

Teen Date Abuse

Teens may view the initial signs and patterns of abuse as love from an abuser. The following signs are helpful in identifying trouble in teen relationships:

Emotional/Verbal

- Ignoring partner
- Putting partner down / calling names
- Complaining about hair or clothing style
- Threatening to hurt others or self if relationship ends
- Blaming partner for personal downfalls
- Controlling relationship / selecting partner's friends
- Jealousy and possessive behavior

Physical Abuse

- Fighting, hitting, kicking, punching and pushing
- Using excessive force
- Using objects to inflict pain / injury
- Threaten bodily injury or harm
- Causing bodily harm to isolate partner from others

Sexual Abuse

- Forcing or pressuring into sexual acts
- Coercing performance of sex acts on others
- Coercing to perform sex acts in public
- Coercing to perform sex acts for gifts, money, etc.

Resources for Teens

- **Child Help USA National Hotline 1-800-4-A CHILD**
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233**

Sources:

Cool nurse. www.coolnurse.com/datingviolence

Domestic violence in teenage relationships. www.lff.org/demo/acces/date.html

Women's Coalition of St. Croix. www.wcstx.com/teedatv.htm