

- Encourage them to confide in a trusted adult. Talk to a trusted adult if you believe the situation is getting worse. Offer to go with them for help.
- Never put yourself in a dangerous situation with the victim's partner.
- Call the police if you witness an assault. Tell an adult — a school principal, parent, or guidance counselor.
- Don't be a mediator.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Start a peer education program on teen dating violence.
- Ask your school library to purchase books/videos about living without violence and the cycle of domestic abuse.
- Create bulletin boards in the school cafeteria or classroom to raise awareness.

Teen Dating Violence



ONLINE RESOURCES

www.loveisrespect.org
www.safeyouth.org
www.nsvrc.org

GET HELP NOW. RESOURCES ARE OUT THERE.

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
1-866-331-9474

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE

National Sexual Assault Online Hotline
1-800-656-HOPE

Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Dating abuse occurs when harmful behaviors are repeated, creating a pattern of violence. There are three common types of dating abuse.

PHYSICAL ABUSE occurs when a teen is pinched, hit, shoved, or kicked.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE means threatening a teen or harming his or her sense of self-worth. Examples include name calling, teasing, threats, bullying, or keeping a teen away from friends and family.

SEXUAL ABUSE is forcing a teen to engage in a sex act. This includes fondling and rape.

Dating abuse often starts with teasing and name calling. These behaviors are often thought to be a "normal" part of a relationship. But, these behaviors can lead to more serious abuse like physical assault and rape.



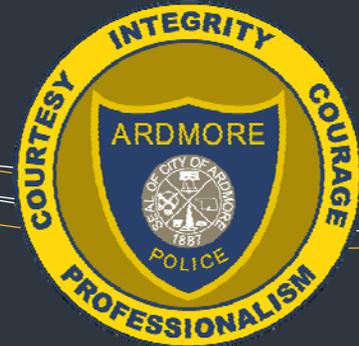
ARDMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Second Floor
Ardmore City Hall
23 South Washington
Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401

non-emergency 223-1212
Ardmore CrimeStoppers 580-504-4LAW

THIS PUBLICATION IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE BY THE A.P.D.
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION.

IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911



ARDMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA

ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE WHO...

- Is jealous and possessive, won't let you have friends, checks up on you, won't accept breaking up?
- Tries to control you by being very bossy, giving orders, making all the decisions, not taking your opinions seriously?
- Puts you down in front of friends, tells you that you would be nothing without him or her?
- Scares you? Makes you worry about reactions to things you say or do? Threatens you? Uses/owns weapons?
- Is violent? Has a history of fighting, loses temper quickly, brags about mistreating others? Grabs, pushes, shoves, or hits you?
- Pressures you for sex or is forceful or scary about sex? Gets too serious about the relationship too fast?
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs and pressures you to use them, too?

- Has a history of failed relationships, and blames the other person for all the problems?
- Makes your family and friends uneasy and concerned for your safety?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you could be the victim of dating abuse. Dating violence or abuse affects one in ten teen couples. Abuse isn't just hitting. It's yelling, name-calling, saying, "I'll kill myself if you leave me," obsessive phone calls or texts, and extreme possessiveness.

WHAT IF YOUR PARTNER IS ABUSING YOU AND YOU WANT OUT?

- Tell your parents, a friend, a counselor, a clergyman, or someone else whom you trust and who can help. The more isolated you are from friends and family, the more control the abuser has over you.
- Alert the school counselor or security officer.
- Keep a daily log of the abuse.
- Do not meet your partner alone. Do not meet him or her in your home or car when you are alone.

- Avoid being alone at school, your job, on the way to and from places.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back.
- Plan and rehearse what you would do if your partner became abusive.

HOW TO BE A FRIEND TO A VICTIM OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Most teens talk to other teens about their problems. If a friend tells you he or she is being victimized, here are some suggestions on how you can help.

- If you notice a friend is in an abusive relationship, don't ignore the signs of abuse. Talk to your friend.
- Express your concerns. Tell your friend you're worried. Support, don't judge.
- Point out your friend's strengths — many people in abusive relationships are no longer capable of seeing their own abilities and gifts.

