

Reaching Out To A Friend Who Is Abusing Someone

If you have a friend who is an abuser and you feel safe talking to him/her about it, here are some tips to keep in mind:

Explain that you are still the person's friend, but that you don't like it when he/she is abusive to someone.

Do not accept the abuser's excuses for the abuse. Say clearly that abuse is never okay.

Encourage the friend to find a counselor whom he/she can trust. Offer to go with him/her to meet the counselor.

When you see your friend treat his/her partner with respect, acknowledge and praise it.

Do not act as a "go-between" to help the couple work things out.

From: *Love is Not Abuse* – a teen dating violence prevention curriculum www.loveisnotabuse.com