



Stalking is any persistent, unwanted behavior(s) that causes or intends to cause fear or harm. Stalking is illegal in all 50 states. Examples of stalking behavior may include:

- * Manipulation
- * Gathering personal information from the internet, friends, family, school or employer
- * Repeatedly sending non-threatening letters, emails, making phone calls, etc.
- * Persistently approaching the victim or asking for dates, meetings, etc.
- * Leaving notes, flowers or gifts at the victims home, work, car, etc.
- * Observing, following, or "coincidentally" being in the same place
- * Spreading rumors, misinformation or telling secrets
- * Vandalizing personal property
- * Making threats

Each of these behaviors may not be illegal individually, and each behavior may not constitute stalking. Often stalkers plan their actions to not be drastic or illegal so they are less likely to be reported. However, a pattern of incidents causing the victim fear or annoyance may constitute stalking. Any of the above mentioned behaviors performed via the internet may also fall under the definition of "cyber-stalking" and are also illegal. If you're wondering where to draw the line between secret admirer and stalker, consider if the attention you are receiving is unwanted or if you feel afraid, "paranoid" or intimidated.