

Stalker...

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stay away from her. An encounter in January 2002 turned violent when Amy met David in a public location to get her children from him. A male friend watched from a distance to be sure she was OK, then they all drove away. When Amy stopped at a red light, David pulled up beside her, jumped from his truck and into the friend's car in front of hers, and began beating him in the face. Amy intervened, and as the altercation escalated, she was dragged about 100 feet when David accelerated while she was half in, half out of the car. Witnesses followed him when he ran but lost him before the police arrived.

When the police searched his truck, they found a gym bag with two knives, a baseball bat and duct tape, along with drugs and related paraphernalia. Arrested two weeks later, he was charged with carjacking, battery, aggravated domestic violence, possession of drugs and violation of injunction. The State Attorney's office dropped all charges except aggravated stalking. David posted bail and walked the streets a free man until July 2002. At that time he pleaded guilty to stalking and

accepted a plea bargain, agreeing to house arrest with an electronically monitored ankle bracelet and an automatic two years in a Florida State Prison if he violated probation.

David accepted this sentence on July 25, and on July

they would no longer have to fear their father would harm them or their mother.

This brought some relief to Amy who has worked hard to create an atmosphere of normalcy for her children. Tears fill her eyes when she remembers the look on her

I am going to prison, it will be for a good reason." He apparently learned to manipulate the GPS so that when she files a report of his violating the injunction, the computer printout does not validate her claim.

Amy fails to understand

daughter when they left a store, rammed her car from behind, then walked up to them in an aggressive manner when they got out of the car to investigate the incident.

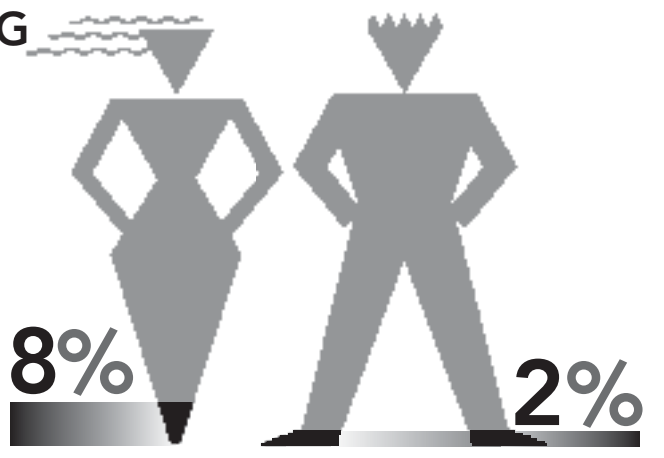
Court dates for David's sentencing continue to be delayed while Amy lives in constant fear that he will carry out his threats to kill her. She carries her pager everywhere she goes, even to the bathroom. She has panic buttons throughout the house that can summon a policeman immediately if she feels threatened. When she leaves the house, she looks behind bushes, in the back seat of her car at least three times to make sure David isn't hiding between the seats. She watches cars in the vicinity of her house, constantly checks the rear view mirror and takes evasive action if she thinks someone has followed her too long.

Amy delivers her children personally to their classrooms and makes sure the school personnel honor the injunction against their father. She feels as if she is running from the mafia and wonders why she has to be the one on guard every second of her life when she hasn't done anything wrong. All she wants is to be left alone to live her life in peace.

Editor's note: David Stover was sentenced to state prison on Oct. 2. He will serve only nine months of his two-year sentence, given time off for time served (including attending anger management classes). Amy says that will give her and her family time to relocate to a safe location where they can put this nightmare behind them. She plans to attend college and prepare for a career helping other women in situations like hers.

VICTIMS OF STALKING by Gender

A recent study by the National Institute of Justice found that stalking is far more prevalent than previously imagined: 8% of American women and 2% of American men will be stalked in their lifetimes. That's 1.4 million American stalking victims every year. The majority of stalkers have been in relationships with their victims, but a significant percentage either never met their victims, or were just acquaintances - neighbors, friends or co-workers. For more information on this subject, visit www.antistalking.com.



28 Amy says he was stalking her again. She called his probation officer and told her, "I just want you to know what kind of man you are dealing with." The probation officer called Amy two weeks later to say she was putting David on a GPS monitoring system, and she brought Amy and her three children into her office to show them how the system worked. The officer assured the children

older son's face after she was dragged by the car. "He still freaks out sometime when we stop at a red light, and if they hear a loud stereo system like their father has in his truck, they run and hide."

After the GPS was in place on David, Amy let down her guard somewhat and the children were allowed supervised visitation with their father. Then in February of this year the six-year old daughter described in detail David's drug use, and eventually Amy said his own stepfather told her the children shouldn't be allowed to see their father. She and the children now have a permanent, lifetime injunction against her ex-husband.

David continues to make threats against her, most of which are captured on audio-and/or videotape. He said in a taped phone conversation, "If

why David is not "automatically" imprisoned, as the plea bargain specifies. She has been issued a beeper that lets her know if he is within 500 feet of her, or 1,100 feet of her or her mother's house. This is a precedent-setting event reported by Channel 12's Darryl Tardy and picked up by NBC in Atlanta who wants to run the story on their network.

Meanwhile, Amy continues her vigilant struggle for survival while her ex-husband remains free. If he does not personally appear in her vicinity, he sends his "friends." Recently, Amy says, one man they recognized came twice in the middle of the night to her mother's house, claiming to have car trouble and asking to use her phone. A few days later, other men she has seen with her ex-husband followed her and her mother and

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