

## Stalking and Harassment



Stalking can be described as a series of acts which are intended to, or in fact do, cause harassment to another person. Research shows that the overwhelming majority of victims are women. Much of the conduct associated with stalking can be dealt with under existing legislation. Stalkers can have a devastating effect on the lives of their victims, who are subjected to constant harassment at home, in public places and at work, to the extent that they feel they are no longer in control of their lives. It is not unknown for a stalker to harass a victim for many years. Occasionally, the activity is directed towards celebrities whom the stalker would like to befriend.

The methods employed by stalkers can take many forms. They can often harass a victim using actions which are in themselves unlawful, for example threatening, abusive or obscene phone calls; using abusive and threatening language; or committing acts of violence. In these cases, existing legislation can be used. Frequently, however, stalkers do not overtly threaten their victims, but use behaviour

which appears routine and harmless and therefore is not caught by existing law. But even apparently harmless behaviour, such as following someone down the street or sending them flowers, can be intimidating if it is persistently inflicted on a victim against their will.

Stalkers do not always confine themselves to ostensibly non-threatening behaviour, even if it is the way the pursuit of the victim may begin. Whilst in some cases the stalking remains at what might be termed a 'nuisance' level, in many cases, as the obsession of the stalker grows, the methods employed will grow more overtly threatening. Acts can escalate into violence if the stalker's activities remain unchecked.

Surelock can discreetly advise clients on risk assessments, preventative measures and the application of the law. We are well-placed to provide support to the victim where stalking or harassment has occurred and carry out investigational work to collect evidence to prosecute the suspect.

---

Contact Surelock for more information:

P.O. Box 23  
Farnborough  
Hampshire

Phone: 01252 547791  
Fax: 01252 514671  
E-mail: [info@surelock.org](mailto:info@surelock.org)