FACILITATOR SCRIPT

Slide 1

Key message: Introduction to the presentation

- Welcome
- My name is [name] and I’m [role].
- This training was created by the Stalking Prevention, Awareness and Resource Center (SPARC).
- SPARC is funded by the Office on Violence Against Women to provide training and technical assistance to professionals.

Slide 2

Key message: Let’s get started.
Key message: Today’s program will discuss stalking and violence in detail, with examples and true stories.

- Trauma Warning: Today’s program will discuss stalking and violence in detail, with examples and true stories.
- Please take care of yourself however you need to throughout this event.

Note to facilitator: This 3-minute video is embedded in the PPT slides and available online at StalkingAwareness.org – Awareness – Videos.
Key message: Stalking crimes are highly contextual. What causes a stalking victim to feel fear may not be obviously understood as scary by an outsider.

*Divide participants into small groups and give each one of the three examples. Allow 5 minutes for discussion and then ask them to report out. If you have a small audience, you may just split the group into 3. If you have a larger audience, multiple groups will discuss the same prompt. Allow 5 minutes to discuss and 1 minute for each report out).*

Debrief:
- *Can someone from each group briefly summarize the story you read?*
- Stalking cases often include stories like these.
  - Many stalkers use specific, personal, and disturbing methods to scare their victims.
  - Sometimes, it’s not clear to victims that a crime occurred.
- Stalkers know that their victims may sound crazy when they report the stalking – especially if they don’t have proof of what happened.
  - Stalkers can use this to their advantage.
Key message: Context is critical to understanding stalking and why something may be scary to a victim.

- As you discussed with the scenarios, context is critical in stalking cases.
  - The coffee cup isn’t scary until we know the whole story.
- In most legal statutes, stalking crimes have a “reasonable person standard.”
  - The reasonable person standard asks us to consider how any rational person in similar circumstances to the victim might feel.
  - In other words, if a reasonable person would be scared – once they understood the context – that could be stalking.

Note to facilitator: This 2-minute video is embedded in the PPT slides and available online at StalkingAwareness.org – Awareness – Videos.
Key message: Stalking is scary, involves multiple incidents, and involves a stalker targeting one individual victim.

Key message: Fear is key to the definition of stalking. This quote from a stalking victim describes some of the fear the victim experienced.

- Stalking is not just frustrating or annoying. It is scary.
- It’s important to hear from victims in their own words.
  - Fear is how we differentiate stalking from other crimes, like harassment.
  - Harassment generally describes behavior that is irritating, while stalking describes behaviors that cause fear.
Stalking is A PATTERN
*Not a single incident or "one off" event
*Called a "course of conduct" in most stalking statutes

Key message: Stalking is a pattern of behavior that requires 2 or more behaviors. The behaviors can vary or be the same. Some behaviors are criminal on their own (like property damage) while others only become criminal when part of a stalking case (like excessive texting).

• Like domestic violence, stalking is NOT just one incident. It is a pattern.
  • Ask the group: How many times does something have to happen for it to be a pattern? (Answer: 2-3)
  • Does the behavior have to be the same every time (for example, calling every day) or can the behaviors be different? (Answer: Behaviors can be different – like calling one day and then sending a gift the next week)

• When you’re looking at your state’s stalking statute, realize that most legal definitions of stalking use the term “course of conduct.” This is a synonym for “pattern of behavior.”

• Many different behaviors can be part of a stalking pattern/course of conduct.
  • Some stalking behaviors are criminal (for example, property damage).
  • Others are not crimes on their own (for example, sending gifts), but can become criminal when part of a stalking course of conduct.
Stalking Behaviors Include…

- Following
- Watching
- Waiting
- Constant Contact
- Hacking Accounts
- Spreading Rumors
- Leaving Gifts
- Impersonating the Victim Online
- Tracking Location through Technology
- Calling, texting, messaging
- Showing Up
- Gathering Information from Friends and Family
- Explicit Threats
- Property Damage
- Breaking into the Home
- Harassing Pets
- Photographing, Filming, or Recording
- Targeting Others Close to the Victim
- Sharing Private Images
- Tampering with Finances
- Looking through Mail or Trash
- Ruining Reputation
- Custody Interference
- Forced Confrontations
- Road Rage
- Physical or Sexual Assault

Key message: Stalking includes a wide variety of behaviors.

