Interventionsstelle gegen häusliche Gewalt und Stalking Intervention Agency Against Domestic Violence and Stalking Heiligengeisthof 3 · 18055 Rostock Tel: 0381 458 29 38 interventionsstelle.rostock@fhfrostock.de

Autonomes Frauenhaus Independent Women's Shelter Postfach 101153 · 18002 Rostock Tel: 0381 45 44 06 frauenhaus@fhf-rostock.de

Fachberatungsstelle gegen sexualisierte Gewalt Specialist Advice Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence

Ernst-Haeckel-Str. 1 · 18059 Rostock Tel: 0381 440 32 90 fachberatungsstelle@fhf-rostock.de

Opferhilfe Rostock Victim Support Rostock Schröderstr. 22 · 18055 Rostock Tel: 0381 490 74 60

Beratungsstelle für Betroffene häuslicher Gewalt Advice Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence

info@opferhilfe-mv.de

Am Wasserwerk 1 · 18236 Kröpelin Tel: 038292 826 78 16 beratungsstelle.kroepelin@ internationaler-bund.de

Frauenschutzhaus Women's Refuge Postfach 1120 · 18261 Güstrow Tel: 03843 68 31 86 archeev@web.de

Schwerin, Landkreis Ludwigslust-Parchim, Nordwestmecklenburg Schwerin, Administrative District of Ludwigslust-Parchim, Nordwestmecklenburg

Interventionsstelle gegen häusliche Gewalt und Stalking Intervention Agency Against Domestic Violence and Stalking Arsenalstr. 15 · 19053 Schwerin Tel: 0385 555 88 33 interventionsstelle@awo-

AWO Frauen in Not - Frauenhaus AWO Women in Need -Women's Shelter

schwerin.de

Postfach 110563 · 19005 Schwerin Tel: 0385 555 73 56 frauenhaus@awo-schwerin.de

Beratungsstelle gegen sexualisierte Gewalt Advice Centre for Victims of Sexual

Violence Arsenalstr. 15 · 19053 Schwerin Tel: 0385 55573 52

Tel: 0385 555 73 52 bgsg@awo-schwerin.de

Opferhilfe Schwerin Victim Support Schwerin Wismarsche Str. 148 19053 Schwerin Tel: 0385 550 75 00 beratungsstelle@soda-ei.de

Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von häuslicher Gewalt Advice Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence Rudolf-Breitscheid-Straße 27

Rudolf-Breitscheid-Straße 27 23936 Grevesmühlen Tel: 03881 75 85 64 kbst-gvm@awo-schwerin.de

AWO Frauenschutzhaus Wismar AWO Women's Shelter Wismar Postfach 1462 · 23957 Wismar Tel: 03841 28 36 27 frauenhaus@awo-wismar.de

Opferhilfe Rostock
Victim Support Rostock
Außenstelle Wismar in der VHS
Wismar Branch Office in the VHS
Badstaven 20 · 23966 Wismar
Tel: 0157 88 25 84 39 oder
Tel: 0381 4 90 74 60

info@opferhilfe-mv.de

AWO Frauenhaus Ludwigslust
AWO Women's Shelter Ludwigslust
Postfach 233 · 19282 Ludwigslust
Tel: 038751 212 70
fh@awo-Ludwigslust.de

Opferhilfe Schwerin
Victim Support Schwerin
Außenstelle Ludwigslust
Ludwigslust Branch Office
Stift Bethlehem · Neustädter Str. 4
19288 Ludwigslust
Tel: 0385 550 75 00

Beratungsstelle für Betroffene häuslicher Gewalt Advice Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence Flörkestr. 44 · 19370 Parchim Tel: 03871 26 59 77 beratung-haeusliche-qewalt@awo-

Opferhilfe Schwerin Victim Support Schwerin Außenstelle Parchim Parchim Branch Office Diakoniewerk Koster Dobbertin Leninstr. 7-8 · 19370 Parchim Tel: 0385 550 750 00

ludwigslust.de

Landkreis Vorpommern-Greifswald Administrative District of Vorpommern-Greifswald

Interventionsstelle gegen häusliche Gewalt und Stalking Anklam/Wolgast Intervention Agency Against Domestic Violence and Stalking Anklam/Wolgast Mühlentrift 4 · 17438 Wolgast Tel: 03836 237 2700 ist.anklam@freenet.de

Frauenhaus Greifswald Women's Shelter Greifswald Postfach 3309 · 17463 Greifswald Tel: 03834 50 06 56 kontakt@frauenhaus-greifswald.de

