm, or threaten victims in 1 out of 5 cases.

Know You Are Being Stalked

If you experience any of the following unwanted or harassing contacts on more than one occasion during the past year that made you feel annoyed, fearful, anxious or concerned, you may be a victim of stalking.

- Receiving unwanted phone calls.
- Sending unsolicited or unwanted letters or e-mails
- Having a sense of being followed more than once by someone.
- Having someone show up at places without legitimate reasons or waiting for you.
- Finding unwanted items, presents, or flowers.
- Finding that your property has vandalized or damaged.
- Receiving threats directed at you or someone close to you.
- Finding posted information or rumors about yourself on the Internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth.

Decide No and Take a Stand Now

You have a right to be safe. It is not your fault if someone is stalking you.

You should consider taking the following actions.

- Reporting the stalking to the FSPD.
- There are stalking laws in every state. The stalker may be violating other laws such as assaulting, stealing or destroying property.
- Avoiding all contact with the stalker.
- Vary your routines, including changing driving routes, places frequented.
- Limit time alone and try to not travel alone.
- Informing family, friends, supervisors, co-workers of what is going on.
- Asking for assistance from the FSCC Counseling and Advising Services, college administrators or professors.
- Keeping documentation such as a journal or log of all incidents connected to the stalking.
- All evidence received from the stalker such as letters, packages, taped telephone messages should be kept in a safe place.
- Have a safety plan including escape routes and codes to call help at work, and school.
- Change your patterns and routes depending on where and when you travel.
- Consider requesting a restraining order issued from the court.
- Communicate with your close friends, family and co-workers so that they are also aware and can report any unusual activity.

Be an Active Bystander

- Listen and show support for the victim.
- Have the victim keep you and their close acquaintances informed about their travel, schedule and other information so that they can be located at all times.
- Ask others to include the victim in activities so that it will eliminate them being alone.
- Encourage the victim to ask you or someone they trust to join them if they will be out alone.

- Safely intervene to point by telling the authorities of your concern.
- Encourage the victim to have a phone at all times and include speed dial numbers on their phone.
- Help the victim create a safety plan,
- Help the victim locate a safe place if in imminent danger.
 - o police stations
 - o Residences of family or friends, especially if unknown to the perpetrators
 - o domestic violence shelters
 - o place of worship
 - o public areas

Additional Resources

- Refer to the Stalking Resource Center for more information about stalking and laws in the state where you are being stalked.
- RAINN** is the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network providing support and resources for victims and those affected by the crimes.
- AWARE** website for information about their organization, Arming Women Against Rape and Endangerment.
- End Stalking in America, Inc.* provides direct and immediate one-on-one assistance to potential or current stalking victims.
- Bureau of Justice collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.
- National Center for Victims of Crime or the OVC provides resources to empower consumers and protecting privacy.
- The Office for Victims of Crime offers forums, publications, resources and f funding to assist victims.
- Community Oriented Policing Services or COPS provide information in the form of best practices for law enforcement, addressing crime-related problems, and publications by subject matter experts within the federal government, academics, and law enforcement leaders offering free publications on topics ranging from bullying in schools to computer mapping.
- Information is from The National Center for Victims of Crime website.

In support of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, Title IX regulations and the Clery Act, FSCC prohibits the above offenses.