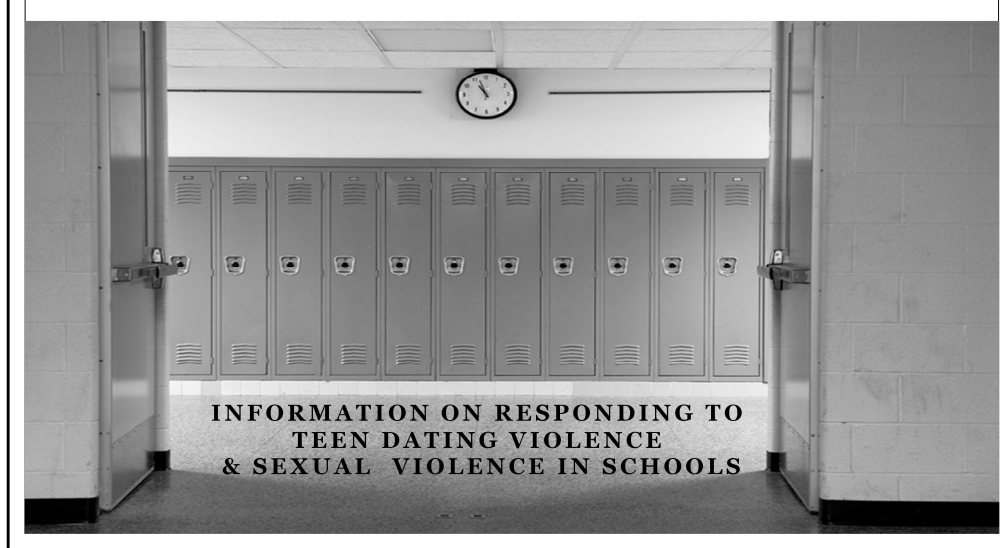


## Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence



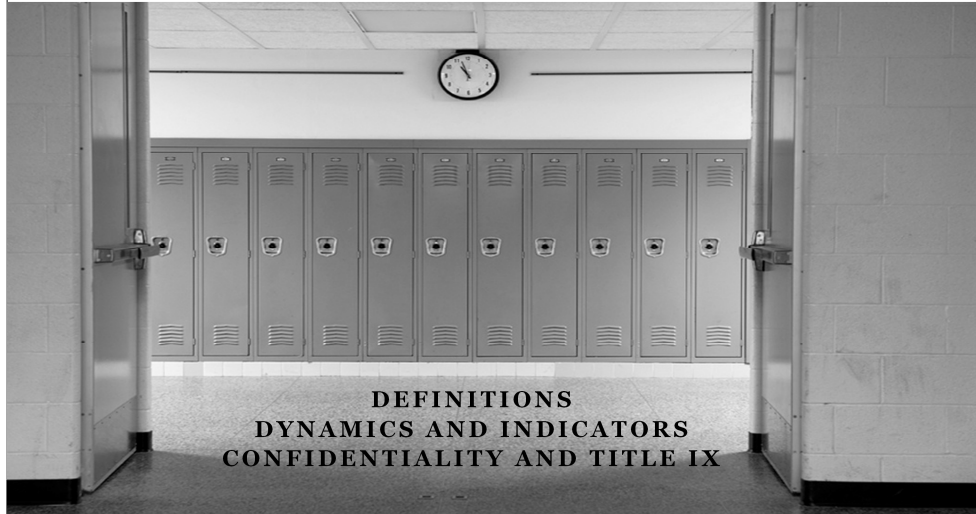
Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence: Information on Responding to Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence in Schools.

By January 2015, school districts and charter schools are required under Title 14 of the Delaware Code to establish a policy on responding to Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Assault.

In anticipation of this legislation, the Child Protection Accountability Commission created Guidelines for Responding to Teen Dating and Sexual Violence in Delaware Schools, to help schools create policy surrounding these issues.

This presentation was created by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to provide training on the guidelines.

# Module One



Module One:

- Definitions
- Dynamics and Indicators
- Confidentiality and Title IX

# Definitions



**FOUND IN THE GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING  
TO TEEN DATING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Let's begin by reviewing some of the definitions that are used throughout this presentation, and in the Guidelines for responding to Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence.

## DATING VIOLENCE



- Includes assaultive and controlling behaviors (often evolving into a pattern of behaviors) that one person uses against another in order to gain or maintain power in a current or past relationship.
- The abuser intentionally behaves in ways that can cause fear, degradation, humiliation, injury or harm or uses any other coercive behaviors to control the other person.

The definition of Dating Violence was developed by members of Delaware's Teen Dating Violence Task Force.

Dating violence includes assaultive and controlling behaviors (often evolving into a pattern of behaviors) that one person uses against another in order to gain or maintain power in a current or past relationship. The abuser intentionally behaves in ways that can cause fear, degradation, humiliation, injury or harm or uses any other coercive behaviors to control the other person.

## DATING VIOLENCE (CONT.)

Abuse can occur in both heterosexual and same-sex or serious and casual relationships and covers a wide range of behaviors.

### **Forms of Dating Violence**

- Economic Abuse
- Verbal Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Stalking

Dating Violence can occur in both heterosexual and same-sex relationships. It can also occur in serious or casual relationships.

