

Anti-Stalking Safety Know-How

According to the newly enacted “Anti-Stalking Act,” stalking refers to: Repeated or continuous infringement of individual will or actions against personal sexuality and/or sexual freedoms, perpetrated in person or through usage of vehicles, tools, equipment, communications and/or the Internet to the effect of striking fear in the victim and/or negatively impacting their daily lives or social activity. Such actions include:

1. Illegal surveillance, observation, tracking or unsolicited acquisition of a person’s whereabouts.
2. Shadowing, stalking, keeping watch or using other methods to approach an individual’s living quarters, school, workplace or frequented establishments.
3. Unprovoked warnings, threats, jeers, insults, discrimination, hate speech, degradations and other actions against targeted individuals.
4. Interfering with others’ daily lives through usage of phone calls, fax, telecommunications, the Internet and/or other devices.
5. Uninvited actions of courtship against targeted individuals.
6. Unsolicited sending, keeping, exhibiting or broadcasting of personal messages, images, soundtracks or video clips to targeted individuals.
7. Announcing or showing to the targeted individual information or objects detrimental to their reputation.
8. Ordering goods or services either through unauthorized appropriation of others’ personal information or without their consent.

When accosted with the above unfortunate circumstances, the following measures can be taken to ensure your safety :

1. **Calmly Seek Help:** Should one find oneself the potential object of stalking, it is advised to approach friends, family or trusted individuals about the situation, and if not under immediate threat of violence, to shout at the stalker, escape swiftly, and call out for help from passersby to notify the police.
2. **Keep Records and Evidence:** Against repeated and/or ongoing instances of unsolicited harassment, it is advised to record the stalking process either with a camera or smartphone, and hand over the resulting evidence to the police.
3. **Hone Self-Defensive Awareness:** Be vigilant at all times, and when boarding/alighting a vehicle, be wary of the surroundings on either side of the vehicle doors to keep away from potential threats. It is also advised to periodically change the times and route of one’s commute and mediums of transportation, or travel under the company of a friend.

4. **Avoid Direct Contact:** Where possible, it is prudent to have friends, family or community security personnel help filter telephone calls and visitor's into one's abode. If contact with the potential stalker is absolutely necessary, do so through a reliable third party (e.g. a friend).
5. Whenever in need of emergency assistance, dial the 110 police hotline immediately.
6. To research related information, one may contact the local police station or precinct, or download and utilize the "Police Services App".

Taipei City Police Department Guardians of You and Me