

2016-2017  
**ANNUAL CAMPUS SECURITY  
AND FIRE SAFETY REPORT**

In accordance with the guidelines established by Miami Regional University, and pursuant to federal law identified as the “*Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998*,” all currently enrolled students, campus employees and all prospective students and prospective employees are entitled to request and receive a copy of the MRU Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report.

The report contains crime statistics about certain specified crimes/incidents that have been reported to MRU Management over the past three years and have occurred either on-campus, in off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by MRU, or on public property adjacent to campuses.

*“The Police Department will be the primary reporting and investigating law enforcement agency for all crimes occurring on the MRU campuses is the City of Miami Springs. The same is true for any crimes occurring off outside the boundaries of the MRU Campuses”*

The safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, faculty, and guests are very important to the Miami Regional University (MRU) community. MRU wishes to provide students, faculty and visitors with information on safety, security procedures, policies and resources available and to ask that they cooperate in crime prevention. This policy letter is provided to students as part of the Welcome Packet handed out during orientation. Employees will receive a copy each year via email. Students and staff may also view this policy at [www.mru.edu](http://www.mru.edu) and/or on bulletin boards located throughout the school.

MRU contracts third party security personnel for the parking lot(s) at the main campus. No other security personnel are employed by MRU. Each employee and student at MRU is encouraged to be vigilant and report all suspicious/criminal activity immediately to the appropriate authorities. Members of the school community should immediately report a crime or any emergency by calling 911 or by coming to front desk, administrative office or to any faculty member. When notified of any criminal activity, the MRU employee will immediately report the activity to the local law enforcement agency, if not already reported. Finally, the MRU Safety Officer, Mitsy Sousa 305-442-9223 x6033, must be informed so that appropriate actions can be tracked by MRU.

The MRU administration will alert the MRU community of any threats to the community by personal announcement in the classes and on the campus. E-mail notification will be used to back-up this method.

### **Emergency Evacuation Procedures**

The safety of Miami Regional University's employees, faculty, students and visitors is paramount. It is crucial that the school facilities are maintained in a condition that allow for quick and safe evacuation in the event of an emergency. The Campus Fire Safety Officer, Henry Babani, Vice President 305-442-9223 X6043 is to be notified in the event of any fire / emergency evacuation.

**In the event of fire or other emergencies** that require the evacuation of facilities Miami Regional University students and staff will immediately evacuate the buildings.

The school requires complete evacuation of buildings during any alarm event and will discipline any student or staff who is noncompliant.

A member of the Management Team is assigned to coordinate the evacuation of all students and staff members on our floors.

- If you see fire or smell smoke, pull the nearest fire alarm and begin evacuation procedures at once.
- If you can do so without putting yourself at risk, rescue individuals who may need assistance. (Certain individuals in your building may need assistance with evacuation or getting to a safe location).
- Close all doors behind you. (This action helps to contain the fire to as small of an area as possible).
- Never prop open fire doors. This action will prevent safe evacuation of all building occupants.
- Use exit stairwells for evacuation. **Never use the elevators** (the elevators in most buildings will be automatically called to the primary floor and will not respond to other floors).
- Assemble outside of the building in the pre-determined locations (**parking area across the street from the building**). Never go to another location during an evacuation. Please stay with your classmates and instructor if possible.
- NEVER block roadways or entrances into buildings. The Miami Dade / City of Miami Springs Fire Departments must have free and clear access to the building and all entrances.
- Move away and remain a safe distance from the building. Do not re-enter the building until permitted by the Fire Department officials.

### Fire Log Below

Date	Location	Type	Cause Number of Related Injuries Treated at Medical Facility	Related Deaths	Property Damage	Value of Damaged Property
2014	None					
2015	None					
2016	None					

### Hate Crimes

A hate crime is a criminal offense that manifests evidence that the victim was intentionally selected because of the perpetrator's bias against the victim. The statistics in the Hate Crime charts are separated by category of prejudice. The numbers for most of the specific crime categories are part of the overall statistics reported for each year. The only exception to this are the addition of Simple Assault, Intimidation, and any other crime that involves bodily injury that is not already included in the required reporting categories. MRU has not had any hate crimes reported in the past 3 years.

If a hate crime occurs where there is an incident involving intimidation, vandalism, larceny, simple assault or other bodily injury, the law requires that the statistic be reported as a hate crime even though there is no requirement to report the crime classification in any other area of the Compliance document.

A hate or bias-related crime is not a separate, distinct crime, but is the commission of a criminal offense which was motivated by the offender's bias.

