



### Signs to Look for in Your Child

- Frequent apologies for her partner's behavior or casually speaking about his "hot temper" while laughing it off
- Time spent with family and friends becoming less and less frequent while time with her dating partner increases
- Changes in your child's personality; exhibiting signs of depression, nervousness, becoming secretive or uncharacteristically emotional
- Lack of interest in activities or hobbies she once loved
- Drop in grades or attendance in school
- Unexplained bruises or scratches; when asked about them she changes the subject
- Change in appearance and the way she normally dresses
- Timid behavior when dating partner is near

### Signs to Look For in Your Child's Dating Partner

- Unusually impatient or criticizing your child in public
- Constant calls to see how or where she is, demands to know where she is going and who with, making decisions for her
- Blames her for his behavior "*I wouldn't get so mad at you if you didn't do...*"
- Threats of self-harm or suicide when she tries to end the relationship

### What You as a Parent Can Do

- Listen to your child without interruption or judgment towards her or her boyfriend; remember she may still have strong feelings for him despite his abuse
- Help your child identify a trusted adult they can confide in if it's too difficult for them to talk to you; this may include a counselor or domestic violence advocate
- If violence (verbal, emotional, or physical), escalates contact school officials, the police; and if necessary obtain a protective order
- Contact your local domestic violence agency for additional information