



Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention

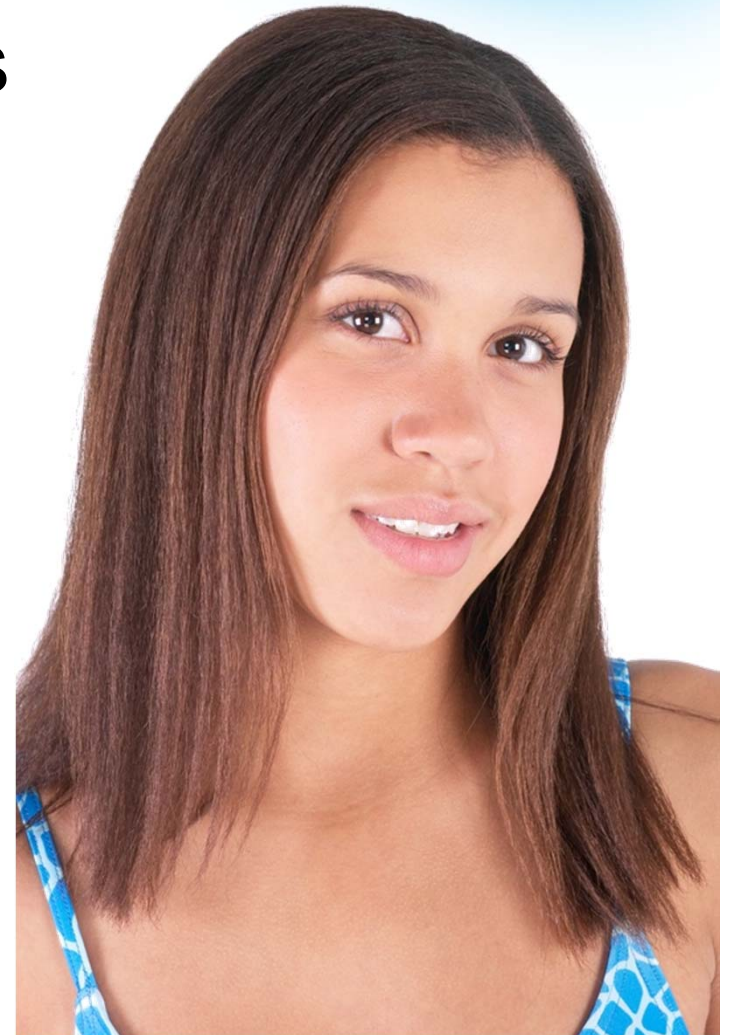
Provided by the Office of the Attorney General

<http://teendatingviolence.state.nv.us>

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Special Requests

- Mutual respect during class
 - Interaction and questions encouraged throughout
 - Disclaimer on male vs. female violence
 - Handouts



What is Teen Dating Violence?

A pattern of physically, sexually, verbally, and/or emotionally abusive behavior in a dating relationship. Dating violence takes many forms. It ranges from:

- punching, slapping, pushing, grabbing
- rape and murder
- threats of violence, verbal attacks, and other forms of intimidation
- extreme jealousy, possessiveness and controlling behavior

