



ANTHONY A. SCARPINO, JR.
Westchester County District Attorney

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A message from
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fear
isolation
abusive
controlling
threatening
hurtful
controlling
threatening

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is not just a problem plaguing adults. An alarming number of teenagers in this country have been and will become victims of physical, emotional or sexual abuse at the hands of a dating partner. 1 in 10 high school students has been hit, slapped, or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend. This violent behavior often begins between the ages of 12 and 18.

Destructive relationships during teen years can lead to lifelong unhealthy relationship practices, may disrupt normal development and can contribute to unhealthy behaviors in teens that can lead to chronic mental and physical conditions in adulthood. Teens that are physically hurt by a dating partner are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, binge drink, use drugs, attempt suicide and participate in physical fights. Half of teens who have been victims of dating violence attempt suicide. Many teens do not report dating violence because they are afraid and ashamed to tell friends and family.

If you feel you are in an abusive relationship, talk to someone you trust (parent, teacher, counselor, friend, school resource officer).

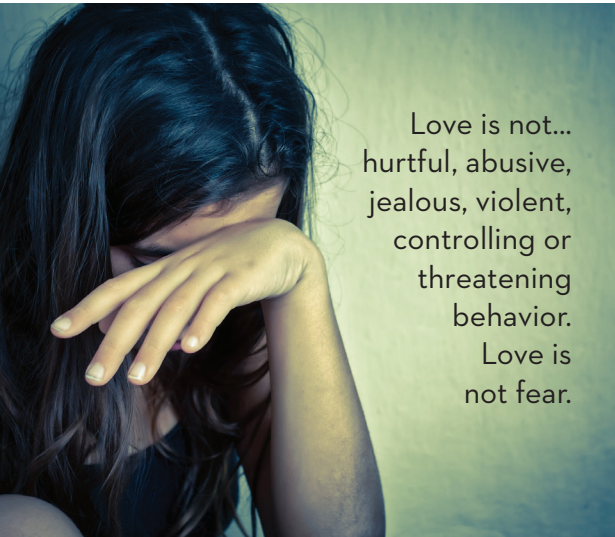
If you think a friend or classmate is in an abusive relationship, tell an adult.

If you think a friend or classmate is in danger, call 911.

All relationships are unique. Warning signs of abuse can vary, but often include:

- Hitting, slapping, grabbing, or shoving
- Insults, put downs, name calling, bullying, guilt trips, silent treatment
- Jealousy, constantly accusing you of wrongdoing, being possessive
- Monitoring your phone calls, texts & social media
- Controlling behavior-telling you what to do, what to wear, who to talk to, how to spend your money, who to hang out with
- Isolating you from friends and family; being critical about you, your friends and your family
- Making excuses for abusive behavior or making you feel that you deserve to be treated badly
- Showing up unexpectedly or uninvited
- Pressuring you to engage in sexual activity, threatening to spread rumors about you if you refuse
- Physically forcing you to engage in sexual activity

Remember, if your boyfriend or girlfriend makes you feel uncomfortable, scared or threatened, you could be in an abusive relationship.



Love is not...
hurtful, abusive,
jealous, violent,
controlling or
threatening
behavior.
Love is
not fear.

Help is Available

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| District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Bureau | westchesterda.net (914) 995-3000 |
| Hope's Door | (914) 747-0828 hopesdoorny.org |
| My Sisters' Place | (914) 683-1333 mspny.org |
| Break the Cycle | breakthecycle.org |
| One Love | joinonelove.org |
| Love Is Respect | loveisrespect.org |