



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, New Jersey law defines stalking as repeated and unwanted contact, surveillance, or proximity to an individual, which purposefully or knowingly causes a reasonable person to fear for safety or experience other emotional distress; and

WHEREAS, stalking victims may be monitored, harassed, or threatened – often through phone calls, text messages, video and location devices, social media and other electronic methods; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 6 to 7.5 million people are stalked annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have suffered stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, about half of all victims of stalking indicated that they were stalked before the age of 25; and

WHEREAS, most stalkers are former, current or hopeful intimate partners of their victims; and

WHEREAS, stalking is also a significant risk factor for domestic violence-related homicide, with over 76 percent of victims having experienced stalking before other controlling signs and actions; and

WHEREAS, in response to being stalked, victims may experience depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress and other and mental health related implications; and

WHEREAS, technology has facilitated stalking; and

WHEREAS, stalking behavior can include using children and other family members to follow and harass a victim; and

WHEREAS, giving of unwanted gifts, trying to get a victim in trouble by making false reports to law enforcement, and using the legal and civil system by filing frivolous lawsuits can also be forms of stalking; and

WHEREAS, people who suspect that they are being stalked are encouraged to document what is happening, tell a trusted person, report it to the local police, make a safety plan and connect with a service-based non-profit agency; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey continues to provide supportive services through multiple state and local agencies, including the Departments of Children and Families, Law and Public Safety, and local law enforcement to assist and support victims of stalking; and

WHEREAS, it is important to educate residents about the impact and prevalence of the crime of stalking;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do proclaim:

JANUARY 2023

AS

STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this sixth day of December in the year two thousand twenty-two, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR