

DANGER AHEAD: EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Are you going out with someone who:

- is jealous and possessive toward you; 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; doesn't take your opinion seriously;
- is scary; you worry about how they will react to things you say or do; threatens you, uses or owns weapons;
- is violent: has a history of fighting; loses temper quickly; brags about mistreating others;
- pressures you for sex; is forceful or scary around sex; thinks women or girls are sex objects; attempts to manipulate or guilt trip you by saying "if you really loved me you would...;" gets too serious about the relationship too fast;
- abuses drugs or alcohol and pressures you to take them;
- blames you when they mistreat you; says you provoked them, pressed their buttons, made them do it, lead them on;
- has a history of bad relationships and blames the other person for all the problems; "girls just don't understand me;"
- believes that men should be in control and powerful and that women should be passive and submissive;
- your family and friends have warned you about the person or told you they were worried for your safety.

*Adapted from Fitzpatrick, D. (1992). Outreach to Teens a Manual for Counsellors
Who Work with Teen Victims of Violence Against Women
Further Adapted by the London Abused Women's Centre, 2002.*