If the stalker’s actions would cause a reasonable person to feel fear, it could be part of a stalking case.

Stalking TARGETS ONE PERSON

Key message: Stalking is directed at a specific person.

• Stalking is directed at a specific individual, not a group.
• However, stalkers may target other people close to the primary victim – like family members or a new boyfriend or girlfriend.
  • A stalker may use people close to the victim to get to the victim.

Part 2
NAME IT

Key Message: Now that we KNOW IT, we will move on to the second section: NAME IT.
Key message: Stalking is prevalent.

- An estimated 25 million people have been stalked in the United States over the course of their lifetimes.
- 6-7.5 million are stalked in a one-year period.
- That’s about 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men.

Key message: Most victims do not report to law enforcement. Stalking often goes unnamed and unreported.

Many stalking victims don’t report what they’re experiencing to law enforcement

- Why do you think this is?
  - Minimization – they don’t think what’s going in is a big deal.
  - Not recognizing it as stalking – they do not know what’s happening is a crime.
  - Shame – they may be embarrassed and/or think what’s occurring is a private matter.
  - Distrust of police – they do not believe that law enforcement will respond appropriately.
Slide 17

Key message: While people of all genders can experience stalking, women are more likely than men to experience stalking.

- Most known victims of stalking are women.
- The majority of victims identify their stalkers as male.

Slide 18

Key message: Myths about stalking can keep victims from recognizing it when it happens. Popular culture often shows stalkers as hooded strangers.

- Here is a screenshot of an image result for the term “stalking.”
- *Ask the group: What do you notice about these pictures?*
  - The popular image of a “stalker” is often a hooded, faceless, male strangers.
  - TV shows popularize the “secret admirer” stalker.
- While this can happen, it is rare.

Slide 19

Key message: The victim knows the perpetrator the vast majority of the time.

- In popular culture, when we hear “stalking” we may think about celebrity stalkers.
  - While this can happen, the victim knows the perpetrator the vast majority of the time.
Key message: Most offenders are known to their victim in some capacity – most often former/current intimate partners. Strangers only account for a minority of the cases.

- When many people think about stalking, they think about celebrities being stalked by obsessed fans.

- In reality, the majority of stalkers are intimate partners (current or former)
  - Stalking is a method of exerting power and control in an abusive relationship.

- It is also essential to realize that many stalkers are NOT intimate partners.
  - Particularly for male victims, the stalker is often an acquaintance.

- Stalking is often categorized under domestic violence.
  - But it’s essential to realize that not all stalking is related to domestic violence.
  - All stalking victims need our help and our response.

Key message: Intimate partner stalkers, on average, pose the greatest threats to their victims.

- Ask the group: Why do you think this is? Why might an intimate partner make for a particularly dangerous stalker? (Sample answers: they know the victim the best – the victim’s schedule, social network, even accounts and passwords. They know the victim well and how best to upset them).
Key message: Introducing Peggy Klinke video and providing a trauma warning to participants.

- We’re going to learn more about a specific stalking case.
- We’ll [watch the video or read the article] and then discuss questions in small groups, then come back together to report out.

*Note to facilitator: Either watch the video as a large group OR split the room into small groups and distribute the article about Peggy Klinke. Show the discussion questions on slide 24.*

**If watching the video, say the following:**
- Included in this video is a very distressing 911 call and a graphic description of a murder.
- Participants are encouraged to take care of themselves as they see fit.

*Allow up to 10 minutes for groups to discuss – reading the article/watching the video and group discussion should take a combined 20 minutes or so.*

Debrief:
- Thank you for having that discussion.
- *Does anyone have any major reflections that they want to share?*

- Peggy’s case highlights some common dynamics of stalking.
- In Peggy’s case, her stalker was a former intimate partner.
Note to Facilitator: The video is embedded here to view. There is also a short article available that participants may read instead of watching the video. The next slide includes the discussion questions.

Slide 24

Discussion Questions (5 Minutes)

* What stalking behaviors did Patrick use to scare Peggy?
* What are some examples of contextually frightening behaviors (i.e., experiences that were scary to Peggy, but may have been difficult to explain to outsiders)?
* Why do you think Peggy’s family initially thought Patrick was “just playing a game”?
* How did the stalking impact Peggy’s life? The lives of her loved ones?

Note to facilitator: Allow small groups time to discuss. Debrief the discussions and allow groups to “report out” and share insights.