Fachberatungsstelle gegen sexualisierte Gewalt Advice Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence Bahnhofstr. 16 · 17489 Greifswald Tel: 03834 798 31 99 anonym@caritas-vorpommern.de

Opferhilfe Greifswald Victim Support Greifswald Bahnhofstraße 16 · 17489 Greifswald Tel: 03834 798 30 opferberatung@caritas-vorpommern.de

Ctalking

NINA - Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von häuslicher Gewalt NINA - Advice Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence Ostrowskistr. 15 · 17438 Wolgast Tel: 03836 237 76 30 ohg@kdw-greifswald.de

Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von häuslicher Gewalt Advice Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence

Oskar-Picht-Str. 1 · 17309 Pasewalk Tel: 03973 204 99 75 kbst-psw@uecker-randow.drk.de

Landkreis Vorpommern-Rügen Administrative District of Vorpommern-Rügen

Interventionsstelle gegen häusliche Gewalt und Stalking Intervention Agency Against Domestic Violence and Stalking Frankendamm 5 · 18439 Stralsund Tel: 03831 30 77 50 interventionsstelle.stralsund@fhf-

Frauenschutzhaus Stralsund
Women's Shelter Stralsund
Postfach 1316 · 18403 Stralsund
Tel: 03831 29 28 31
fsh-hst@awo-vorpommern.de

rostock.de

Frauenhaus Ribnitz-Damgarten Women's Shelter Ribnitz-Darmgarten Postfach 1047 18301 Ribnitz-Damgarten Tel: 03821 72 03 66 fsh-rd@awo-vorpommern.de

Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von häuslicher Gewalt Advice Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence Bahnhofstr. 27 · 18528 Bergen a. Rügen Tel: 03838 20 17 93

frauenberatung-ruegen@t-online.de

MISS. Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von sexualisierter Gewalt (Bergen) MISS. Advice Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence (Bergen)

Ringstr. 114 · 18528 Bergen auf Rügen Tel: 03838 25 45 45 kontakt@miss-beratungsstelle.de

MISS. Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von sexualisierter Gewalt (Stralsund) MISS. Advice Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence (Stralsund) Frankendamm 5 · 18439 Stralsund Tel: 03831 667 93 63

kontakt@miss-beratungsstelle.de

Landkreis Mecklenburgische Seenplatte Administrative District of the Mecklenburgische Seenplatte

Interventionsstelle gegen häusliche Gewalt und Stalking Intervention Agency Against Domestic Violence and Stalking Helmut-Just-Str. 4 17036 Neubrandenburg Tel: 0395 558 43 84 interventionsstelle-nb@web.de

Frauen- und Kinderschutzhaus Neubrandenburg Women and Childen's Shelter Neubrandenburg Postfach 400208 17022 Neubrandenburg Tel: 0395 778 26 40 fksh-nb@gmx.de

General information for those affected by crime can also be found online at www.polizei.mvnet.de under "Prävention/Opferberatung"/ "Prevention/victim counselling"



Maxi – Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von sexueller Gewalt Maxi – Advice Centre for Victims of Sexual Violence

Helmut-Just-Str. 4 17036 Neubrandenburg Tel: 0395 570 66 61 bsmaxi@gmx.de

"Klara" Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von häuslicher Gewalt "Klara" Advice Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence Lange Str. 35 · 17192 Waren Tel: 0399116 5111 klara@diakonie-malchin.de

Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von häuslicher Gewalt Advice Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence Am Hanseufer 2 · 17109 Demmin Tel: 03998 285 49 08 boha@awo-demmin.de

Opferhilfe Neubrandenburg Victim Support Neubrandenburg Tilly-Schanzen-Str. 17 17033 Neubrandenburg Tel: 0395 35112 18 info.nb@opferhilfe-mv.de

In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the volunteers of the WEISSER RING are organised in 17 branch offices. Contact with the relevant field office can be arranged via:

WEISSER RING e.V. Landesbüro Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Wismarsche Straße 183/185 19053 Schwerin Tel: 0385 500 76 60 lbmeckpom@weisser-ring.de

This leaflet was compiled in the autum of 2009 by the Stalking Working Group of the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern State Council for Crime Prevention and last updated in December 2017.



Stalking Stalking

Information for Victims



What is stalking?

So-called stalking (following someone) is punishable under Article 238 of the Criminal Code (StGB). Stalking is the unauthorised following of another person in a way that is likely to severely affect their lives. Usually, stalkers are former partners. The person doing the stalking may also come from your neighbourhood, your wider circle of acquaintances or your work environment or be someone you do not know at all.

Most of the victims are female, and most of the stalkers are male.

Stalkers often try to make contact with those affected by stalking them over a long period of time, even if the person affected consistently and unequivocally refuses to have anything to do with the stalker.

Stalking can take many forms including

- constant presence, spying, watching, following (also using technology: GPS, position finding software, i.e. so-called "tracking"),
- making contact via third parties,
- frequent phone calls at all times,
- recurrent (often denigratory) contact (via letter, text message, e-mail, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, entries in Internet forums or on social networks or other digital media),
- unwanted gifts (including of money),
- entering your living space,
- damage to property,
- leaving behind sickening evidence that the stalker was there,
- threats and physical attacks and/or
- ordering goods.

Stalking

The effects of stalking

The persecution, which usually takes place over a long period of time, can lead to stress among those affected by it. You may feel that you are at the mercy of the stalker and that you have lost control over your own life.

Acts of stalking can trigger and worsen physical and mental states of illness. People affected by stalking complain in part of symptoms of anxiety, inner turmoil, increased mistrust, sleep disorders, stomach complaints, headaches, depression, jumpiness or difficulty concentrating.

The effects of stalking can lead to serious changes in the personal lifestyle of those affected by it. For example, friendships and relationships are broken off and new acquaintances are not made.

To some extent, stalking interferes with the victim's circle of relatives. In some cases, friends and relatives are also stalked.

What can I do?

Stalking victims should react early to the stalker's behaviour and seek help. Basically, it is a matter of talking timely action

- one-off clear rejection of having any contact with the stalker,
- consistently avoid any contact,
- inform your wider social environment,
- constantly document the events in chronological order and
- look for support (see the section called "Who will help me?").

How to behave if you're a victim of stalking:

Immediately and unequivocally make it clear to the stalker

 ideally with witnesses – that you do not wish the stalker
 to make any contact with you at all and that you want
 nothing to do with the stalker. Be sure to stick to this!
 Ignore the stalker completely, because the stalker sees all
 further reactions on your part as a positive signal and sign
 of affection.

- Stop a call as soon as you recognise the stalker.
- Inform all the people you know i.e. your family, your friends, the kindergarten and school, your sports club, your colleagues, employer, etc. – that you are a victim of stalking. Because the general public can protect you!
- Always carry a working mobile phone with you.
- Call the police in the case of danger or a specific threat (emergency phone number 110).
- If the stalker follows you by car, drive to the nearest police station. If you do not want to drive on, stop at a petrol station or similar place where you can expect help and contact the police.
- Keep a "stalking diary". Document and record everything the stalker sends you and does. Keep gifts, letters and notes in a safe place. Also document and save electronic messages and the stalker's behaviour on Internet forums or social networks. All this can serve as evidence in court! An answering machine or a mailbox may also be useful for recording calls.
- Do not accept any packages that you are not expecting.
 Send unsolicited goods back to the sender, otherwise you may have to pay for them.
- Destroy old mail and waste before disposing of it so the stalker cannot get any information from it.
- Change and protect all passwords on your computer, mobile phone and other electronic communication devices.
- Check if you should change your SIM card or buy a second one. Does your telephone or mobile service provider also offer a lock on certain numbers or anonymous calls?
- Check your mobile phone to see if there are any unknown applications (apps) on it. Enable wireless interfaces only when you need to do so.
- Report every criminal offence to the police.
- Seek advice and use the opportunities available to deal with the stalker.

Legal protection measures

Besides reporting an offence to the police and despite this, the locally competent district court – the family court – may, on request, be able to order measures to give victims timely protection against the person doing the stalking (so-called "protection against violence application"). One measure is a restraining order, for example, for the home of the victim, their workplace, the day-care centre or school of their child, as well as a ban on any personal contact or a ban on contacting the victim by phone, text message, fax, e-mail, messenger service, social networks or other digital media. These protection orders are usually limited in time, but can be extended upon application.

Violations are in part punishable under Article 4 of the Violence Protection Act (GewSchG).

Who will help me?

In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the intervention agencies against domestic violence and stalking, Opernhilfe MV (Victim Support MV), the women's shelters, the advice centres for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and the WEISSE RING all have experience in helping stalking victims. These facilities will tell you about security options, accompany you to the authorities if need be and, in the event of specific problems, pass you on to suitable facilities. The advice offered to you is confidential and free of charge. Support is given to you anonymously if you so wish and regardless of whether a complaint of an offence has been filed.

For women affected by stalking, women's shelters provide safe accommodation and support in particularly dangerous situations

In the event of stalking and violence against women, you can call the nationwide helpline 24 hours a day free of charge: 08000 116 016. On request, advice is also available in different languages as well as in sign language.