Teen Dating Violence

Do you suspect your child is a victim of teen dating violence? Do you know the warning signs? Do you know what resources are available to help protect your teen?
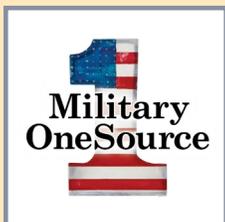
Teen dating violence includes physical, sexual, psychological/emotional violence and stalking within a current or former teen dating relationship. It can occur in person or electronically in the form of excessive texting, sexting or derogatory posts on social media sites. It's critical that parents and peers have the courage to take action when they suspect abuse.

Warning signs

» Your teen's boyfriend or girlfriend is overly jealous or possessive.

» You notice unexplained bruises or marks.

» The boyfriend or girlfriend emails or texts your teen constantly.

» Your teen is frequently worried about the boyfriend's or girlfriend's approval.

» Your teen seems depressed, withdrawn or not interested in activities.

» The boyfriend or girlfriend uses social media sites to threaten or demean your teen.

» Your teen makes excuses or assumes responsibility for the boyfriend's or girlfriend's behavior.

Where to get help?

» **The National Domestic Violence Hotline** – Call 800-799-SAFE (7233) or visit http://www.thehotline.org/.

» **Loveisrespect.org** – Call 866-331-9474, text "loveis" to 25222 or visit http://www.loveisrespect.org.

» **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** – Visit http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/ intimatepartnerviolence/teen_dating_violence.html.

» **The Family Advocacy Program** – Find your local program through http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil.

» **School counselors**

» **Start Strong** – Visit http://startstrong.futureswithoutviolence.org/.

» **Local or installation law enforcement** – Contact law enforcement to take legal action against abusers.

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