

Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Unit



May 2018

Stalking

By: Lupe Salazar

Stalking is unwanted or obsessive attention by an individual or group towards another person. Stalking behaviors are related to harassment and intimidation and may include following the victim in person or monitoring them. In Texas, a person commits the crime of stalking if on more than one occasion knowingly engages in conduct that the offender knows or a reasonable person would believe the other person would regard as threatening. A stalker can be someone the victims knows well or not at all. Most 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.

A few statistics to consider:

- 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.
- Almost 1/3 of stalkers have stalked before.
- Intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their targets, and their behaviors escalate quickly.

Stalking Behaviors

Stalkers may:

- Follow and show up wherever victim goes.
- Send unwanted gifts, letters, cards, or e-mails.
- Damage victim's home, car, or other property.
- Monitor victim's phone calls or computer use.
- Use technology, like hidden cameras or global positioning systems (GPS), to track victim's whereabouts.
- Drive by or hang out at victim's home, school, or work.
- Threaten to hurt victim, her/his family, friends, or pets.
- Find out about victim by using public records or online search services, hiring investigators, going through your garbage, or contacting friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers.
- Post information or spread rumors about victim on the Internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth.
- Engage in other actions that control, track, or frighten victim.

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**Next
Volunteer
Meeting**

May 16th
CPS Process

6:30pm to 8:00pm
Sheriff's Office
5555 Airport Blvd.

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Common Reactions of Victims

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

Impact of Stalking on Victims

- 46% of stalking victims fear not knowing what will happen next. [Baum et al., (2009). "Stalking Victimization in the United States." BJS.]
- 29% of stalking victims fear the stalking will never stop. [Baum et al.]
- 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization and more than half lose 5 days of work or more. [Baum et al.]
- 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization. [Baum et al.]
- The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims than the general population, especially if the stalking involves being followed or having one's property destroyed. [Eric Blauuw et al. "The Toll of Stalking," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 17, no. 1(2002):50-63.]

Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide (Murder of Women)

- 76% of intimate partner femicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner.
- 67% had been physically abused by their intimate partner.
- 89% of femicide victims who had been physically assaulted had also been stalked in the 12 months before their murder.
- 79% of abused femicide victims reported being stalked during the same period that they were abused.
- 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers.

Suggestions for Helping Stalking Victims

Stalking is unpredictable and dangerous. No two stalking situations are alike. There are no guarantees that what works for one person will work for another, yet victims can take steps to increase their safety.

Encourage victims to:

- Call 911 if they are in immediate danger!
- Trust their instincts! If they feel unsafe, they probably are.
- Take **threats** seriously. Danger generally is higher when the stalker talks about suicide or murder, or when a victim tries to leave or end the relationship.
- Develop a **safety plan**, including things like changing routine, arranging a place to stay, and having a friend or relative go places with victim. Also, decide in advance what to do if the stalker shows up at your home, work, school, or somewhere else. Tell people how they can help you.
- **Don't communicate** with the stalker or respond to their contact attempts.

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- Keep **evidence** of the stalking. When the stalker follows the victim or contacts the victim, encourage them to write down the time, date, and place.
- Keep emails, text messages, phone messages, letters, or notes. Photograph anything the stalker damages and any injuries the stalker causes. Ask witnesses to write down what they saw. For a copy of an example of a stalking log, go to the National Stalking Resource Center Website: http://victimsofcrime.org/docs/src/stalking-incident-log_pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=4
- Report **every** incident to law enforcement.
- Consider getting a **stalking protective order** that tells the stalker to stay away.
- Tell **family, friends, roommates, and co-workers** about the stalking and seek their support.
- Tell security staff at work, school, apartment complex, gym, church, etc. and provide a picture of the stalker.

Welcome Samantha!

Victim Services Coordinator— Manor Police Department

My name is Samantha Montemayor and I'm from Laredo, Texas. I moved to Austin in 2005 to attend St. Edward's University where I received a BA in Criminology with a minor in Psychology. Post-graduation I began my career with Travis County at Gardner Betts Detention Center, and discovered the challenging and meaningful work of serving at-risk youth. I worked as a Transport Officer, and promoted to Juvenile Probation Officer a year later. I supervised juveniles between the ages of 11-17, and routinely collaborated with community partners, system resources, educators, law enforcement, and mental health professionals.

