Is this stalking?

1. A student peeks into the women’s locker room to watch the girls undress.

2. An ex-partner repeatedly spreads vicious rumors about their former partner on social media.

3. A supervisor regularly asks her employee personal questions, mocks him in meetings, sends e-mails at odd hours and is verbally abusive when he doesn’t respond right away.
STALKING DEFINITION: BEHAVIORAL

Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.
A pattern of behavior...

* Not a single incident or "one off" event

* Called a "course of conduct" in most statutes
...directed at a specific person...
...that would cause a reasonable person to feel FEAR.
CONTEXT IS CRITICAL in stalking cases.
Context

* Something may be frightening to the victim but not to you
* Stalking behaviors often have specific meanings
* Stalking criminalizes otherwise non-criminal behavior
Victim Reaction: Is it Fear?
Local Stalking Laws
Clery Definition of Stalking
34 U.S.C.A. § 12291(a)(30)

Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his / her safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress
7-A M.R.S. § 210-A. STALKING
Class D Crime

A person is guilty of stalking if:

A. The actor intentionally or knowingly engages in a course of conduct directed at or concerning a specific person that would cause a reasonable person:

1. To suffer serious inconvenience or emotional distress;
2. To fear bodily injury or to fear bodily injury to a close relation;
3. To fear death or to fear the death of a close relation;
4. To fear damage or destruction to or tampering with property; or
5. To fear injury to or the death of an animal owned by or in the possession and control of that specific person.
Class C Crime:

* The actor...has one or more prior convictions in this State or another jurisdiction
* the course of conduct is directed at or concerning 2 or more specific persons that are members of an identifiable group
Stalking Prevalence and Behavior