

# Stalking Victims News

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*Feel Safe Again, Inc... "Be Strong, Be Safe and Be Heard!"... Vol. 6, Issue 2 - Mar. 2009*

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Dear Friend,

Welcome to your next issue of "Stalking Victims News!" As always, I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

This is a bi-monthly newsletter, with the most current and up-to-date information about stalking and the effects it has on victims.

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***\*\*\* 2009 Legislative Update \*\*\* We need your support for several bills which have been refiled at the State House in Boston, Massachusetts, including (SB1611) An Act to Relative to Sexual Assault and Stalking Restraining Orders, and (SB 911) An Act Relative to the Enhancement of Public Safety. Please be sure to check our "News and Events" page often for all upcoming hearing dates. Thank you!***  
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## ***"REFLECTIONS OF A LIFE WITH FREEDOM AND PEACE"***

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Feel Safe Again, Inc. was officially established September 2003, incorporated in December, and publicly announced January 2004 during a press conference at the Statehouse in Boston. We are a statewide grassroots 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization for Victims of Stalking.

Our goal is to provide potentially life-saving information and support group services to victims and survivors of stalking. Our hope is that no other victim has to live their life in fear. We want to help you "Feel Safe Again" by teaching you how to be safe again. Together we CAN make a difference!

If you are interested in online support, click on the link below to our website. You can join our support group at [VictimsofStalking@yahoo.com](mailto:VictimsofStalking@yahoo.com).

Copy and paste link below to our Web site...

[www.feelsafeagain.org](http://www.feelsafeagain.org)

## ***Slain Woman's Sis Urges Action on Long-Stalled Restraining Order Bill by Dave Wedge***

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March 28, 2009, Boston, MA - This Memorial Day, relatives of slain Everett waitress Sandy Berfield will mark the 10th year she's been absent from their annual family cookout. But still, a

law the family says might have saved her life is stalled in legislative limbo on Beacon Hill.

The bill, which has been filed every year since Berfield was killed in January 2000 by a package bomb planted by a crazed customer, would allow victims to get restraining orders against random stalkers. Current laws allow restraining orders only in cases involving family members, roommates or lovers.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1161690>

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***Fox 25 News Boston - Bill Would Expand Restraining Orders***  
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March 28, 2009, Boston, MA - After two years of living in terror, Sandy Berfield was killed by a man obsessed with her. The man sent a package bomb to her home. Now, Berfield's sister is fighting for restraining order legislation she says may have saved Sandy's life.

Cheryl Darisse says her sister slept with a knife under her pillow ever since she waited on a man at Bickford's Restaurant who then stalked her for two years.

Copy and paste link below...

[http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/032809\\_Bill\\_would\\_expand\\_restraining\\_orders](http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/032809_Bill_would_expand_restraining_orders)

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***2009 Massachusetts Victim Assistance Academy***  
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The 2009 Massachusetts Victim Assistance Academy will be held from July 26 - July 31, 2009.

The MVAA curriculum reflects a new model that helps victim service providers better understand the crime victim's experience on simultaneous levels...across time, across discipline or system. A brief overview of this innovative model is outlined below. We encourage you to pursue this innovative training experience that alumni have praised for its notable contributions to their personal and professional lives.

Space is limited and applications are due by May 18, 2009.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://feelsafeagain.org/MVAA2009Application.pdf>

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***VolunteerMatch Nonprofit Spotlight***  
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When tragedy strikes a loved one, the anger and grief can be overwhelming. But as Cheryl Darisse discovered, fighting back against senseless crime sometimes uncovers a wealth of personal strength and purpose.

In the wake of tragedy, there is only grief and loss - but in the wake of preventable tragedy, there is also responsibility. For Cheryl Darisse, whose younger sister was killed by a man who had spent two years stalking and harassing her, the grief and guilt of what happened has its own inescapable logic. As she puts it, if you do nothing after loss, then nothing will ever come out of it.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/nonprofits/stories/spotlight.jsp?id=36>

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*Inspirational Thoughts*  
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“If you become a victim...don't allow the traumatic experience to further victimize you; you can shape your attitude to give you the courage to get back up again.” ~*Author Unknown*

“We truly believe knowledge is power...therefore, prevention is our ultimate goal.” “We will continue to fight for victims' rights, and encourage them to feel empowered by giving them a voice!” Remember...YOU'RE NOT ALONE! ~*Cheryl*

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*Note From The Founder...25th Anniversary for Victims' Rights*  
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Please join us in recognizing “National Crime Victims' Rights Week” from April 26th - May 2nd, 2009, to show your support to victims of crime.

\* The State House in Boston, Massachusetts from 9:00am-3:00pm on Thursday, April 23, 2009. Organizations throughout the state will provide information and available resources for victims.

\* St. Paul's Church in Concord, New Hampshire at 11:00am on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, for a press conference followed by several events throughout the day.

Copy and paste link below...

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>

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**email:** CDarisse@feelsafeagain.org

**voice:** (617) 389-0002 or (603) 889-1110 or toll-free at (888) 99B-SAFE

**web:** www.feelsafeagain.org  
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*Feel Safe Again, Inc. - Stalking Victims News | P.O. Box 490188 | Everett | MA | 02149*

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