### HATE CRIMES - MAIN CAMPUS

Offense	Year	Race	Religion	Gender	Sexual Orientation	Disability
Murder/Non-Negligent	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Offenses, Forcible	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Offenses/Non-Forcible	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrest	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Referral	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrest	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Referral	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Arrest	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Referral	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0

Intimidation	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0

### HATE CRIMES - MIAMI SPRINGS WEST CAMPUS

Offense	Year	Race	Religion	Gender	Sexual Orientation	Disability
Murder/Non-Negligent	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Offenses, Forcible	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Offenses/Non-Forcible	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrest	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Referral	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Arrest	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Referral	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Arrest	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Referral	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0

	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0

**Campus Statistics of Criminal Offense at Miami Regional University  
On-Campus/Non-Campus Buildings (NONE)/ Public Property Crime Statistics**

The purpose of this report is to advise current and prospective students and employees of crimes that have occurred on campus during the past three calendar years.

Miami Springs Police Department posts recent crimes online. For further information, see <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/police/police-reports-recent-criminal-activity>

**CRIME STATISTICS BY GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION**

Offense	Year	Main Campus Location on Campus	Main Campus Location Public Property		Year	Miami Lakes Location on Campus	Miami Lakes Location Public Property
Murder/Non-Negligent	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Manslaughter	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Sexual Offenses, Forcible	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Sexual Offenses/Non-Forcible	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Robbery	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Burglary	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Larceny	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Vandalism	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Arson	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0

Liquor Law Arrest	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Liquor Law Referral	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Drug Law Arrest	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0
Illegal Weapons Arrest	2014	0	0		2014	0	0
	2015	0	0		2015	0	0
	2016	0	0		2016	0	0

The previous Police Department, Miami Dade Police Department did not provide previous years' statistics.

### Crime Mapping

Working with over 900 agencies across the United States, CrimeReports is the nation's largest collection of law enforcement agencies committed to transparency, public access, and citizen engagement. This website, [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com) provides up-to-date crime information. Community members can access the integrated crime map and receive email crime alerts for free, empowering them to make informed decisions to help improve the safety of their neighborhood and community.

### Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policy

Miami Regional University is committed to providing an environment free of the abuse of alcohol and the illegal use of alcohol and other drugs. MRU has adopted and implemented programs that seek to prevent the illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by MRU community members.

**Standard of Conduct:** The unlawful possession, use, or distribution of drugs and alcohol is prohibited on property owned and controlled by MRU. No employee or student is to report to work or class while under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol.

**Sanctions:** Violation of the policies and laws described in this statement by an employee or student is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion. Such disciplinary actions also may include reprimand or suspension. Student violations will be documented in the company database and with counseling forms. Staff action will be documented in their personnel file. Additionally, a violation may be reason for evaluation and treatment of a drug and/or alcohol-use disorder or referral for prosecution consistent with local, state, and federal criminal law. Disciplinary action by MRU does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges against a student or employee. The filing of criminal charges similarly does not preclude action by MRU.

**Other Legal Sanctions:** State law prohibits the possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under age 21. No person may sell, give, serve or permit to be served alcoholic beverages to a person under 21, and it is unlawful for a person under 21 to misrepresent his age in order to obtain alcohol. Violation of either of these offenses is also punishable by a definite term of imprisonment of up to 60 days and a fine of \$500.

Misrepresentation of age may also lead to curtailment of driving privileges. Under state law, it is a crime for any person to possess or distribute controlled substances/drugs as described in Section 893.03, Florida Statutes, except as authorized by law. Punishment for such crimes ranges from

first-degree misdemeanors (up to one-year imprisonment and up to a \$1,000 fine) to first-degree felonies (up to 30 years imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine).

Individuals who have been convicted of a felony involving the sale of or trafficking in, or conspiracy to sell or traffic in, a controlled substance under certain circumstances may be disqualified from applying for state employment. Penalties under federal law for drug trafficking generally are greater than penalties under state law. Convictions on drug-related charges also may result in disqualification for federal financial aid. Punishments may include a fine of up to \$8 million and life imprisonment.

