



Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School

POLICE SERVICES UNIT

A Joint Unit of the Yarmouth Police & Dennis Police Departments

CHAPTER 265, CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

Chapter 265: Section 43A. Criminal Harassment and punishment

Section 43A. (a)

Whoever willfully and maliciously engages

- in a knowing pattern of conduct, or series of acts
- over a period of time
- directed at a specific person
- which seriously alarms that person
- and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress

shall be guilty of the crime of criminal harassment and shall be punished by:

imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than **two and one-half years** or by a fine of not more than **\$1,000**, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Such conduct or acts described in this paragraph shall include, but not be limited to, conduct or acts conducted by:

- mail
- use of a telephonic or telecommunication device including, but not limited to,
 - electronic mail,
 - internet communications or
 - facsimile communications.

(b) Whoever, after having been **convicted of the crime** of criminal harassment, **commits a second or subsequent such crime**, or whoever commits the crime of criminal harassment having previously been convicted of a violation of section 43 (stalking), shall be punished by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than two and one-half years or by imprisonment in the **state prison** for not more than **ten years**.