What is Dating Violence

continued

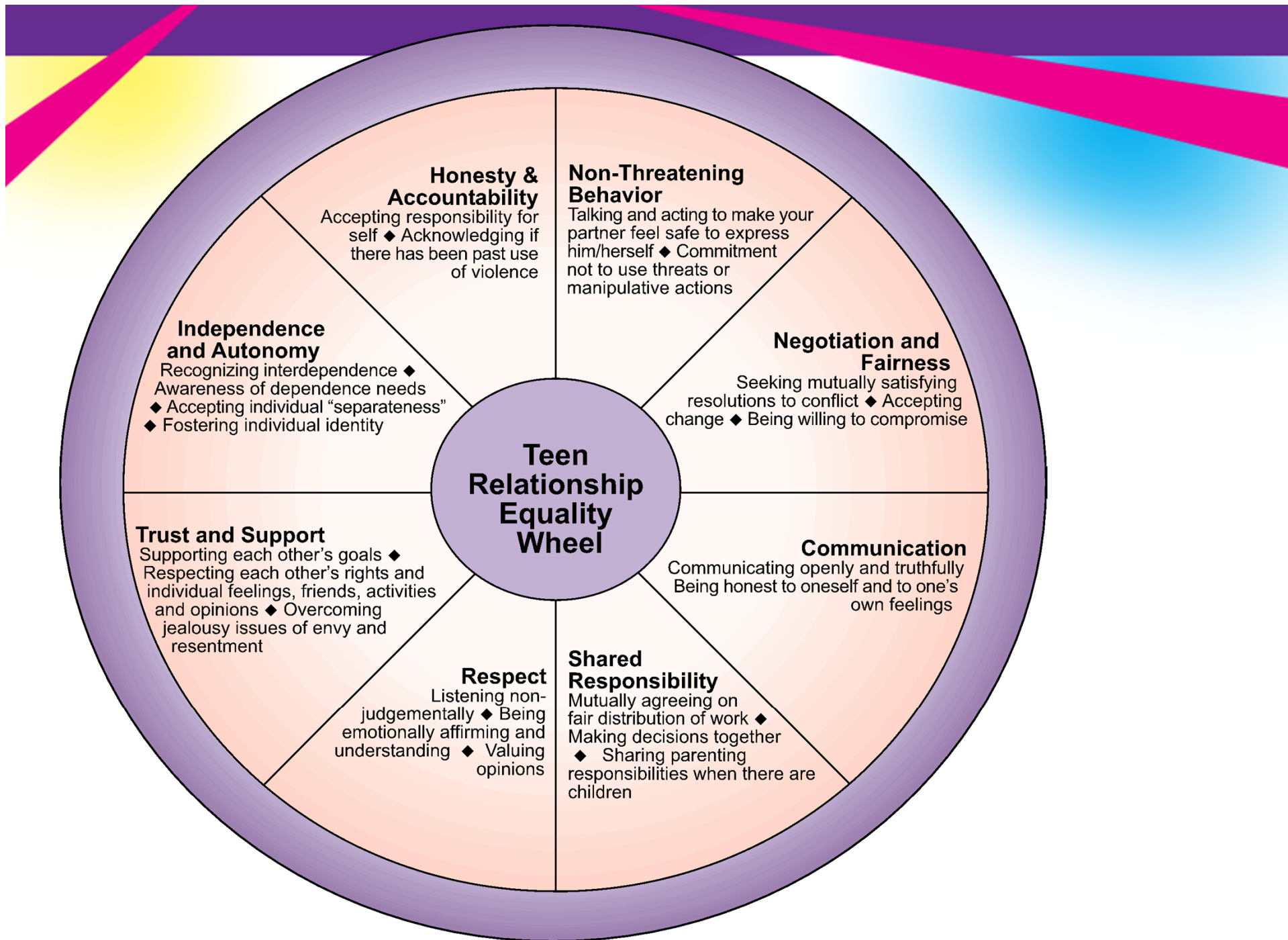
- A pattern of abusive behaviors that over time causes harm and/or fear.
- Use of emotional manipulation and/or physical domination to gain control and power over his or her partner.
- Does not discriminate. It affects people of all races, religions, cultures, classes, same sex as well as heterosexual relationships.