### **Health Risks Associated with the Use of Illicit Drugs and the Abuse of Alcohol**

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses of alcohol significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. The use of small amounts of alcohol by a pregnant woman can damage the fetus. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increases the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairment in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Heavy use may result in chronic depression and suicide and also may be associated with the abuse of other drugs. Very high doses can cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects described. Even occasional heavy drinking may be associated with the harmful effects described above. Binge drinking, which occurs over an extended period of time, involves repeated use of alcohol to the point of intoxication. A person may give up usual activities and responsibilities during this time in order to use alcohol, and serious impairment in all areas of functioning may occur. Long-term heavy alcohol use can cause digestive disorders, cirrhosis of the liver, circulatory system disorders, and impairment of the central nervous system—all of which may lead to early death. Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence, and at least 15 to 20 percent of heavy users eventually will become problem drinkers or alcoholics if they continue drinking. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions, which can be life threatening. The use of illegal drugs and the misuse of prescription and other drugs also pose a serious threat to health. The use of marijuana (cannabis) may cause impairment of short-term memory, comprehension, and ability to perform tasks requiring concentration. Marijuana use also may cause lung damage, paranoia, and possible psychosis. The use of narcotics, depressants, stimulants, and hallucinogens may cause nervous system disorders and possible death as the result of an overdose. Illicit inhalants can cause liver damage.

**Help for all members of the MRU community** is available through **Alcoholics Anonymous at 305-446-9558** and **Narcotics Anonymous at 305-256-9555**.

Additional places where one can get treatment are listed in the Miami telephone directory under "Alcoholism Information and Treatment Centers" and "Drug Abuse and Addiction—Information and Treatment."

### **NEW CRIME CATEGORIES**

New crime statistics regarding the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization, MRU has begun to compile statistics of any incidents regarding Sexual Violence, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking.

MRU is committed to providing ongoing prevention, educational and awareness webinars and/or seminars for the awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual

assault and stalking. Guest speakers are scheduled randomly throughout the year for employees as well as students.

Domestic Violence	2016	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dating Violence	2016	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stalking	2016	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Domestic Violence

The term “domestic violence” means

1) Felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed

- By a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
- By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
- By a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- By a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred; or
- By any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.

2) For the purposes of complying with the requirements of this section and section 668.41, any incident meeting this definition is considered a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

Under Florida criminal law section 741.28, Domestic Violence is defined as violence committed by a family or household member as defined below and relates to abuse as well as violation of an injunction for protection Domestic violence; definitions. As used in ss. 741.28-741.31:

(1) “Department” means the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

(2) “Domestic violence” means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

(3) “Family or household member” means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

(4) “Law enforcement officer” means any person who is elected, appointed, or employed by any municipality or the state or any political subdivision thereof who meets the minimum qualifications established in s. 943.13 and is certified as a law enforcement officer under s. 943.1395.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or who are dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

If you think you might be in an abusive relationship please call the **National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)** or your local domestic violence center to talk with someone about it.

MRU will make reasonable accommodations and assist any victim regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to the campus security administrator or local law enforcement.



The College will work with department heads and local community to provide the victim options for changing academic, living, transportation, and working situations.

### **Dating Violence**

Dating Violence: The term "dating violence" means violence committed by a person

- 1) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and
- 2) The existence of such a relationship shall be based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Dating Violence includes, but is not limited to sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.

If you think you might be in an abusive relationship please call the **National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)** or your local domestic violence center to talk with someone about it.

### **Sexual Assault and related Definitions:**

- Sexual Assault: "Sexual assault" means an offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest, or statutory rape as used in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting system. A sex offense is any act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.
- Rape is defined as the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.
- Fondling is defined as the touching of the private parts of another person for the purposes of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/ her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.
- Incest is defined as nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
- Statutory Rape is defined a nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent. Under Florida criminal law, Sexual Battery is defined under section 794.011(1)(h) "Sexual battery" means oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object; however, sexual battery does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose.

### **Prevention Policy**

Sexual activity without consent by all parties is considered rape. Consent must be voluntary and not obtained by coercion or threats. Consent can be revoked at any moment. Sexual consent is the voluntary approval of what is done or proposed by another, permission, agreement in opinion or sentiment for sexual activity. Consent is defined in Florida under section 794.011(1)(a) of Florida criminal law as intelligent, knowing, and voluntary consent and does not include coerced submission. "Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the alleged victim to offer physical resistance to the offender.

MRU maintains that all forms of sexual assault are unacceptable. MRU endorses a reporting policy that strongly encourages victims to report all crimes to local police at once. Reporting of a crime ensures that appropriate action can be taken. Crimes can be reported in person, or by calling the police department. If you are sexually assaulted, you should take the following actions:

- Go to a safe place.
- Call the police or 911.
- Contact a trusted friend or family member.
- Do not bathe or douche. If possible, do not urinate.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or brush your teeth if oral contact was made.
- Keep clothes worn during the offense. If you remove them, place them in a paper bag (evidence deteriorates in plastic).
- Get immediate medical attention.
- Do not destroy or move any physical evidence that may be in the vicinity of the crime.
- Tell someone and/or write down the details of the assault as soon as possible.
- Seek counseling services to help you overcome trauma from the event.

