Laws against Stalking

Stalking is a crime and the victims of it are supported by the following laws:

- **Federal laws**
  - 18 USC § 2261A: The Interstate Travel to Commit Domestic Violence law protects victims whose spouses or intimate partners travel across state lines with the intent to injure, harass, or intimidate the victim and actually cause bodily harm to the victim.
  - 42 USC §§ 3796gg, 14031: These laws authorize grants for law enforcement agencies to develop programs addressing stalking and for states to improve the process for entering stalking-related data into local, state, and national crime information databases.

- **California laws**
  - Penal code 646.9: This law defines a stalker as someone who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses the victim and who makes a credible threat with the intent to place the victim or victim’s immediate family in fear for their safety. The victim does not have to prove that the stalker had the intent to carry out the threat.

Chapter Summary

- Sexual harassment is a kind of sexual behavior that is offensive and may cause harm to the victim physically, psychologically, and materially because such behavior is against the consent of the victim.
- Sexual harassment is of two basic types: verbal and physical.
- The investigator must be impartial and open-minded throughout the entire investigative process.
- After the completion of the investigation, the documents the investigator made are forwarded to the supervisor or to decision makers.
- Sexual harassment must be discussed at workers’ meetings and at supervisor meetings.
- An organization needs to conduct awareness programs or periodic training for all employees on sexual harassment so that employees are aware of how to maintain discipline and follow a certain code of conduct in the organization.

Review Questions

1. What is sexual harassment?

2. What are the consequences of sexual harassment?

3. Write down the procedure to issue a complaint against sexual harassment.

4. Explain the sexual harassment investigative process.