



Patrick Doherty

ABUSE IN LATER LIFE EDUCATION SERIES FOR ADVOCATES:
STALKING IN LATER LIFE

Module 5

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

2017

Office on Violence Against Women Abuse in Later Life Program

2

This project was supported by Grant No. 2014-TA-AX-K050 and 2016-TA-AX-K071 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

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

3

- 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

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Stalking in Later Life

4

- 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

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life



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).

5

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Behaviors of Stalkers

6

- 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

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Relationships Where Stalking Occurs

7

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

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Possible Case Scenario

8



- 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”

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Barriers

9

- 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

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

System Response When Reported

10

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

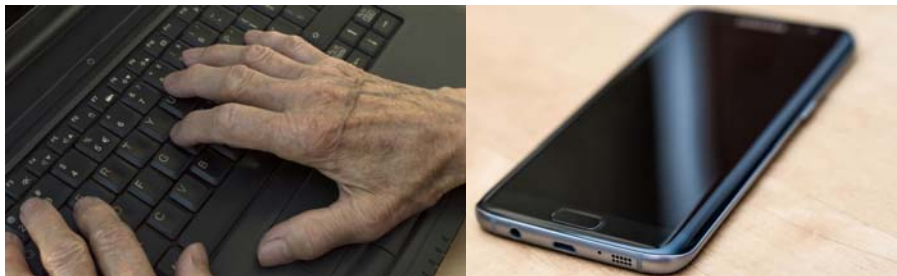
National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Stalking and Age, Sheridan et al. (2014)

Technology and Stalking

11

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



National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Older Adults and Technology

12

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

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Older Adults and Technology Use, Pew Research Center, (2014)

Summary

13

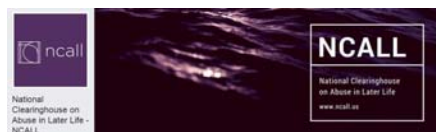
- Stalking in later life is a pattern of unwanted behavior that targets an older adult
- Older victims experience unique issues when reporting stalking
- Stalkers may use technology to stalk older victims

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Staying Connected to NCALL and Other Advocates

14

- Sign up for our newsletter: <http://oi.vresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262>
- Join our listserv for advocates serving older survivors: ncall@ncall.us
- Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ncall.us
- Join us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ncall_us



National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

15

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life,
a project of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin:
(Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

www.ncall.us | ncall@ncall.us

608-255-0539



National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life