As a JPO I focused on maintaining community safety, while promoting second order change for juveniles and their families. I completed a social history with every client I worked with, obtaining information on family dynamics, past trauma, criminal history, and identified previous support services. At any given time, I found that approximately 90% of my caseload consisted of juveniles who had experienced a past trauma. Often, these clients had been a victim of sexual/physical abuse, a witness to abuse in the home, had CPS involvement, and had family members with system involvement. These families also had limited outside support, and most were unaware of resources that could enhance their lives. This opened my eyes to system challenges, and I searched for a role where intervention could occur sooner for individuals who had experienced crisis circumstances.

I learned TCSO Victim Services was hiring a staff position that would be assigned to work with Child Abuse cases. I spent the next 4 years working with child victims and their families after an outcry of sexual or physical abuse had been made. I also participated in regional on-call response working with crime victims involved in a variety of circumstances. During this time, I attended graduate school in the evening at St. Edwards, was awarded my MA in Counseling, and completed examination requirements to become a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern.

I moved into the mental health field and worked as a Senior Counselor at Travis County Correctional Complex. I met with inmates in the psychiatric intensive care unit who were significantly impacted by mental illness; my work centered on assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, and stabilization. I also conducted individual and group therapy with appropriate clients focused on psychoeducation, trauma, grief, suicidality, substance abuse, and medication management.

Simultaneously, in the community, I began meeting with clients in private practice under the supervision of a clinical supervisor. I am trained in EMDR, Gottman Method Level 2, and continue to work with individuals, couples, and family relationships.

In March, I resigned from TCSO, and accepted a leadership role as the Victim Services Coordinator for Manor Police Department. As lead agency, Manor Police Department formally established an Interlocal Agreement with Lago Vista Police Department and Jonestown Police Department; thus, creating the Victim Services Network. The VSN will provide services to victims of crime in the jurisdictions of MPD, LVPD, and JTPD. Additionally, we will continue to partner with TCSO and participate in regional-on call.

As the Coordinator I'm grateful to have the support of these departments, and I'm looking forward to creating a program that is driven by best practice initiatives. When I'm not working you can find me reading, listening to podcasts, watching Netflix, enjoying the outdoors, and spending time with my husband and two dogs.

Welcome Kara!

Victim Services Specialist— Manor Police Department

My name is Kara McLeod. I am a native Austinite who grew up north of The River in an awesome neighborhood just outside of Austin's ETJ. My sister, who is two years older, and I were raised by two wonderful serving parents. Our family moved to that home when I was two years old. Although my family has not owned the north Austin home for many years now, it remains the place where my memories were made growing up.

As a child and into adulthood, I watched both my parents serve anyone they had the opportunity to. My mother used to take me, as a small child, to nursing homes on Tuesdays and hospitals on Thursdays to visit elderly and sick friends. On weeknights, you could locate my mother giving shots to diabetics in our neighborhood, collecting mail for traveling neighbors, or caring for animals while neighbors vacationed. Likewise, my father was always available to help a neighbor move something heavy or with his yard or whatever need might arise. Both my parents served faithfully in a local church and were available to take care of any task there they were asked to perform. I grew up watching my father go to work every weekday morning. My father worked for a state agency in Austin until his retirement, and then returned to the same job, to retire a second time.

I lived in the Austin house from pre-K through college. After graduating high school, I attended the University of Texas at Austin where I received a BS in Merchandising. I completed a management internship my senior year and was hired on after graduation with that same Austin company. I worked for that company for a year and a half, and then went to work for the Department of Human Resources. I spent two years at DHS and then moved outside of Austin. I went to work for the City of Taylor as their first Recreation Superintendent, and later, first Public Information Officer. I remained with the City of Taylor until the birth of my son. The years following would find me homeschooling my two blessings, and self-employed as the office manager for a family business. I had the opportunity to volunteer during those years working with children, the elderly, homeless, and most recently, women in/coming out of domestic violence and abuse. Although I enjoy working with all people, domestic violence and abuse victims truly steal my heart.