Key message: Patrick used a wide variety of stalking tactics to scare Peggy. The stalking case consumed her entire life and affected her friends and family.

Debrief:
• Thank you for having that discussion.
• Does anyone have any major reflections that they want to share?

• Peggy’s case highlights some common dynamics of stalking.
• Patrick used a wide variety of tactics to scare Peggy.
  • His behaviors include some of the most common stalker tactics mentioned earlier (for example, following, property damage, targeting people close to the victim and gathering information about her).
  • Some – like jumping out the bushes and proposing – were contextual in nature and could be easily dismissed by others as “no big deal.”
• Stalking should not have to rise to the level of violence or murder before we take it seriously.
  • We need to be able to identify stalking behaviors early on and step in to stop it.

Slide 25
Key message: You have the power to support victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

• We all have a role to play in building awareness about stalking, addressing stalking, and supporting victims and survivors.

Slide 26
Key message: The casual use of the word “stalking” can make this crime seem less serious than it really is.

• The word “stalking” is often used casually and incorrectly.
  • You may have heard – or said – something like “I was stalking you on Facebook” or “I was stalking you online” when what was happening was not actually stalking.
  • Looking at a friend’s photos on social media is not scary. It is not stalking.
  • Hearing “stalking” used incorrectly so often can negatively impact our sense of urgency around this crime.
  • It can lead both victims and responders to minimize the experience and think that stalking is not so bad.

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  • Hearing “stalking” used incorrectly so often can negatively impact our sense of urgency around this crime.
  • It can lead both victims and responders to minimize the experience and think that stalking is not so bad.
Key message: Do not minimize stalking.

- In the media, stalking is often presented as romantic, funny, or sexy.
  - In reality, it is criminal, traumatic, and dangerous.
- Do not minimize or “downplay” stalking.

Note to facilitator: This 2-minute video is embedded in the PPT slides and available online at StalkingAwareness.org – Awareness – Videos.

Key message: Most victims of stalking talk to their friends or family about the situation before pursuing any sort of professional or legal help. If a stalking victim talks to you, your response makes a huge difference in if they feel validated and/or seek help.

Note to facilitator: A handout is available to distribute with more information on supporting others experiencing stalking. Consider distributing that to attendees and/or referring them to it on the SPARC website, available under Information – for friends.

- Most victims of stalking talk to their friends or family about the situation before pursuing any sort of professional or legal help.
  - In other words, if this is happening to someone you love, they may come to you about it.
  - Your response makes a huge difference in if they feel validated and/or seek help.
Key message: Documentation is critical to show how stalking incidents are adding up. This log is available for free on the SPARC website.

- If you or a loved one are experiencing stalking, documentation is critical.
  - This can help you and any professionals that you work with (law enforcement, victim advocates, etc.) better understand what’s going on.
  - Since stalking can take place across jurisdictions, keeping track of where the event took place can help connect the dots for law enforcement.

- This log is available for free in English and Spanish on the SPARC website.

Key message: You can educate your community on stalking. SPARC has resources to help you.

- By attending today’s training, you took an important step in learning about stalking.
  - Stalking is a dynamic and complex crime. There’s a lot of information.
  - Continue to educate yourself on stalking.
- Stalking impacts every population in every community.
- Bring stalking awareness to groups where you have influence: it could be through your work, a PTA, a religious group, or any number of other places.
  - Educating your community on stalking can make victims more aware of when they are being stalked and more likely to take the threat seriously and seek help.
- I’ll hand out and/or e-mail some resources for you to leave with today.
- You can order print brochures and posters free of charge for organizations you’re a part of.
- Today’s workshop is scripted and available for free online.

Slide 31

Key message: January is National Stalking Awareness Month! Resources to get involved are available on the SPARC website.

- SPARC creates ready-to-use resources each January for Stalking Awareness Month. Visit the SPARC website to get involved.

Slide 32

Key message: Take the time to brainstorm what you can do to address stalking.

- Turn to the person next to you and discuss one thing you can do to help address stalking.
  (Allow 2 minutes for discussion. If time allows, ask for some participants to share their commitments).
Key message: SPARC has more resources on stalking.

- SPARC provides in-person and online training and resources on stalking.
- Visit the SPARC website to learn more.
- Follow SPARC on social media @FollowUsLegally

Thank you for your attention today!
Please learn more at www.StalkingAwareness.org