Cyber Stalking
Prevention Tips

TIP#1:

Don't Share Any Personal Information in Online Public Spaces!

- Don't give your personal information, such as your age where you live, or where you work, to strangers online, including in e-mail or chart rooms.

- Be careful of e-mails from unfamiliar accounts with friends' names attached, since cybercriminals can use them to phish for your personal info.

- Use a neutral screen name not your real name or a sexy nickname, your birthday or other private information.

- Don't use your birthday or other easy number sequence for your password.

For more TIPS visit:
www.utrgv.edu/IS

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TIP #2:

Be extremely cautious about meeting online acquaintances in person.

- If you choose to meet, do so in a public place and take a friend along.

- Don't assume the things strangers tell you online about themselves are true

- Trust your gut (or intuition).

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TIP#3:

Make sure that your ISP (internet service provider), cell phone service provider, and social sites you frequent have an acceptable privacy policy that prohibits cyber stalking.

- Use an internet provider that has a privacy policy and a trak reord of responding to privacy concerns and complaints.

- Services such as Facebook change their privacy polices frequently, so check your privacy settings regularly to make sure you're sharing information only with people you trust.

- Some sites allow you to see how your profile is viewed by others - test yours, and make sure you reveal only what is absolutely necessary.

- Don't get SMACked. Check your Social Media Access Controls in your online profile and shared Information.

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TIP #4:

If you experience contact with someone that is unpleasant or hostile, log off immediately and report the incident to your ISP (Internet Service Prvider).

- Most chat/bulletin boards also have a reporting system for unpleasant encounters.

- If a situatino or incident online makes you fear for your safety, contact a local law enforcement agency.

- If you experience online hostility, log off and surf else where.

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TIP #5:

When you are online, only type things you would actually say to someone face-to-face.

- Think about how your words might be interpreted without the context of body language and voice.

- Do not respond to unwanted messages or engage in personal exchanges with people that you do not know.

- Be extremely cautious of how much information you choose to post and share.

- The words you type online will leave a digital footprint.

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TIP#6:

If you are breaking up with an intimate partner, especially if they are abusive, troubled, angry, or difficult, reset passwords on all of your online accounts.

- This includes e-mail and social networking accounts, credit card accounts, bank accounts, and anything online you do not want former partners to access.

- Change your verification Information (e.g., passwords, pin numbers, and security questions) to something someone cannot guess.

- You may want to get a new cellphone and/or a credit card account that your former partner doesn't know about.

- Figure out what information family and friends are posting about you. Help them learn better privacy practices.

For more TIPS visit:
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Cyber Stalking
Resources

ISO
Information Security Office
www.utrgv.edu/**IS**
IS@utrgv.edu
(956) 665-7823

Office of Victim Advocacy
& Violence Prevention
www.utrgv.edu/**OVAVP**
OVAVP@utrgv.edu
(956) 665-8287

NATIONAL CENTER
FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
Stalking Resource Center
www.ncvc.org/src

UTRGV Police
www.utrgv.edu/**POLICE**
POLICE@utrgv.edu
Edinburg: (956) 665- 7151
Brownsville: (956) 882- 8232

Vaqueros Care
Vaqueros Care Report It Form
www.utrgv.edu/reportit

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley
Information Security Office

OVAVP
Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley