



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *Stalking* Is No Laughing Matter

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Date: March 15, 2011

Stalking behaviors are endless yet may include following someone on foot or by car, watching someone at work or at home, sending unwanted letters, emails or texts, making unwanted telephone calls, leaving unwanted cards, flowers or gifts. According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, stalking involves following someone in a way that causes the victim to feel fearful or emotionally distressed. There are two basic elements to stalking: 1. The stalker must complete at least two acts of unwanted stalking behavior, no matter how close or far apart in time they are, and 2. The victim must experience reasonable fear of serious bodily injury or substantial emotional distress. As Stalking is a crime, the county District Attorney makes the final decision to file criminal charges in criminal cases, including stalking charges.

A National Violence Against Women survey notes that 1 in every 12 women (8.2 million in US) and 1 in every 48 men (2 million) have been stalked at some time in their lives. According to Jennifer Grube, Executive Director of Women's Resources of Monroe County, "Power and control is often at the root of a perpetrator's behavior, yet it's unfortunate to know that some victims feel they provoked the stalkers



behavior. Clearly, the statistics reveal that stalking most frequently occurs when someone attempts to leave an abusive relationship. It's important to encourage education regarding this topic, as Stalking is certainly a crime and no laughing matter."

The facts also show that young women are most vulnerable to stalking. Eighty percent (80%) of those reporting stalking are female victims and eighty seven percent (87%) of the perpetrators are reportedly male. In Monroe County, victims can access services through a crisis counseling center at Women's Resources of Monroe County.

Women's Resources of Monroe County has provided over 33 years of safe emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis hotline, support, counseling, education, legal advocacy, and community outreach to Monroe County victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The 24-hour crisis hotline can be reached at (570)-421-4200. If you are interested in hosting an event for Women's Resources, please call Janette Peri at 570-424-2093 ext 22. For interests of educational or awareness opportunities, please contact Kelly Randis at 570-424-2093 ext 30. To learn more about Women's Resources of Monroe County, please visit www.wrmonroe.org.

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