



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2004

I12 Characteristics of Defendants Charged With Stalking: Preliminary Look at Referrals to the Forensics Psychiatry Clinic Three Years After the Passage of NY State Stalking Laws

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After attending this presentation, attendees will gain information regarding demographic, clinical and psychosocial profiles of defendants referred to the Bellevue Hospital Forensic Psychiatry Clinic since the implementation of the NY Anti-Stalking Laws in 1999.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing updated information relevant to the understanding of the crime of stalking.

The first anti-stalking law was passed in California in 1990. It took nine years before New York passed its own stalking law, becoming the last state in the union to do so. Prior to this, when stalkers were arrested, they faced charges such as Harassment, Menacing, Trespassing, and Criminal Contempt. Since then more studies have focused on this problem. Harmon et.al. (1995 & 1998) conducted some of the earliest researches in this field. It has been three years since New York finally passed its anti-stalking laws and there has been note of an increasing number of referrals for psychiatric evaluations to the Bellevue Hospital Forensic Psychiatry Clinic where the defendant carried a Stalking charge. This study looks into the demographics, diagnoses, violence profiles, and stalker-victim profiles of the defendants with Stalking charges seen in the last three years. Furthermore, a comparison will be made to the 1998 study by Harmon et.al., to determine whether the creation of Stalking as a crime has changed the characteristics of the population referred for psychiatric evaluation. This will be accomplished through chart reviews of the twenty-seven defendants referred from January 2000 to December 2002. Statistical analysis is still ongoing and results are pending.

Stalking, NY Anti-Stalking Laws, Forensic Psychiatric Evaluation