

DATING VIOLENCE

A SAFETY PLAN



CALL 911 IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER!

Funding for this pamphlet made available by:



Created through the *In Love...and In Danger Outreach Project*, of Family Services a la Famille Ottawa.



This pamphlet was designed for youth. We thank the many supporters of this effort. We see, as in many centres, this as a work in progress, so please feel free to modify

RELATIONSHIP QUIZ

- You can't talk to anyone else because your boy/girlfriend is so jealous.
- You are afraid to disagree with your boy/girlfriend
- Your boy/girlfriend demands to know where and who you are with at all times.
- Your boy/girlfriend criticizes your friends.
- There is continual criticism about how you look, how you act, and what you do.
- You continually apologize for your boy/girlfriend's behaviour.
- Your boy/girlfriend frequently puts you down either when you are alone or in front of others.
- You are frightened of your boy/girlfriend's temper.
- You become secretive or ashamed of your relationship.

GET OUT FAST WHEN:

- He/she expresses anger through violence
- He/she pressures you sexually through force or threats
- He/she threatens to hurt you, your friends, family and/or pets.
- He/she hits you and says it will never happen again
- He/she threatens to kill you or commit suicide

Source and Author of Quiz unknown

PLAN FOR YOUR SAFETY

Whether the abuse is emotional, sexual or physical, you deserve to be in a healthy, equal, and safe relationship!

If you feel you may be at risk:

Let someone you trust know if you are concerned about safety in your relationship

Who can help?

- In school:
- Guidance Counsellor
 - Social Worker
 - Psychologist
 - Staff/teacher you trust
 - Police Resource Officer



Your parents and friends are people you may be able to talk to.

Your best safety is not to keep it a secret!

Remember, if the person you tell makes you feel bad, tell someone else. You deserve support, and it is better to be safe than sorry.

WHILE DECIDING WHAT TO DO:

- Stay in touch with your friends; and, make it a point to spend time with people other than your boy/girlfriend.
- Stay involved in activities that you enjoy. Don't stop doing things that you enjoy or that make you feel good about yourself.
- Make new friends. Increase your support network.
- Plan for your safety. Take a self-defense course designed for women and girls.
- Consider looking into resources at your school or in the community. Think about joining a support group or calling a crisis line.

WHEN YOU ARE WITH YOUR BOY/GIRLFRIEND

Try not to be alone with your him/her, or to be alone in an isolated or deserted location. Go out to public places.

- Try to double date or to go out with a group of people.
- Let other people know what your plans are and where you'll be.
- Try not to be dependent on your him/her for a ride.
- Always keep change with you so you can make a phone call.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel you are in danger, call the police. Get help immediately. Do not minimize your fears.

IF YOU CONTACT THE POLICE:



- In emergency, **call 911!**
 - -If **not** an emergency, call: 230-6211
 - If you have just been assaulted, or the assault is in progress, call 911. Police will respond and they will likely arrest the abuser, or try to find the abuser to place him/her under arrest.
 - If you want to report abuse/assault in the past, or to report harassment or stalking, police will ask you for a witness statement. A statement is your detailed story about what happened. Your report will be given to an investigator, who will look into your report more closely.
 - Find out what your case number is, and what investigator was given your case so that you can contact them later to get an update on what is going on with your report. If reasonable grounds exist, the police will lay charges.
- For more information about the investigation or court process, you can call **Victim/Witness Assistance** at **239-1229**.

IF YOU DECIDE TO BREAK UP WITH YOUR ABUSIVE BOY/GIRLFRIEND:

- Make sure you are in a safe place. Do it over the phone, and make sure there are people nearby who can hear and see you.
- Have someone who can support you in your break up, and talk to about how you feel after the break up.
- If you think your parents will be supportive, let them know about the break up so they can help you with safety planning.



AT SCHOOL:

- Consider changing your lock or locker.
- Choose another route to school
- Use a buddy system for going to school, classes, and after school activities.
- Consider rearranging your class schedule.
- Talk to teachers/counsellors at school about your situation so they also can look out for your safety. They can help ensure you are not placed in a working group with your ex, and allow you to sit further away from your ex if you have the same class together.
- Your teachers/counsellors can also ensure that your ex does not harass you during class. Go to teachers and trusted staff if harassment becomes a problem during breaks.
- Remaining "friends" with your "ex" can increase your safety risk. This often results in returning to the abusive relationship.

