

Identity theft as abuse and domestic violence

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Today, there are increasing numbers of cases involving [identity theft and domestic abuse](#). Domestic violence and stalking victims often fall prey to a form of identity theft which is often referred to by experts and prosecutors as [identity theft as abuse](#) a subset of [cyberstalking](#).

[Identity Theft as Abuse](#) is unique from [traditional identity theft](#) because instead of the intent and purpose being for financial gain, domestic abusers utilize these tactics in order to continue to have power and control over their victims.

Domestic violence abusers armed with their victims personal identifying information often apply for credit cards, magazine subscriptions, e-mail accounts, create web sites including my space and facebook accounts and use the victims identifying information to reek havoc upon their lives-often causing damage to the victims credit and reputation both of which are very difficult to restore once they are lost.

[Cases involving identity theft as abuse](#) were often ignored by the courts and law enforcement until now; primarily thanks to the hard work of the prosecutors involved in the [Peck case of Wisconsin](#). The Wisconsin court of appeals affirmed the conviction against Peck providing a new hope for victims of cyberstalking and in particular victims of identity theft as abuse - the majority of which are domestic violence and stalking victims.

[WI Ct of Appeal - signing ex-wife up for subscriptions, etc. can be I.D.theft](#)

State v. Peck

Docket: 2007AP002732 11-19-08

PER CURIAM. A jury convicted Daniel J. Peck of three counts of identity theft, finding that he engaged in conduct intended "to harm the reputation, property, person, or estate" of his ex-wife, contrary to WIS. STAT. § 943.201(2)(c) (2005-06). Peck argues on appeal, as he did on motions after verdict, that the word "harm" is unconstitutionally vague and that the State failed to prove that he intended to harm his ex-wife's reputation, property, person or estate. The trial court denied his motions, concluding that the jury permissibly gave the word its ordinary meaning, and that the evidence was sufficient. We agree and affirm.

A special thanks to [Attorney Rhonda Martinson with the Battered Women's Justice Project](#) for providing the case information.

If you suspect that you may be a victim of [identity theft as abuse](#) or [cyberstalking](#) or if you wish to learn more regarding how you can prevent these crimes, contact Alexis A. Moore directly by e-mail Alexis@survivorsinaction.com or contact your local domestic violence center for more information.

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