Healthy Relationships

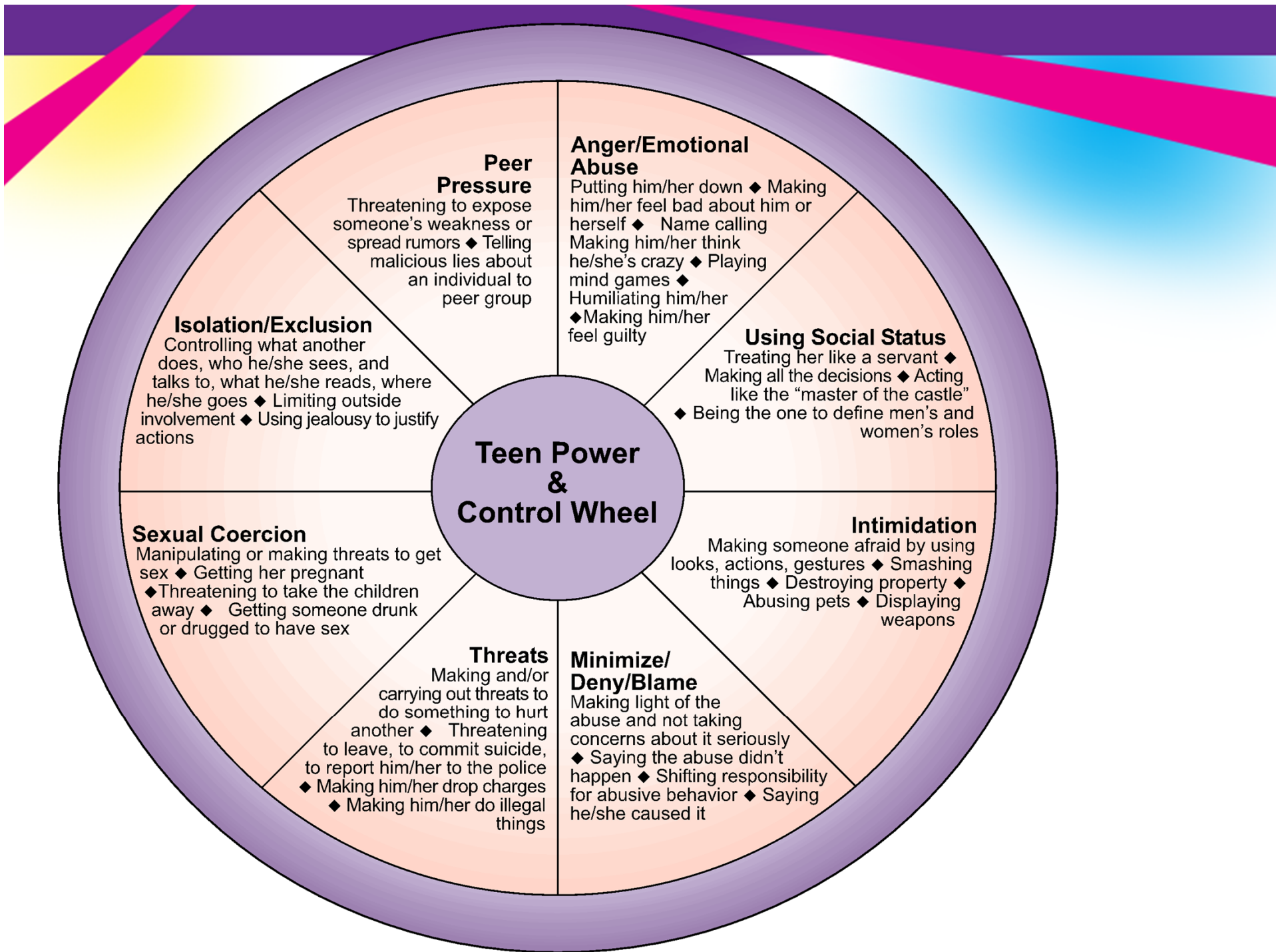
A healthy relationship is based on equality and mutual respect. Each partner's growth and wellbeing is nurtured in an environment of personal safety and emotional support.

Power in a healthy relationship is balanced. While there may be conflict, there is no fear, no threats, and no violence. Healthy partners actively respect each other's rights.



Abusive Relationships

- An abusive relationship is characterized by an imbalance of power that is maintained through intimidation, coercion and violence. The victim loses self-confidence and supportive relationships with friends and family members.
- Physical and sexual assaults, occur even if infrequently, to keep the victim fearful of more violence.





Roles in an Abusive Relationship

- **Abuser:** A person who physically, sexually, verbally, or emotionally hurts their intimate partner.
- **Target:** A person who is hurt physically, sexually, verbally, or emotionally by their intimate partner.
- **Bystander:** A person who is aware that someone is being abused in a dating relationship. A witness to the abuse.

Types of Abuse

- **Physical Abuse** – any intentional unwanted contact with the other person's body. Physical abuse does not have to leave a mark or bruise.
- **Examples:** Scratching, Kicking, Biting, Pulling hair, Pinching, Burning, Strangling, Pushing, Shoving, Slapping, Using a Weapon, Hitting, and Spitting.

Types of Abuse - continued

- **Sexual Abuse** – any sexual behavior that is unwanted or interferes with the other person's right to say “no” to sexual advances.
- **Examples:** Unwanted kissing or touching, Forcing someone to go further than he or she wants, Unwanted rough or violent sexual activity, Not letting someone use birth control or protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

Types of Abuse - continued

- **Verbal/Emotional Abuse** – Saying or doing something to the other person that causes the person to be afraid, lower their opinion of themselves, or manipulating/controlling the person's feelings or behaviors.
- **Examples:** Name-calling and put-downs, Insulting the person/family/friends, Yelling and screaming, Threatening violence or harm, Making racial slurs, Embarrassing the person, Spreading rumors about the person, Telling the person what to do, Preventing the person from seeing or talking to friends and family.