**Rape Hotline (RAINN) - (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network 1-800-656-HOPE).** The advocate will provide you with options and you will not have to give your name. **1-800-656-4673**

Should a sex-related offense occur at MRU, administration will work with the student to report the crime to authorities and will direct the student to receive proper medical attention and to protect evidence (see above). Any student found to be guilty of any sexual offense will be immediately expelled from the school.

### **Registered Sex Offender Database**

Florida Department of Law Enforcement is required by law to put all registered sexual predators and offenders who qualify under the Florida Public Safety Information Act (PSIA) on the Internet.

Internet flyers will contain a photo, a physical description, and an address for each subject. This information can be printed from the web page. The internet address is [www.fdle.state.fl.us](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us). Click on Sexual Predators and Offenders.

### **Reporting Sexual Assault:**

After an incident of any type of sexual assault, the victim should consider getting medical attention as soon as possible. In the State of Florida, evidence may be collected, despite you're not choosing to make a report. Consider making an investigation possible and ensure that your evidence is not lost, tainted or become unavailable. It is important to ensure evidence is preserved and attainable. Aside from the local police department, if the assault occurred on MRU property, please report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator by calling 305-442-9223, emailing at [titleixcoordinator@mru.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@mru.edu) or come to the main campus and report in person. The University will provide resources to you on campus. Immediate reporting to the Title IX Coordinator is for the purpose of ensuring prompt response to any incident and ensure appropriate action is taken to any violator. You can also refer to the University website for additional information, <http://mru.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/IX-MRU-TITLE-IX-STATEMENT-FOR-WEB-.pdf>

### **Stalking**

The term stalking means, engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to –

- Fear for his or her safety or the safety of other; or
- Suffer substantial emotional distress

For the purposes of this definition:

- Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about, a person, or interferes with a person's property.
- Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.
- Reasonable persons means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.

Florida criminal law defines Stalking under section 784.048 Stalking; definitions; penalties.

1. As used in this section, the term:

a. "Harass" means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person which causes substantial emotional distress to that person and serves no legitimate purpose.

b. "Course of conduct" means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, which evidences a continuity of purpose. The term does not include constitutionally protected activity such as picketing or other organized protests.

c. "Credible threat" means a verbal or nonverbal threat, or a combination of the two, including threats delivered by electronic communication or implied by a pattern of conduct, which places the person who is the target of the threat in reasonable fear for his or her safety or the safety of his or her family members or individuals closely associated with the person, and which is made with the apparent ability to carry out the threat to cause such harm. It is not necessary to prove that the person making the threat had the intent to actually carry out the threat. The present incarceration of the person making the threat is not a bar to prosecution under this section.

d. "Cyberstalk" means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

2. A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person commits the offense of stalking, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

3. A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person and makes a credible threat to that person commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

4. A person who, after an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence pursuant to s. 784.046, or an injunction for protection against domestic violence pursuant to s. 741.30, or after any other court imposed prohibition of conduct toward the subject person or that person's property, knowingly, willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

5. A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks a child under 16 years of age commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

6. A law enforcement officer may arrest, without a warrant, any person that he or she has probable cause to believe has violated this section.

7. A person who, after having been sentenced for a violation of s. 794.011, s. 800.04, or s. 847.0135(5) and prohibited from contacting the victim of the offense under s. 921.244, willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks the victim commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

8. The punishment imposed under this section shall run consecutive to any former sentence imposed for a conviction for any offense under s. 794.011, s. 800.04, or s. 847.0135(5).

9a. The sentencing court shall consider, as a part of any sentence, issuing an order restraining the defendant from any contact with the victim, which may be valid for up to 10 years, as determined by the court. It is the intent of the Legislature that the length of any such order be based upon the seriousness of the facts before the court, the probability of future violations by the perpetrator, and the safety of the victim and his or her family members or individuals closely associated with the victim.

b. The order may be issued by the court even if the defendant is sentenced to a state prison or county jail or even if the imposition of the sentence is suspended and the defendant is placed on probation.

