

## What is Teen Dating Violence ?

Teen dating violence isn't an argument every once in a while or a bad mood after a bad day; it is a pattern of harmful, controlling behavior that someone uses against their partner.

No matter what the cause, dating violence is all about power and control. Remember that it may not always involve physical abuse. Do not overlook verbal, emotional/mental, or sexual abuse. Keep in mind that the threat of violence is always present. While females are statistically at greater risk than males to become victims of dating violence, females can and do become abusers, too.

Dating violence can happen to anyone, at any age, no matter what race or religion they are, and no matter what their level of education or economic background. Teen dating violence occurs in a relationship in which one or both partners are between 13-20 years of age. Dating violence happens in opposite sex relationships as well as same sex relationships.

Any repeated actual or threatened acts to abuse a dating partner in any way, is teen dating violence and constitutes an unhealthy relationship.

If you or someone you know is in an unhealthy relationship, get help. Call the National Domestic Violence 24-hour hotline at:  
1.866.331.9474.



### JOEL BLUE

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# Does Your Boyfriend/Girlfriend Display These Signs?

## Physical Abuse

- Slaps, kicks, punches, pushes, strangles, throws objects, threatens you, invades your space
- Prevents you from leaving a room or vehicle during an argument
- Tries to make you consume drugs or alcohol



## Emotional Abuse

- Controls you
- Wants to change the way you act, dress, or think
- Wants to always know where you are and who you are with at all times
- Checks up on you constantly calling, texting, or emailing
- Goes through your phone or computer to check who you are communicating with
- Displays extreme signs of jealousy
- Tries to make you feel guilty when you want to spend time with others
- Makes you feel like you cannot do anything right
- Isolates you from friends or family
- Manipulates you
- Blames you or others for his/her problems
- Threatens to break up with you if you don't do what he/she wants
- Threatens to harm him/herself, you or others

## Remember Abuse Is Not Just Physical!

If your boyfriend/girlfriend displays signs of abuse, or you suspect a friend or peer may be experiencing abuse, help is available. Talk to a trusted adult.

## Verbal Abuse

- Belittles you
- Puts you down
- Calls you names
- Yells at you
- Lies to you
- Spreads rumors about you



## Financial Abuse

- Prevents you from working
- Makes you miss work or gets you in trouble at work by repeatedly calling or showing up unannounced
- Steals your money

## Sexual Abuse

- Forces you or pressures you to participate in unwanted, unsafe, or degrading sexual acts
- Pressures you to take or pose for nude photos



If you are a victim of a crime, you have rights. You may obtain information about your rights through the victim/witness advocacy program of the Guernsey County Prosecutor's Office.



## Your relationship is healthy if your boyfriend/girlfriend...

- Accepts you for who you are
- Treats you with respect
- Trusts you and you trust him/her
- Encourages you to spend time with your friends
- Doesn't expect you to be with him/her 24/7
- Creates a relationship that is based on more than a physical attraction
- Doesn't make you lie to protect him/her or cover for his/her mistakes
- Makes important decisions with your input
- Encourages you to say what you think and you don't have to always agree with him/her
- Doesn't pressure you to do things which make you feel uncomfortable

Dating abuse can happen to people of any age, sex, gender identity, race, sexual orientation or economic background.