

The Stop Cyberstalking and Harassment Task Force met in-person and virtually on October 8, 2025.

The following task force members were in attendance:

Mark Kurkowski, St. Louis City Family Violence Council

The following members participated virtually:

Tracy McCreery, State Senator

Bill Irwin, State Representative

Heidi Coleman, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Brenda Sites, Safe at Home, Secretary of State's Office

Lt. Adam Caupp, St. Charles County Police Department

LaChrisa Gray, Henry County Prosecuting Attorney

Honorable Michael Randazzo, Circuit Judge, 42nd Judicial Circuit

Sgt. Patrick Sublette, Missouri State Highway Patrol

Jonathan Krueger, BJC Behavioral Health

Catherine Vannier, MO Office of Prosecution Services

Bob Klausmeyer, K-12 Safety and Center for Education Safety

The following guests were in attendance in-person or virtually:

Emily O'Laughlin, Chief of Staff for Senator McCreery

Connie Berhorst, Department of Public Safety, Director's Office

Judy Murray, Department of Public Safety, Director's Office

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Connie Berhorst for Mark Kurkowski. The first item on the agenda was to welcome attendees.

Minutes from the August 20, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Rep. Irwin made a motion to accept the minutes and Patrick Sublette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A total of 134 survey responses were received. Task force members made the following comments regarding the responses:

- There is a great diversity of experience – the depth, the ways and the frequency of instances.
- The emotional distress from being cyberstalked was high.

Heidi Coleman suggested categories to be included in the report, based upon the survey responses. The group tweaked the categories and came up with:

- Recommendations for training for law enforcement advocates, Title IX and judicial system; including resources and tools law enforcement may need to identify patterns and collect evidence and increased coordination among police departments.
- Recommendations for legislative action.
- Recommendations for educational or other resources to inform victims and the public on ways to protect themselves.

Shawn Ivy noted that almost half of those responding to the survey don't know any current laws or policies relating to cyberstalking or online harassment. He suggested the creation of a landing page that would have multiple resource links where individuals can learn more about their options. Connie

said the resources could be listed on the DPS/Crime Victims Services Unit webpage, but it would need to be monitored to ensure all the links stay up to date.

Emily O’Laughlin noted the survivor’s Bill of Rights that is currently in statute is very targeted toward sexual assault, but she assumes a cyberstalking Bill of Rights would be in the same chapter. She feels that could be a good jumping off point for how we are going to make sure we are protecting folks in statute.

LaChrisha Gray asked how some of the recommendations would be funded. VOCA and domestic violence budget are being cut now. Prosecutors won’t be able to provide extra support through victim advocates without funding. We can’t expect prosecutor’s offices, police departments and sheriff’s offices to absorb these costs. We can’t create more rules for them to follow without providing some financial support to them. We need to be realistic with our recommendations so they can actually help people. A funding aspect has to be figured out to match the recommendations.

Heidi Coleman reiterated that we can’t expect funding for cyberstalking to come out of funding that is already there for domestic and sexual violence because funds are being cut now. There has to be a new pot of money.

Emily O’Laughlin agrees that legislative recommendations need to have a funding recommendation attached to them. For instance, the Dept. of Public Safety does POST training for law enforcement agencies. If we’re going to ask them to have additional training hours, maybe there could be a new decision item in their budget book that helps support this through the state budget. When the courts approach the legislature for funding items, maybe they can include some of these recommendations.

Senator McCreery believes the point of this report is not to tiptoe around these things. The whole reason to have this task force is so we can be honest about what is needed to address the issue. Some things we are going to recommend can be accomplished and others will not be achievable. We should capture the funding issue in the report.

LaChrisha Gray suggested whatever recommendations each subcommittee puts forth should include how much funding it will need.

Bob Klausmeyer asked if the task force has discussed any potential awareness campaigns for youth, especially the K-12 sector or any youth. Many in this age group may not even be aware they being cyberstalked or harassed.

Heidi will put together a list of the subcommittee volunteers and coordinate the subcommittee meetings. The sooner the subcommittees can meet, the better. Heidi would like to have the recommendations by December 1. That will give her a couple of weeks to draft the report before the holidays and the due date of December 31.

The next meeting: Judy will send out date options for the November and December meetings.

With no further discussion, Mark Kurkowski made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Heidi Coleman. The motion passed unanimously.