

The Victim of an Abusive Relationship

Facts about Abusive Relationships

Abusive relationships often involve a repeating pattern of verbal, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse that increases over time.

Indicators of Abusive Relationships

Include:

- Verbal abuse/name calling
- Isolation from friends and family
- Fear of abandonment
- Fear of partner's temper
- Fear of intimidation
- Acceptance of highly controlling behavior
- Assuming responsibility for partner's abusive behavior
- Feeling trapped
- Fear of leaving the relationship

In the event the victim has identified a student or student organization as the responsible party of the victimization, please remind the student that the Office of Student Conduct (521-4328) is a resource. Please contact the Office of Student Conduct to document the situation and determine if student disciplinary action is necessary.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

See the student in private

Recognize that the student may be fearful and vulnerable.

Remember that abusive relationships involve complex dynamics, including high levels of denial and are difficult to change.

Be aware that interventions from a variety of sources increase the chances for change.

Encourage the student to connect with family and friends.

AVOID

Downplaying the situation.

Lecturing the student about poor judgment.

Expecting the student to make quick or any changes

Pressuring students to follow any particular course of action.