

## **My daughter's boyfriend pages her 20 times a day. Should I be concerned?**

Domestic violence isn't just something that affects adults. Did you know:

- Eight percent of high school age girls said "yes" when asked if "a boyfriend or date has ever forced sex against your will." (The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, November 1997.)
- Forty percent of teenage girls age 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. (Children Now/Kaiser Permanente poll, December 1995.)
- One in five teenage girls experiences dating violence. ([FVVPF NewFlash August 2, 2001](#))

While many adolescent relationships are intense and involve hours on the phone talking with each other every night, if your daughter's boyfriend is constantly checking up on her, it could be a red flag. Here are some other signs to look for:

1. When your daughter and her boyfriend are together, he calls her names or puts her down in front of other people.
2. He acts extremely jealous when she talks to other boys.
3. She apologizes for his behavior and makes excuses for him.
4. She frequently cancels plans at the last minute, for reasons that sound untrue.
5. He's always checking up on her, calling or paging her, and demanding to know where she has been and whom she has been with.
6. You've seen him lose his temper, maybe even break or hit things when he's mad.
7. She seems worried about upsetting him or making him angry.
8. She is giving up things that used to be important to her, such as spending time with friends or other activities, and is becoming more and more isolated.
9. Her weight, appearance or grades have changed dramatically. These could be signs of depression, which could indicate abuse.
10. She has injuries she can't explain, or the explanations she gives don't make sense.