Last year, I had the privilege of becoming a volunteer for a non-profit, Joyful Inspiration, which serves women in and coming out of domestic violence and abuse. I found my new passion which catapulted me into my new position, Manor Police Department's Victim Services Specialist. I am so excited about this opportunity and the journey I have begun. I look forward to working with Manor PD, Lago Vista PD, Jonestown PD, and the Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Unit.

April 2018 Stats—Call Type

ADAM

Assist Complainant (1)
 Death Notification (1)
 Family Disturbance (2)
 Criminal Mischief/Property Damage/FV (1)

BAKER

Aggravated Assault w/Deadly Weapon/FV (3)
 Assault by Contact (1)
 Assault by Contact/FV (1)
 Assault w/ Injury (1)
 Assault w/Injury/FV (20)
 Assault w/Injury/FV- Strangulation (2)
 Assault w/ Injury/FV w/ Previous Conviction (1)
 Check Welfare (2)
 Deceased Person (6)
 Emotionally Disturbed Person (1)
 Family Disturbance (4)
 Runaway Child (1)
 Sexual Assault/FV (2)
 Sexual Assault of a Child/FV (1)
 Structure Fire (2)
 SWAT Call (1)
 Terroristic Threat/FV (1)
 Theft (1)
 Violation of Protective Order/FV (1)

CHARLIE

Aggravated Assault w/ Deadly Weapon/FV (1)
 Assist Complainant (1)
 Assault w/ Injury/FV (6)
 Assault w/Injury/FV- Strangulation (1)
 Deceased Person (3)
 Sexual Assault (2)
 Sexual Assault of a Child (1)
 Sexual Assault of a Child/FV (1)
 Terroristic Threat/FV (1)

DAVID

Assault w/ Injury/FV (1)
 Criminal Mischief <\$1500 (1)
 Deceased Person (5)
 Family Disturbance (3)
 Missing Adult (1)

OTHER AGENCIES

Assist Bee Cave (2)
 Assist Constable (1)
 Assist DPS (1)
 Assist Jonestown (1)
 Assist Lago Vista (3)
 Assist Lakeway (3)
 Assist Manor (1)

April 2018 Stats—Day and Time

ADAM

SUN (3) 12a-4a (1)
 8a-12p (1)
 8p-12a (1)

MON (0)

TUES (3) 8a-12p (1)
 12p-4p (1)
 4p-8p (1)

WED (2) 12a-4a (1)
 12p-4p (1)

THUR (1) 12p-4p (1)

FRI (1) 8a-12p (1)

SAT (2) 4p-8p (1)
 8p-12a (1)

BAKER

SUN (8) 12a-4a (2)
 4a-8a (1)
 12p-4p (1)
 4p-8p (1)
 8p-12a (3)

MON (7) 8a-12p (3)
 12p-4p (1)
 8p-12a (3)

TUES (4) 12a-4a (1)
 12p-4p (1)
 4p-8p (1)
 8p-12a (1)

WED (10) 8a-12p (1)
 12p-4p (5)
 4p-8p (3)
 8p-12a (1)

THUR (8) 4a-8a (1)
 8a-12p (1)
 4p-8p (2)
 8p-12a (4)

FRI (7) 4a-8a (1)
 12p-4p (3)
 4p-8p (2)
 8p-12a (1)

SAT (9) 12a-4a (3)
 8a-12p (3)
 8p-12a (3)

CHARLIE

SUN (6) 12a-4a (1)
 4a-8a (1)
 12p-4p (2)
 4p-8p (1)
 8p-12a (1)

MON (0)

TUES (0)

WED (2) 8a-12p (1)
 4p-8p (1)

THUR (4) 8a-12p (2)
 12p-4p (1)
 4p-8p (1)

FRI (5) 12a-4a (1)
 4a-8a (1)
 12p-4p (3)

SAT (2) 4a-8a (1)
 8p-12a (1)

DAVID

SUN (2) 4p-8p (1)
 8p-12a (1)

MON (2) 12p-4p (2)

TUES (2) 12p-4p (1)
 4p-8p (1)

WED (1) 4p-8p (1)

THUR (3) 4a-8a (1)
 4p-8p (2)

FRI (1) 4p-8p (1)

SAT (2) 4p-8p (1)
 8p-12a (1)

TCSO VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

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 Sonya Villarreal

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Francisca Ricardo

<https://www.tcssheriff.org/victim-services>

Got News?



