• Try to think of anyone you may suspect of making the calls.

• Issue a formal warning to the caller "I will be laying a complaint with the Police if you call me again."

• Make a note of the date and time of this warning in log.

• Consider having your telephone number changed to a Confidential Listing. If you have a confidential listing be careful about giving this number out. Remember if you have your number changed but do not have a confidential listing, your number will be available to anyone through directory assistance.

If the calls are of a life threatening nature, contact UTS Campus Police immediately at 416-287-7333.

What Not To Do

• Do not reveal shock or anger, as in most cases this is what the caller wants.

• Do not blow a whistle into the mouthpiece. The caller may do the same to you.

Remember when making a complaint to the UTS Campus Police you will be required to provide an accurate listing of the date(s) and times of the calls.

Criminal Harassment

Safety on Campus

The University of Toronto Scarborough (UTS) Campus Police Services is dedicated to creating a safe, secure and equitable environment for students, staff, faculty and visitors.
Criminal Harassment

Are You A Victim Of Criminal Harassment?

Each school year, the U of T Scarborough (UTS) Campus Police receive several reports from female students that they are the victims of unwanted, persistent and obsessive behavior, usually from ex-boyfriends or rejected or obsessive admirers. This conduct should not be seen as expressions of love or affection but as a means of exerting control over you by former or prospective partners. Often it is the obsessiveness of the conduct rather than actual threats that causes the victim to fear.

Section 264 of the Criminal Code of Canada, which created the offence of Criminal Harassment (formerly known as Stalking) was enacted in 1993 to deal with situations where a person, usually a woman, is subjected to harassing behavior and feel a threat to her safety. Section 264 reads "No person shall, without lawful authority and knowing that another person is harassed, engage in conduct referred to below, that causes the other person reasonably, in all the circumstances, to fear for their safety or the safety of anyone known to them"

The prohibited conduct consists of:

- repeatedly following from place to place or communicating with either directly or indirectly with the other person or anyone known to them. This can include harassing phone calls.
- repeatedly besetting or watching a place where the other person, or anyone known to them, resides, works, carries on business or happens to be; or
- engaging in threatening conduct directed at the other person or any member of their family.

What You Can Do If You Receive Harassing and Annoying Phone Calls?

Obscene, abusive, annoying or harassing telephone calls can be one of the most stressful and frightening invasions of privacy a person experiences. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to help put an end to these unwelcome intrusions.

The UTS Campus Police will investigate complaints where a community member has received an abusive, obscene or life threatening telephone calls.

It is very important to log these telephone calls over a period of time to determine the frequency and extent of the problem and to determine if they constitute a breach of the Criminal Code of Canada.

If you have received a life threatening, abusive, obscene or malicious calls contact the UTS Campus Police immediately at 416-287-7333 and provide the date, time and nature of the telephone calls.

There Are Three Types Of Telephone Calls:

- Speech calls: these are categorized as abusive, obscene or threatening.
- Non-speech telephone calls: these are of an annoying nature where the caller holds the line and does not speak or breathes heavily. The caller may also hang up when the phone is answered.
- Computer generated calls: most commonly fax or modem calls received on a residential telephone line. Unfortunately these are a common occurrence. Most are a result of misdialing when trying to send a fax or access a modem and the sender will often realize the mistake quickly.

Precautions:

- When answering the telephone do not give out your telephone number or full name. This includes your personal message on your answering machine.
- Do not volunteer information about yourself, your phone number or your address to unknown callers.
- If you do not want to converse with the caller, politely disconnect the call.
- Don’t be drawn into an argument that can’t be solved on the telephone.
- Let the telephone ring more often before answering it. This gives you some control over the stress of answering a call you expect to be hostile.

What To Do In The Event Of Receiving A Malicious Call

A large number of malicious calls are to randomly selected numbers where the caller continues to dial that number and annoy the recipient of that call. If the telephone call is malicious or abusive, stay calm and try not to show any agitation or distress. If the telephone calls are persistent you should:

- Log all calls, recording the date, time, duration and content. This will help establish a pattern.
- Try to determine the sex of the caller, approximate age, any accent, background noise, etc.