Office on Violence Against Women
Abuse in Later Life Program

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As a Result of This Training, Participants Will Be Better Able to:

- Describe stalking in later life
- Explore some of the unique issues for older victims of stalking
- Recognize technology can be used in stalking in later life

Stalking in Later Life

- A pattern of unwanted behavior and tactics directed at an older individual that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear
- Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior
- Victim who is 50 years of age or older
A DOJ study identified a total of 663,660 cases of stalking among victims age 50 or over that had occurred during a 12-month period.

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics (2012).

Behaviors of Stalkers

- Follow victim
- Damage property
- Threaten victim, family, friends, or pets
- Send unwanted gifts, letters, cards, or emails
- Other actions that control, track, or frighten the victim
Relationships Where Stalking Occurs

- Intimate partner violence
- Dating violence
- Acquaintance, neighbor, or stranger

Possible Case Scenario

- Sylvia is an 80 year old woman who left her 45 year marriage
- Husband is 83
- Threatens with a gun
- Yellow roses to apologize
- “RTG”
Barriers

- Victim may not be aware that stalking is a crime or know how to get help
- System belief that perpetrator is no longer a threat because of his age
- Not believing victim

System Response When Reported

- 77% of older victims were told they were overreacting
- 66.7% of older victims were not taken seriously by law enforcement
Technology and Stalking

- Computers and the Internet
- Phones
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)

Older Adults and Technology

- 77% of older adults have a cell phone
- 59% of older adults go online
- Of these, 29% use social networks
Summary

- Stalking in later life is a pattern of unwanted behavior that targets an older adult
- Older victims experience unique issues when reporting stalking
- Stalkers may use technology to stalk older victims

Staying Connected to NCALL and Other Advocates

- Sign up for our enewsletter: [http://oi.yresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262](http://oi.yresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262)
- Join our listserv for advocates serving older survivors: [ncall@ncall.us](mailto:ncall@ncall.us)
- Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ncall.us](http://www.facebook.com/ncall.us)
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