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[www.domesticabusecouncil.com](http://www.domesticabusecouncil.com)

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For Immediate Release:

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January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affected 6.6 million victims in one year in the United States, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2010 Summary Report. The theme for this year is: "Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It." which challenges the nation to fight this dangerous crime by learning more about it.

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia; yet many victims and criminal justice professionals underestimate its seriousness and impact. In one of five cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten victims, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics 2009 report entitled, "Stalking Victimization in the United States." Stalking is one of the significant risk factors for femicide (homicide of women) in abusive relationships as is stated by Jacquelyn C. Campbell in her report published in 2003. In that same report it was determined that victims suffer anxiety, social dysfunction, and severe depression at much higher rates than the general population, and many lose time from work or have to move as a result of their victimization.

Stalking is difficult to recognize, investigate, and prosecute. Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single easily identifiable crime, but a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, animal abuse as well as unwanted calls, gifts or visits. Increasingly, stalkers are using technology, such as computers, global positioning devices, and cameras to track and capture their victim's activities.

In 2012, Florida Department of Law Enforcement annual crime report stated there were 397 stalking offenses and 188 stalking arrests. Communities that understand stalking, however can support victims and combat the crime. "If more people learn to recognize stalking, we have a better chance to protect victims and prevent tragedies," Chery Fuller CEO of the Domestic Abuse Council, Inc said.

The Domestic Abuse Council Inc. provides education for professionals who work with victims of domestic violence in addition to providing in-service training classes to businesses and overview presentations to civic groups and other organizations. To schedule a presentation, call Darlene Wolfson, Director of Outreach Services at 386-257-2297 ext 19.

To learn more about Domestic Abuse Council go to [www.domesticabusecouncil.com](http://www.domesticabusecouncil.com). The Domestic Abuse Hotline is 1-800-500-1119.

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Services

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