If you feel you are a victim of stalking and fear for your safety, please call 911 immediately. Additionally:

- If possible, have a phone nearby at all times, preferably one to which the stalker has never had access. Memorize emergency numbers, and make sure that 911 and helpful family or friends are on speed dial.
- Treat all threats, direct and indirect, as legitimate and inform law enforcement immediately.
- Vary routines, including changing routes to work, school, the grocery store, and other places regularly frequented. Limit time spent alone and try to shop at different stores and visit different bank branches.
- When out of the house or work environment, try not to travel alone and try to stay in public areas.
- Get a new, unlisted phone number. Leave the old number active and connected to an answering machine or voicemail. Have a friend, advocate, or law enforcement screen the calls, and save any messages from the stalker. These messages, particularly those that are explicitly abusive or threatening, can be critical evidence for law enforcement to build a stalking case against the offender.
- Do not interact with the person stalking or harassing you. Responding to stalker's actions may reinforce their behavior.
- Consider obtaining a protective order against the stalker. Some states offer stalking protective orders and other victims may be eligible for protective orders under their state's domestic violence statutes.
- Trust your instincts. If you're somewhere that doesn't feel safe, either find ways to make it safer, or leave.

For all other non-emergencies please refer to the stalking resource center website below for detailed literature on safety planning.

<http://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center/help-for-victims/stalking-safety-planning>

### **Bystander Intervention**

A bystander, or witness, is someone who sees a situation but may or may not know what to do, may think others will act or may be afraid to do something.

**Five steps toward taking action** (Adapted from Darley and Latane, 1968)

1. Notice the event along a continuum of actions
2. Consider whether the situation demands your action
3. Decide if you have a responsibility to act
4. Choose what form of assistance to use
5. Understand how to implement the choice safely

The number of programs employing part or all of the bystander approach is growing, but only a few have been scientifically evaluated and found to be effective in changing knowledge, attitudes, or behaviors.

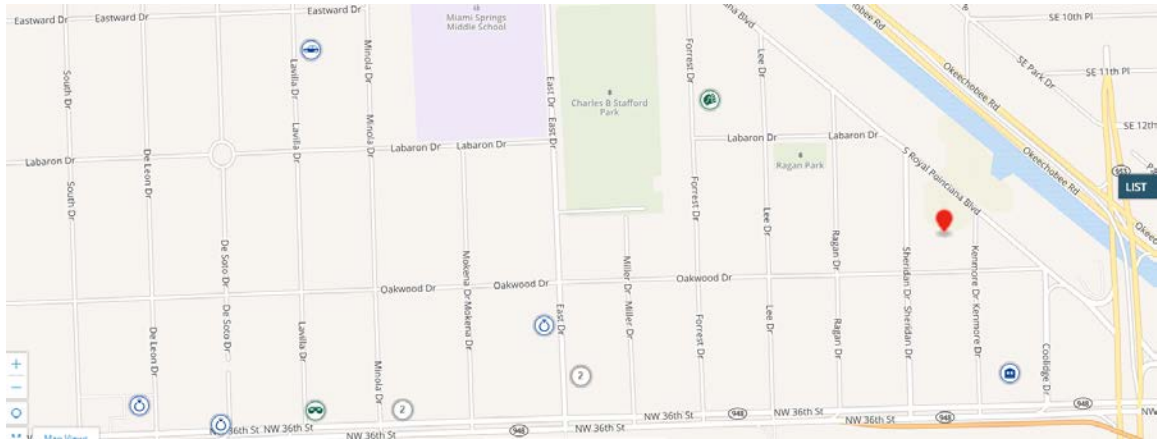
**NotAlone.gov** includes information for students, schools, and anyone interested in finding resources on how to respond to and prevent sexual assault.

**One in Four** is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of rape by thoughtful application of theory and research to rape prevention programming. They offer programs for both Men and Women. The Men's Program focuses on empathy building with college men, teaching them ways of being supportive allies for survivors after incidents of violence. This program was shown to be effective regarding attitude change. Main goals for the Women's Program is to enable and empower women to recognize characteristics of high risk perpetrators and high-risk situations as well as helping rape survivors. ([www.oneinfourusa.org](http://www.oneinfourusa.org)).

**Standard of Conduct:** Any occurrence of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking is prohibited on property owned and controlled by MRU. Any employee or student under investigation of such an occurrence is NOT to report to work or class until the investigation is complete.

**Sanctions:** Violation of the policies and laws described in this statement by an employee or student is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion. Such disciplinary actions also may include reprimand or suspension. Student violations will be documented in the company database and with counseling forms. Staff action will be documented in their personnel file. Additionally, a reporting will be reason for notification to local police department for full investigation. Disciplinary action by MRU does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges against a student or employee. The filing of criminal charges similarly does not preclude action by MRU.

## Recent Crimes Reported by Miami Springs Police Department



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

<http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/police/police-reports-recent-criminal-activity>