

Responding to Victims of Stalking

Stalking laws in Arkansas prohibit people from engaging in behaviors and conduct that would make a reasonable person fear for their safety or the safety of another individual. Stalking is a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for his or her safety or the safety of others and /or suffer substantial emotional distress. Stalking may include repeated unwanted communication in person or through phone, e-mail, or social media; following or waiting for the victim at their home, school work, etc.; tracking the victim with GPS or other technology; making threats and damaging property.

If you are a victim of stalking, your first priority should be safety. If there is any immediate danger, contact Campus Police (479-619-4229) if you are on campus, or call 911 if you are off campus. If you have safety concerns, the Department of Public Safety can also escort you to your vehicle on campus. Downloading LiveSafe from the App Store or Google Play is another way to share information with Public Safety, know what resources are around you on campus, and quickly request help in an emergency. You are encouraged to report stalking to the Director of Student Support, and/or the Dean of Students, and/or Public Safety.

NWACC Public Safety/Campus Police
CHP 1033C479-619-4229

Matthew Popowich, Director of Community Standards
SC 225 E479-986-6682

Dr. Judd Harbin, Dean of Students
SC 225J479-619-4234

You may also contact a local police department by dialing 911.

Filing a police report with an NWACC Public Safety officer will **not** obligate you to prosecute. If you are a victim of stalking, you may choose for the investigation to be pursued through the criminal justice system and NWACC, or only through NWACC. A college representative from the Public Safety Department or the Dean of Students will guide you through the available options, will support you in your decision, and connect you to community resources

and local police if desired. Filing a report if you are a victim of stalking will help ensure that you understand your options and are connected to resources. Regardless of whether the person who is accused of stalking is associated with NWACC, the college will provide assistance for any student who is a victim.



Guidance if you are a victim of stalking

- ▶ Call the NWA Women's Shelter at 800-775-9011 for support, advocacy, emergency shelter, and other resources. Please note that the shelter services women, men, and children.
- ▶ If you are experiencing stalking, you are encouraged to document all related behaviors, such as harassing telephone calls, electronic contacts (texts, e-mails, contact via social media), letters/notes, acts of vandalism, and threats communicated through third parties. If possible, try to include the date, time, location, and description of what occurred.
- ▶ If you were harmed, you are encouraged to receive medical attention as quickly as possible.
- ▶ Tell someone you trust about the incident, you may want to develop a safe word to be used in emergency situations to indicate when and how they can help you.
- ▶ If you obtain external orders of protection, please notify Campus Police, the Dean of Students, the Director of Student Support, or the Title IX Coordinator so that those orders can be observed on campus.
- ▶ Treat all threats, direct or indirect, as legitimate and report them.

Whom to Contact on Campus

	Information & Support	Immediate Protection	Formal Investigation & Outcome	Counseling Services	Contact Information
NWACC Counseling <i>Confidential & free</i>	✓			✓	479.619.4128 counseling@nwacc.edu
Campus Police	✓	✓	✓		479.619.4229
Dean of Students	✓		✓		479.619.4234 jharbin1@nwacc.edu
Director of Community Standards	✓		✓		479.986.6682 m3popowich@nwacc.edu
Title IX Coordinator	✓		✓		479.619.4188 ttaylor19@nwacc.edu
Confidential Advocate <i>Confidential & free</i>	✓				See following list

Some people may choose to start with a **Confidential Advocate** before making the decision on what steps to take.

Cierra Collins

ccollins15@nwacc.edu SC 225 479-619-4315

Juanita Franklin

jfranklin1@nwacc.edu SC 223 619-2204

Confidential Advocates have been specially trained to provide affirming, empowering, and confidential support. The Advocate will listen and explain options available to you while providing support. It is your decision to pursue available resources or to report an incident to law enforcement or the College. Although rare, there are times when the College may not be able to honor a victim's request for confidentiality. If a victim discloses an incident to an Advocate but wishes that no investigation into the incident be conducted or disciplinary action taken, the Advocate must weigh that request against the College's obligation to provide a safe environment for all students, including the victim.

Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter

479-246-9999
24 Hour Crisis Line: 800-775-9011
www.nwaws.org

Peace at Home Family Shelter

24 Hour Crisis Lines:
479-442-9811 • Toll Free: 877-442-9811
www.peaceathomeshter.org

Arkansas Crisis Center

24 hour Crisis Lines
888.274.7472
www.arcrisis.org

Stalking Resource Center

<http://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>

Student Conduct Proceedings

NWACC disciplinary proceedings are detailed in the Title IX Policy and Procedures. The accused (responding party) and the victim (reporting party) will each be allowed to have someone accompany them throughout the investigation and procedures. Both the reporting and the responding parties will be informed of the outcome of the investigation. If found responsible for stalking, possible disciplinary sanctions for the responding party include expulsion, suspension, course or program dismissal, conduct probation, disciplinary warning, restitution of college property, restriction of participation in student organizations, events, and college employment, limited access to designated areas, educational sanctions which could include co-curricular education, community service, a conduct review(s) and/or educational conversation with college official(s), mandatory counseling, alcohol and/or drug assessment. The responding party could also be subjected to criminal prosecution in the state courts. Retaliation against any person who files a report or participates in an investigation is not permissible and may result in further charges.

Student Support

Academic situations may be adjusted and no contact orders implemented in order to support and protect the safety and well-being of all parties involved. The Dean of Students can provide information about this option and assist you with the process. The Dean of Students can also assist in connecting students to campus and community resources. Professional counseling services are available at no cost to students by emailing counseling@nwacc.edu

Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) makes available literature regarding stalking through the Student Center brochure rack and the Washington County Center. The Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault www.arkcasa.us is an informative resource for sexual assault.

The Arkansas Sex Offender Registry is accessible by going to www.acic.org. NWACC's Department of Public Safety (DPS) maintains a folder of all registered sex offenders. To view this folder, visit the DPS office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.