Verbal/Emotional Abuse - continued

- Making the person feel responsible for the violence/abuse, Stalking the person, Harming or threatening to harm the person's pets.
- Making the person feel guilty about leaving the relationship, Threatening to commit suicide, Threatening to expose personal information about the person, Threatening family or friends.

Cycle of Violence – Phase 1

- **Tension Building** - *Things start to get tense between the two people.* In this phase:
- There is arguing a lot, the abuser yells at the target for no reason
- The abuser may make false accusations about the target,
- The target feels he or she can't do anything right, the atmosphere is tense, as if things could blow up at any moment.

Cycle of Violence – Phase 2

Explosion - *The tension is released in a burst of physical, sexual, and/or verbal/emotional abuse.*

The abuser may:

- Scream and yell in a way that is frightening and/or humiliating.
- Hit, grab, shove, kick, slam the target against the wall, etc. Throw objects. Threaten to hurt the target.
- Assault the target or force him or her to do things the target does not want to do.

Cycle of Violence – Phase 3

- **Romance Period** - *The abuser tries to make the target stay in the relationship by apologizing and/or trying to shift the blame onto someone or something else, like drugs, alcohol, or stress.*

The abuser may:

- Apologize and promise the abuse will never happen again.
- Say “I love you.”
- Buy the target flowers and gifts.
- Be very loving and apologetic to the target.
- Accuse the target of actually causing the abuse.

Why is recognizing abuse important?

- Females between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence.¹
- 1 in 5 high school girls is physically or sexually hurt by a dating partner.² As many as one-third of teens experience some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse.³
- 1 in 3 teens reports knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped or physically hurt by a partner. 45 percent of teen girls know someone who has been pressured or forced into having intercourse or oral sex.⁴

Why is recognizing abuse important?

- The vast majority of teens consider verbal and physical abuse to be serious issues in their age group.⁵
- Only 33 percent of teens who have been in or known about an abusive dating relationship report having told anyone about it.⁶
- Adolescent males – as well as females – experience dating violence.

Nevada Law for Dating Violence (NRS 33.018)

Dating violence occurs when a person commits abusive acts against:

- A spouse or former spouse
- Blood relative
- Person with whom they are actually residing
- **A Person whom they have had or are having a dating relationship**
- Person with whom they have a child

Acts Constituting Domestic Violence:

- Battery or Assault
- Compelling another by force or threat of force to perform an act which he has the right to refrain, or to refrain from an act which he has the right to perform
- Sexual Assault
- Knowing, purposeful or reckless course of conduct intended to harass another. Such as: Stalking, Larceny, Arson, Destruction of Private Property

Domestic Battery Penalties

NRS 200.485

<i>First Offense</i>	<i>Second Offense</i>	<i>Third Offense</i>
6 months incarceration	6 months incarceration	1 – 5 years incarceration
26 wks counseling	52 wks counseling	
48 hrs CS \$35 assessment	100 hrs CS \$35 assessment	
48 hrs jail	10 days jail	

- Drug abuse, alcohol evaluation and counseling
- Psychological evaluation and treatment
- Parenting class
- No residential confinement unless finding by court that offender is not likely to pose a threat to the victim

What Can Friends Do?

- Listen calmly and take the concern seriously
- Reassure your friend that nobody deserves to be abused
- Suggest talking to a trusted adult – counselor, teacher, family member and/or call a community agency for advice
- Realize the situation will not change overnight



6 Things to say to a Friend

- I am afraid for your safety.
- I am afraid for the safety of your friends and family
- It will only get worse.
- I am here for you.
- You don't deserve to be abused.
- It is not your fault.

Ideas For Prevention

- Become more aware of verbal and physical abuse in your own relationships
- Help fellow students “break the silence”
- Promote other ways to deal with anger and conflict resolution
- Beware of jokes, movies, TV programs, advertising, and music that are demeaning to women and may promote violence against women

Reaching Out - What To Expect

When you contact an agency for help, these are some of the things they will be able to do to try to help you.

- listen to your problem
- answer your questions
- connect you to police
- discuss safety planning
- provide you with a 911-only cell phone
- inform you about the protection order procedure
- offer you shelter if needed
- give you a referral to another agency if they can't help



**Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-500-1556**

**National Teen Dating Violence Hotline:
(Available Spring 2007)**

**Break the Cycle
1-888-988-TEEN**