

Awareness; Warning Signs:

- Unexplained injuries
- Fear of partner
- Partner has significant influence on your teen's decisions and behavior
- Verbal abuse by partner:
 - Name-calling
 - Demeaning comments
 - Change in appearance, behavior or body language
- Changes in mood or personality
- Lack of interest in school and activities
- Anxious, depressed, withdrawn
- Apologizes for partner's behavior
- Partner abuses other people or animals
- Partner is extremely jealous when others pay attention to your teen
- Partner is possessive and controlling
- Excessive calling by partner

Forms of Abuse:

Physical - actions which cause physical pain or injury, such as kicking, pushing or punching

Emotional - actions which cause loss of self-esteem, such as name-calling, swearing, threatening to hurt you or criticizing

Psychological - actions which create fear, such as isolation or threats

Sexual - acts of a sexual nature that are unwelcome or uncomfortable, including unwanted touching and kissing

Prevalence:

- One in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship (National Center for Victims of Crime)

- According to a 2003 national survey, 8.9 percent of students in high school have reported being hit, slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend (CDC)
- Females ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group (U.S. Department of Justice)

Dynamics of an Abusive Relationship:

Reasons for abuse:

- Power, control and jealousy
- Peer pressure and gender roles
- Abuse during childhood
- Insecurity
- Uncontrollable anger

Why a victim stays:

- Hope, fear and love
- Bonds with abuser
- Feels trapped
- Insecure and low self-esteem
- Lack of resources

What Parents of Victims Can Do:

- Ask questions and listen
- Keep channels of communication open
- Don't blame the victim; tell them it is not their fault and they deserve respect
- Take calm, positive action; set up a safe plan; don't pressure the teen to make quick decisions; encourage teen to make decisions
- Make a firm statement that violence under any circumstance is unacceptable
- Deal with anger and resolve conflicts
- Avoid confronting the abuser
- Seek help and support for you and your teen from professionals and victim services

Accessing Help:

If you suspect that your teen is involved in an abusive relationship and needs help, call:

- National Center for Victims of Crime 1-800-FYI-CALL
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-HOPE
- NYS Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-942-6906;
Espanol: 800-942-6908
- NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault 518-482-4222
- Albany County Rape Crisis Center 518-447-7716
- Victim Services Cattaraugus Community Action 716-945-3970;
888-945-3970
- Crime Victims Assistance Center in Broome Co. 607-722-4256
- SOS Shelter, Inc. in Broome Co. 607-748-7453
- Sexual Assault Victims Advocate Resources in Cayuga Co. (SAVAR) 315-252-2112
- Rape Crisis Services in Chautauqua Co. 800-252-8748
- Rape Crisis of the Southern Tier in Chemung Co. 888-810-0093
- Crime Victims Assistance Chenango Co. 607-336-1101
- Northern Adirondack Planned Parenthood in Clinton Co. 877-212-2323
- Crisis Center of Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties 315 422 7273
- The REACH Center in Greene & Columbia Counties 888-943-2472
- Aid to Victims of Violence Program YWCA-Cortland 800-336-9622
- Safe Against Violence Delaware Opportunities, Inc. 866-457-7233
- Family Services, Mid/Hudson 845-452-7272
- Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service in Erie Co. 716-834-3131
- Mid-Hudson Planned Parenthood in Essex Co. 866-307-4086

- Rape Crisis Services of PP Mohawk/Hudson 518-843-4367; 518-234-4949; 518-346-2266; 585-843-4367; 866-307-4086
- Rape Crisis Service in Genesee Co. 800-527-1757
- Rape Crisis Service YWCA-Utica 315-866-4120; 315-797-7740
- Jefferson County Women's Center 315-782-1855
- Lewis County Opportunities 315-376-4357
- CAVA Crisis & Counseling Center in St. Lawrence Co. 315-386-3777
- Rape Crisis Service of Livingston 800-527-1757
- Victims of Violence Liberty Resources in Madison Co. 315-366-5000
- Rape Crisis Service of PP Rochester/Genesee Valley 716-546-2777
- Rape & Sexual Assault Survivors Program in Nassau Co. 516-222-2293
- Niagara County Rape Crisis Services 716-285-3518
- Vera House in Onondaga Co. 315-422-7273
- Rape Crisis Center of the Finger Lakes 800-247-7273
- Rape & Abuse Crisis Service of the Finger Lakes 315-536-2897
- Mental Health Assoc. in Orange Co. 800-832-1200
- Rape Crisis Service of Orleans 800-527-1757
- SAF Rape Crisis Program in Oswego Co. 315-342-1600
- Violence Intervention Program in Otsego Co. 607-432-4855
- Putnam-North Westchester Women's Resource Center 845-628-2166
- Sexual Assault Care Center in Rensselaer Co. 518-271-3257
- Sexual Trauma Service Rockland Family Shelter 845-634-3344
- Citizens Against Violence Acts in St. Lawrence Co. 315-386-3777
- Saratoga Rape Crisis Services 518-584-8188
- Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk County 631-360-3606
- R.I.S.E. of Mid-Hudson Valley 845-791-9595
- A New Hope Center in Tioga Co. 800-696-7600
- Advocacy Center in Tompkins Co. 607-277-5000
- Ulster County Crime Victims Assistance Program 845-340-3442
- Victim Resource Center of Wayne 800-456-1172
- Sexual Trauma and Recovery Services in Washington Co. 800-225-7114
- Victim Assistance Services of Westchester Co. 800-726-4041
- Wyoming County Victim Services 800-786-3300
- Safe Horizon NYC Domestic Violence Hotline 800-621-HOPE
- NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Hotline 212-714-1141
- NYC Rape Crisis Program/ Bellevue 212-562-3435
- NYC Rape Crisis Intervention/Beth Israel 212-420-5632
- Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center in NYC 212-423-2833
- Crime Victim Treatment Center/St. Lukes/Roosevelt Hosp. in NYC 800-621-4673
- NYC Rape Crisis Program/St. Vincent's Hosp. 212-604-8000
- Sexual Assault Project Victims Services in the Bronx 800-621-4673
- Long Island College Hosp. in Bklyn 800-621-4673
- Rape Crisis Program Church Ave. Merchants in Bklyn 718-287-2600
- Rape Crisis Intervention Program/Elmhurst Hosp. in Queens 212-423-2140
- Wychoff Heights Medical Center in Queens 866-992-5633
- Rape Crisis Intervention Program/Queens Hosp. 800-621-4673

PREVENTING DATING VIOLENCE FOR PARENTS



Office of the New York State
Attorney General

(1-800-771-7755)

