

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE § 14-277.3A. (Stalking & Harassment)

Definitions. - The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) Course of conduct. - Two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, is in the presence of, or follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.

(2) Harasses or harassment. - Knowing conduct, including written or printed communication or transmission, telephone, cellular, or other wireless telephonic communication, facsimile transmission, pager messages or transmissions, answering machine or voice mail messages or transmissions, and electronic mail messages or other computerized or electronic transmissions **directed at a specific person** that torments, terrorizes, or terrifies that person **and that serves no legitimate purpose**.

(3) Reasonable person. - A reasonable person in the victim's circumstances.

(4) Substantial emotional distress. - Significant mental suffering or distress that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

Offense. - A defendant is guilty of stalking if the defendant willfully **on more than one occasion** harasses another person **without legal purpose** or willfully engages in a course of conduct **directed at a specific person without legal purpose** and the defendant knows or should know that the harassment or the course of conduct would cause a reasonable person to do any of the following:

(1) Fear for the person's safety or the safety of the person's immediate family or close personal associates.

(2) Suffer substantial emotional distress by placing that person in fear of death, bodily injury, or continued harassment.