

Student Health Services Dating Abuse Screening and Response Protocol

This protocol is a guide for identifying youth who are experiencing unhealthy or abusive relationships and for assisting them in increasing their personal safety. Sample statements and questions are provided.

Introductory Statement:

- Many students your age are beginning to date and sometimes these relationships can be unhealthy or even abusive. So I have begun to ask all students about their relationships. May I ask you a few questions?

Confidentiality Statement:

- The information you give me about yourself is confidential. That means that I will not share it or repeat what you say to others including other students, your parents, or other adults.
- There is some information that I cannot keep confidential. If you tell me that you or another minor has been physically or sexually abused, I am required by law to report that to authorities. I would let you know first so that we can work together to keep you and others safe.

Screening Questions:

- Are you dating or going out with anyone?
- Have you ever felt controlled by someone you were dating?
- Have you ever felt afraid or threatened by someone you were dating?
- Have you ever been physically hurt or injured by someone you were dating?
- Have you ever felt pressured to do something sexual when you didn't want to?
- Is anybody in your life hurting you or someone you know?

If you suspect or are concerned that a student is involved in an unhealthy or abusive relationship:

1. Student Health Assistants contact the campus nurse.
2. Use the screening tool, Are You In an Unhealthy Relationship? Schedule another time to meet with the student if necessary.
3. Offer assistance in contacting help resources within and outside of school.
4. Discuss need to report to CPS if necessary and do so with student if possible.
5. Refer student to appropriate school personnel to assist student in completing an AISD Student Complaint Form if he or she wishes to do so. If the student is in imminent danger, also contact an administrator or an SRO immediately.

Closing Statement:

- Healthy relationships make you feel good about yourself. Controlling, disrespectful, and abusive behaviors are bad for your health and should never be part of a dating relationship. If these things ever happen to you or someone you know you can always talk to me or another adult at school.

Documentation:

- Document in Student Health Information System (SHIS).
- Complete an online or verbal report to CPS as needed.

Factors that Increase Risk for Violence:

- The victim is considering ending or has recently ended the relationship.
- The partner has a history of violence or delinquency.
- The partner owns or has access to weapons.
- The partner has made threats to hurt him/herself or others.
- The partner abuses alcohol or drugs.

Help Resources:

- If the student is in immediate danger, call 911 or the School Resource Officer.
- Refer student to school counselor or administrator. In AISD students can request a Student Complaint Form, a Stay Away Agreement and a Request for Transfer.
- Refer student to an Expect Respect Group if one is available at your school-see CIS or your school counselor for more information or contact The Expect Respect Program at expectrespect@SafePlace.org, www.SafePlace.org, or 267-SAFE.
- Help the student identify friends and adults to talk with about their situation.
- Encourage the student to keep a journal to track violent incidents. Record date, location, what happened, injuries and witnesses.
- For legal protection contact the Austin Police Department's Family Violence Protection Team at (512) 974-8535, <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/afvpt.htm> or the Teen Justice Initiative at the Texas Advocacy Project (512) 225-9579, www.myspace.com/teenjusticeinitiative.
- Encourage students to call the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline (866) 331-9474 or live chat at www.loveisrespect.org.
- Encourage students to visit www.thatsnotcool.com to help them draw their digital line against unwanted texting and other forms of digital abuse.

Are You in an Unhealthy Relationship?

Read each statement and honestly mark how often the person does these things to you.

How often does this person:	Never	Rarely	Some-times	Fairly Often	Frequently
Put you down					
Call or text you repeatedly					
Hit you or throw things					
Threaten to “out” your sexual orientation to others					
Constantly follow you, or have others follow you					
Pressure you to have sex with him/her or others					
Refuse to use protection during sex or try to get you pregnant					
Push or shove you					
Ask you to exchange sex for food, money or other things you need					
Keep you from leaving					
Keep you from spending time with others					
Share private or embarrassing pictures or videos					
Threaten suicide					
Other					

You may be in danger of being physically hurt if...

- You are considering ending or have recently ended your relationship
- Your partner has a history of violence or delinquency
- Your partner owns or has access to weapons
- Your partner has made threats to hurt you or others
- Your partner abuses alcohol or drugs

You can get help and support from...

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911 or the School Resource Officer.
- Ask to speak with a school counselor or administrator. You have a right to be safe at school, in the community and in your home.
- If the person is a student in AISD you can request a Student Complaint Form, a Stay Away Agreement and a Request for Transfer.
- Tell your friends and other adults about your situation so that they can help protect and support you.
- Use a journal to keep track of violent incidents. Record date, location, what happened, injuries and witnesses.
- To obtain legal protection contact the Austin Police Department's Family Violence Protection Team at (512) 974-8535, <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/afvpt.htm> or the Teen Justice Initiative at the Texas Advocacy Project (512) 225-9579, www.myspace.com/teenjusticeinitiative.
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