If you have newsworthy items or announcements for the newsletter please pass them along to

Heather
 Heather I. Dooley
 @traviscountytexas.gov

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE VICTIM SERVICES

MISSION: WHY WE'RE HERE

To enhance the response of law enforcement, Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services provides crisis intervention, advocacy, and access to resources that reduce the impact of trauma on individuals and the community.

VISION: WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services envisions a community in which individuals experience compassionate support of choices, effective utilization of resources, and enhanced outcomes through collaborative services delivered with integrity and respect.

VALUES: WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

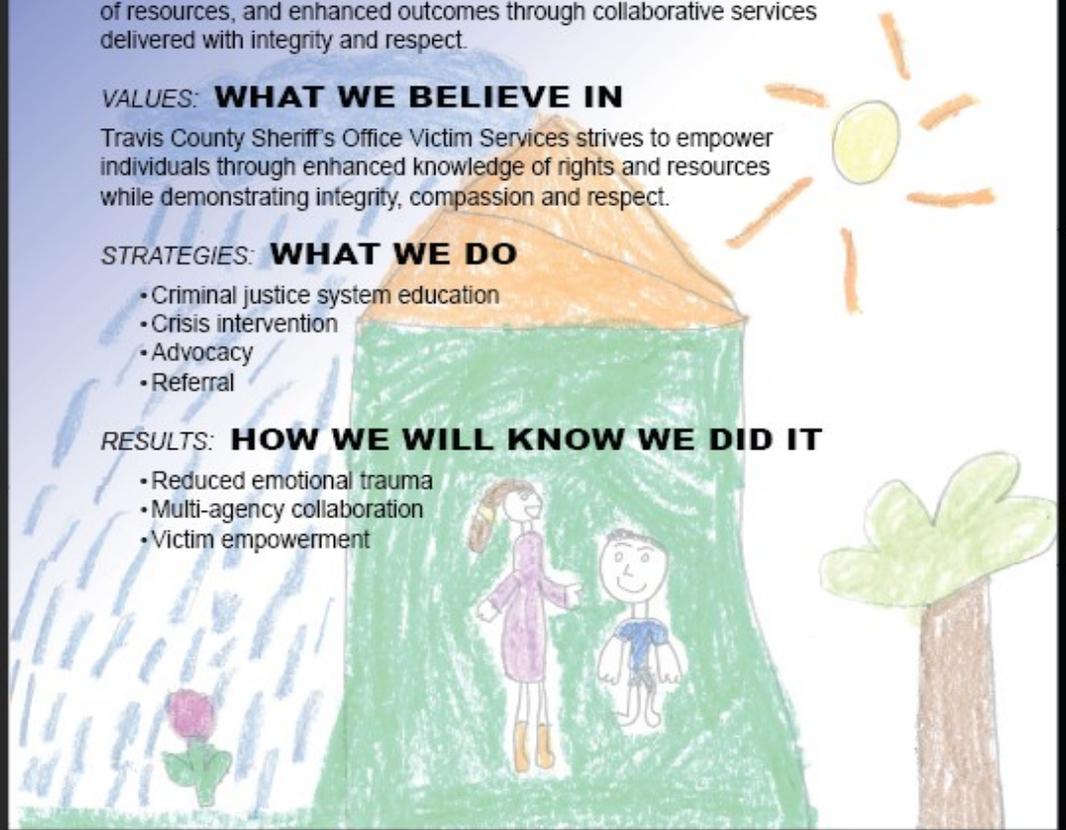
Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services strives to empower individuals through enhanced knowledge of rights and resources while demonstrating integrity, compassion and respect.

STRATEGIES: WHAT WE DO

- Criminal justice system education
- Crisis intervention
- Advocacy
- Referral

RESULTS: HOW WE WILL KNOW WE DID IT

- Reduced emotional trauma
- Multi-agency collaboration
- Victim empowerment



"The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively."

—Bob Marley—