CYBERSTALKING

CYBERSTALKING CAN BE DEFINED AS THREATENING OR UNWANTED ADVANCES DIRECTED AT ANOTHER USING THE INTERNET AND OTHER FORMS OF ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.

How do Cyber-stalkers Operate?

Cyberstalkers target their victims through chat rooms, message boards, discussion forums, and email. The act of cyberstalking involves many tactics, including:

- Sending threatening or obscene emails
- Spamming (in which a stalker sends a victim a multitude of junk email)
- Leaving inappropriate messages on message boards or in guest books
- Sending electronic viruses
- Live chat or flaming (online verbal abuse)
- Identity Theft

What Can I Do If I'm Being Cyber-stalked?

If you believe you are the victim of cyberstalking, consider the following:

⇒ Meet with a Victim Advocate to find out your options. The 24/7 Advocate can be reached at (407) 823-5555.

⇒ Experts suggest that if the stalker is known, you should send one clear warning that the communication is unwanted. Ask the offender to stop all communications. Then, no matter what the response, DO NOT communicate with the stalker again.

⇒ File a complaint with both the stalker's, and your own Internet Service Provider (ISP).

⇒ Collect all evidence and documentation made by the stalker (emails, postings, etc.)

⇒ File a report with law enforcement.

⇒ Consider changing your email address and/or blocking unwanted users.

⇒ Use encryption software or privacy protection programs for your computer.

Stalking Resource Center
www.ncvc.org/src/

WHOA (Working to Halt Online Abuse)
www.haltabuse.org

UCF Advocate Services
www.victimservices.ucf.edu

askanadvcoate@mail.ucf.edu
or call
407-823-5555

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Safety Precautions for Online Social Networking Sites

⇒ Make your online profile private, so only your friends can see it.

⇒ Set up your account so that only people you know can request you as a friend.

⇒ Keep your friends list hidden.

⇒ Change your password often to avoid having someone fraudulently use your account.

⇒ Utilize gender and age-neutral display names.

⇒ Be wary of how much information you choose to post and share.