LAW ENFORCEMENT TIPS: SLII BEHAVIORS

Stalking includes a wide range of threatening and disturbing behaviors that can be classified into four categories: Surveillance, Life invasion, Intimidation, and Interference through sabotage or attack (SLII). These categories overlap and build on each other.

Victims of stalking rarely identify their victimization as stalking and are unlikely to use the word 'stalking' to describe what they're experiencing. Research and practice show that officers should ask specific questions about stalking behaviors instead of simply asking if someone has been stalked/harassed.

SURVEILLANCE
INTIMIDATION
LIFE INVASION
INTERFERENCE

SURVEILLANCE

SURVEILLANCE is the most commonly identified stalking tactic and includes watching and gathering information about the victim, in-person or through technology.

ASK: Did the suspect ever track, follow, or monitor the victim in any way? In-person or using technology?

Surveillance behaviors include:
- ☐ Watching them from a distance
- ☐ Waiting for them outside their office, gym, classroom, or another location
- ☐ Showing up unexpectedly
- ☐ Using tracking software on the victim's devices
- ☐ Obtaining information about the victim online or from others
- ☐ Going through the victim's mail or trash
- ☐ Planting a tracking device in the victim's vehicle or home
- ☐ And more

This can be done:
- ☐ In person ☐ Online
- ☐ With smart home devices
- ☐ With tracking software or GPS devices
- ☐ With cameras or video/audio recording devices
- ☐ By monitoring online activity
- ☐ By accessing the victim's accounts
- ☐ By researching the victim online
- ☐ By asking others for information about the victim
- ☐ In other ways

LIFE INVASION

LIFE INVASION describes ways that the offender is showing up in the victim's life without the victim's consent, in public or private settings, and in person or through technology.

ASK: Has the suspect repeatedly invaded the victim's life and/or privacy by initiating unwanted contact?

Life Invasion behaviors include:
- ☐ Repeated unwanted contact (phone calls, texts, messages, emails)
- ☐ Sending or leaving unwanted gifts, objects, items
- ☐ Initiating contact through third parties
- ☐ Hacking into their online accounts
- ☐ Harassing friends or family
- ☐ Sending photos of themselves or of the victim in places they frequent
- ☐ Breaking into the victim's car or home when they are not around
- ☐ Showing up uninvited
- ☐ And more

This can be done:
- ☐ In person ☐ Online
- ☐ By impersonating the victim
- ☐ By hacking victim accounts
- ☐ By spoofing (unrecognized numbers calling or texting and harassing them, hang-up calls from random numbers, caller ID shows it is a friend or the court but it is actually the suspect)
- ☐ In other ways

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INTIMIDATION

INTIMIDATION tactics must be considered within the context of the situation, with the totality of stalking behaviors and the victim and offender's relationship and history in mind. Threats can be explicit or implicit. Things that may be innocuous in a different context may become menacing due to their repetitiveness or intrusiveness, or because of the history of violence in the relationship between stalker and victim.

ASK: Has the suspect intimidated or scared the victim through threats?

Intimidation behaviors include:

- ☐ Using a weapon as a threat
- ☐ Forcing confrontations
- ☐ Leaving objects
- ☐ Damaging property
- ☐ Harming pets
- ☐ Blackmailing victim
- ☐ Threatening to harm or kill the victim, themselves, friends, family, pets or others the victim cares about
- ☐ Gestures or words that felt threatening but were not direct threats
- ☐ Describing plans to harm the victim or others
- ☐ Using one of the victim's identities to threaten them, for example by threatening to call immigration authorities or out them as a member of the LGBTQ+ community
- ☐ Having other people threaten, harass, intimidate, stalk, or attack the victim or the victim's friends/family
- ☐ Threatening to share or post private information, photos, or videos
- ☐ And more

This can be done:

- ☐ In person
- ☐ Online

INTERFERENCE

THROUGH SABOTAGE OR ATTACK

INTERFERENCE THROUGH SABOTAGE OR ATTACK can affect everything from the victim's reputation to their employment and/or physical safety. A common and significant consequence is victims losing financial and other resources, which can quickly spiral.

ASK: Has the suspect significantly and directly interfered with the victim's life through sabotage or attack?

Interference behaviors include:

- ☐ Spreading rumors about them
- ☐ Ruining their reputation
- ☐ Publicly humiliating them
- ☐ Jeopardizing the victim's job
- ☐ Damaging property or stealing
- ☐ Preventing them from leaving
- ☐ Causing them to have an accident
- ☐ Interfering with child custody
- ☐ Interfering with medical care
- ☐ Interfering with finances
- ☐ Interfering with their housing
- ☐ Interfering with immigration issues
- ☐ Physical or sexual attack
- ☐ Attacking others close to the victim
- ☐ Pretending to be the victim online/impersonating victim
- ☐ Taking and/or sharing photos or videos of the victim without their consent
- ☐ Posting private photos or information (whether photos were taken and information was shared consensually or not)
- ☐ Posting deepfake photos or videos online (the face is the victim's, the body isn't)
- ☐ Sharing the victim's identity without their consent (for example, as an undocumented immigrant, member the LGBTQ+ community)
- ☐ And more

This can be done:

- ☐ In person
- ☐ Online
- ☐ By hacking into/taking over accounts

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