

## **Recommendation for Stalking Policy**

*Submitted by Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin*

### **1. Recommendation: Use CCSU's definition of stalking**

*Stalking, which is defined as repeatedly contacting another person when:*

- a. The contacting person knows or should know that the contact is unwanted by the other person; and*
- b. The contact causes the other person reasonable apprehension of imminent physical harm or the contacting person knows or should know that the contact causes substantial impairment of the other person's ability to perform the activities of daily life.*

*As used in this definition, the term "contacting" includes, but is not limited to, communicating with (including internet communication via email, instant message, on line community or any other internet communication) or remaining in the physical presence of the other person.*

### **2. Recommendation: Include the Scope of the Oversight or Campus Jurisdiction**

*Example: Middlebury College*

Students will be held accountable for policy violations that take place between the time they first arrive on campus to begin their Middlebury program and their graduation, or Middlebury's confirmation of their resignation or expulsion. Conduct that takes place on or near Middlebury premises or property; occurs at or in connection with a Middlebury-related event; or occurs off-campus but may represent a threat to the safety of the Middlebury community or its members, the pursuit of its objectives, and/or the educational environment of others, may be subject to Middlebury's disciplinary process. In cases where a student is found responsible for a policy violation while participating in any Middlebury program, the finding of responsibility may also be referred to the appropriate authority overseeing any additional Middlebury program in which the student is or will also be enrolled for other action as deemed appropriate. This may include but is not limited to: further investigation; additional adjudication under existing policies (using only information gathered in the first disciplinary process, or using subsequently gathered information, or both, as deemed appropriate by the overseeing authority); disciplinary action; or other remedies or processes deemed appropriate by the authority overseeing the additional Middlebury program.

### **3. Recommendation: Include the following with the examples of stalking**

threatening or obscene gestures

lurking, pursuing or following

Using a third party or parties to accomplish any of the above -Middlebury College

### **4. Recommendation: Include possible penalties and or sanctions**

*Example: Nicholls State University Policy*

The university will not tolerate stalking behavior. The penalty for students found guilty of a stalking offense under this policy may range from disciplinary probation to dismissal from the university as well as other sanctions deemed appropriate by the judicial officer or the University Discipline Committee.

### **5. Recommendation: Introduction**

*Example: Nicholls State University Policy*

The purpose of this policy is to provide a learning atmosphere, which is free of harassment or interference. The university is committed to providing an environment, in which visitors to and members of the campus community are provided with an atmosphere that enhances academic learning and considers the welfare of the community with the highest regard.

Stalking behavior will not be tolerated at Nicholls State University. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic or work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning and work environment. Incidents occurring on and/or off campus are subject to the university discipline process when such actions affect the learning environment or operations of the university.

### **6 . Recommendation: Include statement to stalkers**

*Example: Salisbury University Policy*

If you are engaged in stalking behavior, it is important to get help quickly. Stalking is a serious violation of the university policy and a criminal offense. Counseling and Wellness is available to assist with

### **7. Recommendation: Include statement to victims**

*Example: Salisbury University Policy*

If you are being stalked, it can be very helpful to talk to someone who is trained in working with issues of stalking and can help you deal with your feelings. Contact one of the on campus or off campus resources.

It is important to document all incidents of stalking that occur even if you are not sure what you will do with the information. Be sure to write down each time the stalker contacts you. The log should include the time, date, location and the words and actions of the stalker. Here is an example of a stalking incident log. Be sure to save any and all texts, emails, unwanted gifts and other attempted contacts that the stalker makes.

#### *Documentation of Stalking Incidents*

<i>Date and Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>Witness(es)</i>	<i>Notified</i>
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### **8. Recommendation: Include "What Can a Stalking Victim Do?"**

*Example: Tufts University*

#### **WHAT CAN A STALKING VICTIM DO?**

Report the stalking to the Tufts University Police, or the police in your area, and follow their advice

Inform others close to you (family, friends, residential life staff, coworkers) about the stalking  
Do your best to safely avoid all contact with the stalker  
Keep a journal or log of all incidents connected to the stalking  
Keep any letters, packages, taped telephone messages, or e-mails received from the stalker  
Provide police with photographs of the suspect, a description, and other information  
Inform the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs on the Medford/Somerville campus and learn about other options including a Stay Away Request, safe housing and privacy requests at the university  
Or

**Recommendation: Include Basic Safety Tips**

Try not to walk alone  
Know your surroundings and locations of emergency phones and panic buttons  
Lock your car and house doors when alone  
Consider using different routes to drive or walk to class or other routine places, keeping close friends informed  
Park your vehicle in well-lit areas  
Check your vehicle including front and rear passenger seat areas before getting in  
Change locks to your home and car  
Use the GoSafe service by calling the Tufts Police  
Stay Away Requests – can be sought from the Dean of Student Affairs Office.

*Correction: Spelling of the Ruthe Boyea Women's Center and function:*

The Ruthe Boyea Women's Center advocates for victims, supports personal development and facilitates referrals to appropriate agencies on and off campus.