

WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR HOME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

- Install dead bolts. If you lose the key, change the locks and hide the spare keys.
- If possible, install outside lights activated by a motion detector.
- Maintain an unlisted phone number. If harassing calls persist, contact telephone company security and they can assist you with options to trace the origin of such calls.
- Treat any threat as legitimate and call police immediately.
- Vary the routes you take and limit the time you spend walking.
- Tell trusted relatives, friends, and neighbors about the situation. Provide them with a photo or description of the stalker and the car he/she drives.
- If you live in an apartment, provide the manager with a picture or a description of the stalker.
- Have co-workers screen calls and visitors.
- Consider purchasing a personal alarm, which you can carry, that when activated emits a loud squeal.
- Review your parking arrangements.

DOCUMENT STALKING BEHAVIOR

It is vitally important to keep a record of stalking incidents which may support a criminal prosecution.

- * Record dates, times of day and places of contact with individual who is stalking you.
- * Log any telephone calls and save answering machine messages.
- * Save any correspondence from stalker, including the envelope.
- * Document threats in detail.
- * Provide names and addresses of witnesses to any of these incidents to law enforcement or the prosecutor.

Local Assistance By Island

Women's Coalition (STX) 773-9272
Family Resource Center (STT) 776-3966
St. John Community Crisis Center
(STJ) 693-7233

Funded by 2008-09 Grants to State Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the US Department of Justice.



- STALKING -

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CRIME

DVSAC Bay #14 The Village Mall -
St. Croix , VI

Laws

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**Other Information
for Victims of Stalking**

FEDERAL AND VI STALKING LAWS

FEDERAL STALKING LAWS

In 1996 Congress passed a new anti-stalking law as part of the Violence Against Women Act and amended in 2000. Under this law, it is a federal felony to travel in interstate or foreign commerce or within special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of US... with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or place under surveillance... in the course of travel or as a result of such travel to place that person in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury to that person or member of immediate family, spouse or intimate partner.

With similar intent, it is a violation for a person who uses the mail, interactive computer services, or any facility of interstate or foreign commerce to engage in a course of conduct that causes substantial emotional distress to that person and causes reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury (18 U.S.C. Section 2261A)

It is also a federal crime to travel in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to engage in conduct that violates a protection order or causes a victim to travel to facilitate such conduct in violation of a protection order prohibition (18 U.S.C. Section 2262)

VI STALKING DEFINITION

A person is guilty of the crime of stalking who purposely and repeatedly follows another person and engages in a course of conduct or makes a credible threat with the intent of annoying or placing that person in reasonable fear of death or bodily harm or injury. 14 V.I.C. 2072

OTHER ILLEGAL ACTS

Stalking itself may not be the only crime a stalker commits against you. If the stalker has assaulted you physically or sexually, has entered your home without permission, or has damaged, or stolen your property, report it to law enforcement. They should photograph any injuries to your person or damage to your property. These are separate crimes for which the stalker can be prosecuted.

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HELP IS AVAILABLE

VI Police: 911 (For STX Cell: 772-91111)

VI Prosecutor : 774-5666(STT/STJ)
773-0295 (STX)

US Attorney's Office: 774-5757 (STT/STJ)
773-3920 (STX)

Denise Hinds (Stalking Advocate) -STX
Antoinette James (Victim Advocate) - STX

IF YOU ARE IN DANGER FIND A SAFE PLACE TO GO

* Police/Fire Department * Crowded public buildings or places * Homes of friends or relatives preferably unknown to the stalker * Family crisis shelters

AFTER YOU ARE SAFE, NOTIFY POLICE

* Give an accurate description of the stalker, his/her vehicle, address (if known) and a recent photograph
* Notify security personnel in apartments and/or appropriate personnel at your work place.
* ADT Security Systems provides a service whereby 911 can be automatically dialed. This service can be used world-wide. For more information on services and prices contact ADT at 340-773-8343.