AT HOME:

- Try not to be alone at home. If you are alone at home, make sure the doors are locked and the windows are secure.
- Consider telling your parents or other family members about what is happening. They can help you screen telephone calls or visitors.
- Keep this list of phone numbers with you. Add to it names of supportive friends who you can call when you are upset.



ALSO....

- Consider keeping a journal describing the abuse or threats with dates and times. If your "ex" continues to harass you, or follow you (stalking), this information will help later if you want to contact the police.
- Keep your cell phone on you, or make sure to carry a change for a pay phone. Remember, dialing 911 does not cost any money.
- Give back or get rid of any items you have that belongs to the abuser (e.g. cell phones, t-shirts, CD's). You may choose to do this through a friend.
- Know who you can call if you are stranded or need a ride home quickly.
- Consider applying for a restraining order.
- Think of a code word you can use with your friends if you are in trouble.
- Do not go anywhere alone or agree to meet alone with your ex, even if s/he just wants to "talk".
- If you need to go places you think your ex might be, take a friend or family member with you.



YOU MAY WANT TO CONTACT SOMEONE:

You may want to contact the closest counselling/ or community health centre to ask for specific services around abuse:

Counselling Services:

- Youthline (Distress Line) 238-2088
- Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868
- Youth Net 738-3915
- Support for Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth 233-4443 ext. 2171
- Pink Triangle for Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth 563-4818
- Youth Services Bureau (for ages 12-20 years old) 729-1000
- YSB Crisis Line (16-24 years old) 562-3004 ext. 242
- Assaulted Women's Helpline (ages 16 & up) 1-866-863-0511
- Immigrant Women Services Ottawa 729-3145
- Young Women's Shelter 789-8220
- Victim Crisis Unit or Partner Assault Unit(Ottawa Police) 236-1222
- Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre 562-2333
- Sexual Assault Support Centre 234-2266
- Minwaashin Lodge Aboriginal Women's Support Centre 741-5590
- Jewish Family Services 722-2225
- Family Services a la Famille Ottawa 725-3601

Ottawa WEST

- Carlington Community & Health Services 722-4000
- Nepean Rideau-Osgoode Community Centre 596-5626
- Pinecrest Queensway Health & Community Services . . . 820-4922
- Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre 591-3686

Ottawa CENTRAL

- Lowertown Community Resource Centre 789-3930
- Sandy Hill Community Health Centre 789-6309
- Somerset West Community Health Centre 238-8210
- Centretown Community Health Centre 233-4697

Ottawa EAST

- Overbrook-Forbes Community Resource Centre 745-0073
- Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre 741-6025
- Vanier Community Service Centre 744-2892

Ottawa SOUTH

- South-East Ottawa Centre for a Health Community 737-4809
- Hunt Club/Riverside Community Services Centre 247-1600

OTHER/HEALTH:

- Maison Fraternelle (drug & alcohol concerns) 744-7469
- Tewegan Transition House (for Aboriginal women ages 16 & up) 580-2400
- Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments (W.I.S.E) (offer a variety of services including women's safety workshops) 230-6700

- Catholic Family Services 233-8478
- Elizabeth Fry Society (for women in conflict with the law) 237-7427
- Youville Centre (for young single mothers and children) 231-5150
- Bethany Hope Centre (for pregnant and parenting youth) 725-1733
- Teen Health Clinic (CHEO) 737-7600 ext. 3664
- Sexual Health Centre (for teens and adults) 234-4641

Ottawa Hospital (Civic Campus) Partner and Sexual Assault Treatment Program (this program can collect physical evidence, including drug facilitated sexual assault, that can be used if charges are laid by police) 738-3762

If you would like a legal person to help you press charges, or have any questions about the legal system, you may also contact the **University of Ottawa Legal Clinic (free)** at: 562-5600 or **Legal Aid Ontario (also free)** at: 238-7931

Other Important Contacts You Want to Add:

