

A STALKING.ORG REFERENCE GUIDE

Reporting Stalking to Massachusetts Officials

Statewide Edition

Every hotline, state agency, and court resource you need to report
stalking in Massachusetts.

Statewide Massachusetts agencies
Verified phone numbers & addresses
Part of the Stalking.org 50-state series

stalking.org

GETTING STARTED

How to Use This Guide

This guide covers **statewide** Massachusetts resources: the government agencies, hotlines, and courts that serve every city and town. Each section also tells you how to find the right local office near you.

Start here: Massachusetts' Harassment Prevention Order (258E) covers stalking by anyone, regardless of your relationship to them.

Before you call: have your documentation ready — dates, what happened, any messages or photos saved, and whether a report has already been filed elsewhere.

If you're in danger: call 911 first. Every other number in this guide is for follow-up support, not emergency response.

What's inside

- Emergency & immediate-danger contacts
- Statewide Massachusetts agencies (Office for Victim Assistance, Victim Compensation, Courts)
- Reporting to local police & county sheriffs
- Domestic violence protective orders explained
- Step-by-step: filing a report & getting a protective order
- Specialized support (child abuse, elder abuse, civil rights)
- A one-page master contact sheet

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for Massachusetts state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

ACT NOW

Emergency & Immediate Danger

If a stalker is near you right now, threatening you, or has violated a protection order, these are your first calls — before anything else in this guide.

Emergency — Police, Fire, Medical

911

Call if you are in immediate danger, right now.

Massachusetts State Police (find your local barracks)

Via mass.gov/msp

For non-emergency matters outside local police jurisdiction.

SAFEPLAN Advocates

Available at every courthouse

Court-based advocates who can help you prepare a harassment or abuse prevention order application.

Can't speak safely? In areas where Text-to-911 is supported, you can text instead of calling — check with your mobile carrier or alea.gov for coverage in your county.

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for Massachusetts state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

MASSACHUSETTS • STATEWIDE

●Massachusetts — Statewide Agencies

These government agencies serve every city and town in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA)

617-586-1340

Northampton office (413) 387-4300 · 1 Ashburton Place, Suite 1310, Boston, MA 02108 · moval@mass.gov
mass.gov/mova

MOVA — Victim Compensation

Via VCCorrespondence@mass.gov

Fax 617-742-6262 · covers medical, counseling, and lost-wage expenses; explicitly includes stalking.
mass.gov/mova

Massachusetts Courts — 209A/258E Resource Guide

Via mass.gov

Explains Abuse Prevention and Harassment Prevention Orders, with statewide hotline listings.
mass.gov

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for Massachusetts state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

LOCAL POLICE

● Reporting to Local Police

Stalking is usually reported to the police department in the city where you live or work, or to your county sheriff outside city limits.

Your local police department (non-emergency line)**Dial 911, or search “[your city] police non-emergency”**

Stalking can be reported at any city or town police department.

Your District, Boston Municipal, Juvenile, or Superior Court**Find yours via mass.gov/courts**

File a Harassment Prevention Order (258E) for stalking by anyone, or an Abuse Prevention Order (209A) for a family or household member.

Good to know: you can file a report at any police department, not only the one nearest the stalker. Ask for the officer's name, a complaint or case number, and how to follow up.

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for Massachusetts state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Harassment & Abuse Prevention Orders

258E Harassment Prevention Order: for victims of stalking, criminal harassment, or sexual violence — regardless of your relationship to the person.

209A Abuse Prevention Order: used instead when the stalker is a spouse, former spouse, co-parent, or other family or household member.

No notice needed: a judge can issue an order the same day if you show a substantial likelihood of immediate danger, before the other party is notified.

SAFEPLAN Advocates

Court-based advocates at every courthouse can help you complete the application.

Where to file

District, Boston Municipal, Juvenile, or Superior Court — Probate and Family Court does not handle these orders.

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for Massachusetts state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Step-by-Step: What to Expect

● Filing a Police Report

- 1 Go to any police department or county sheriff's office — you do not have to go to the one nearest the stalker.
- 2 Ask to speak with an officer and say clearly that you want to report stalking or harassment.
- 3 Bring your documentation: dates, messages, photos, and names of any witnesses.
- 4 Ask for the report's complaint number before you leave, and request a copy if possible.
- 5 Ask about victim assistance resources — many departments have a victim advocate or can refer you to ACADV.

● Getting a 258E Order

- 1 Go to your District, Boston Municipal, Juvenile, or Superior Court and ask for a 258E Harassment Prevention Order application.
- 2 Ask a SAFEPLAN advocate at the courthouse for help completing it.
- 3 Describe each incident with as much detail as possible — dates, what happened, and any pattern you've noticed.
- 4 A judge can issue the order the same day, often without the other party present.
- 5 The order is served on the other party by law enforcement — keep a copy with you, at home, and at work.

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for Massachusetts state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT

●Specialized Support

Child-At-Risk Hotline**800-792-5200**

24/7 statewide reporting for suspected child abuse or neglect.

Elder Abuse Hotline (age 60+)**1-800-922-2275**

24/7, statewide.

Disabled Persons Protection Commission Hotline (ages 18–59)**1-800-426-9009**

24/7, for abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a person with a disability.

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for Massachusetts state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

QUICK REFERENCE

Quick-Reference Contact Sheet

Print or save this page — every number in this guide, in one place.

Agency	Phone	Scope
Emergency — Police, Fire, Medical	911	Emergency
Massachusetts State Police (find your local barracks)	Via mass.gov/msp	Emergency
SAFEPLAN Advocates	Available at every courthouse	Emergency
Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA)	617-586-1340	Statewide
MOVA — Victim Compensation	Via VCCorrespondence@mass.gov	Statewide
Massachusetts Courts — 209A/258E Resource Guide	Via mass.gov	Statewide
Child-At-Risk Hotline	800-792-5200	Specialized
Elder Abuse Hotline (age 60+)	1-800-922-2275	Specialized
Disabled Persons Protection Commission Hotline (ages 18–59)	1-800-426-9009	Specialized

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for Massachusetts state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

About Stalking.org



A 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing free, accessible safety tools to people facing stalking and cyberstalking — no account, no cost.

stalking.org/about-us · stalking.org/contact-us

Support the work

Donations keep every free tool and guide on stalking.org available for the next person who needs them — including this 50-state series.

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for Massachusetts state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.