Although referring to dating violence typically means a pattern of behavior, when we talk later about reporting and discussing a protocol for responding, we are focusing on one particular event, and what to do when we know that event has occurred.

There are five forms of dating violence; these are economic abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, physical abuse, and stalking.

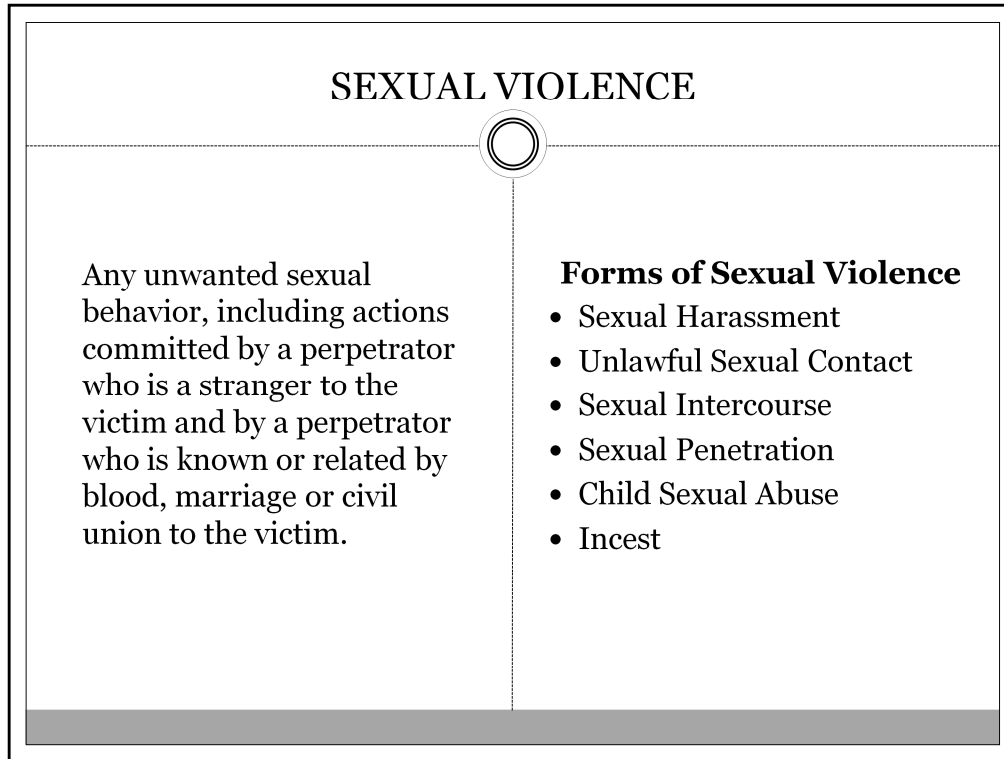
•Economic abuse involves behaviors that control a person's ability to acquire, use, and maintain economic resources. These behaviors may threaten a person's economic security and ability to be self-sufficient.

•Verbal abuse involves withholding, bullying, defaming, defining, trivializing, harassing, diverting, interrogating, accusing, blaming, blocking, countering, lying, berating, taunting, put downs, abuse disguised as a joke, discounting, threatening, name-calling, and yelling.

•Emotional abuse includes yelling, name-calling, making victim feel worthless, making victim feel crazy, telling victim they are stupid, embarrassing victim in front of others, making victim feel bad about himself or herself, using technology to stalk, harass, or embarrass the victim.

•Physical abuse can include pushing or shoving, being held down, biting, kicking, slapping, punching, strangling (choking), hair pulling, being thrown against the wall or on the ground, being stabbed or shot, being tied up, throwing things at the victim, being kept from food/water/sleep, etc.

•Stalking occurs when a person knowingly engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person causing that person to either fear physical injury to himself or herself or that of another person; or suffer other significant mental anguish or distress that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.



The next type of violence that will be addressed in this presentation is sexual violence.

Sexual violence is defined as any unwanted sexual behavior; this includes actions committed by a perpetrator who is a stranger to the victim and by a perpetrator who is known or related by blood, marriage or civil union to the victim.

There are six forms of sexual violence: these are sexual harassment, unlawful sexual contact, sexual intercourse, sexual penetration, child sexual abuse, and incest.

•Sexual harassment is threatening a person to engage in behavior which would result in a sexual offense, or suggests or otherwise attempts to induce another person to have sexual contact with the perpetrator, knowing that the perpetrator is likely to cause annoyance, offense or alarm to the other person.

•Unlawful Sexual Contact involves any intentional touching by a person of the anus, breast, buttocks or genitalia or another person; or any intentional touching of another person with the person's anus, breast, buttocks or genitalia; or intentionally causing or allowing another person to touch the person's anus, breast, buttocks or genitalia which touching, under the circumstances as viewed by a reasonable person, is intended to be sexual in nature. Sexual contact shall also include touching when covered by clothing.

•Sexual intercourse involves any act of physical union of the genitalia or anus of 1 person with the mouth, anus or genitalia of another person.

•Sexual Penetration is the unlawful placement of an object (any item, device, instrument, substance or any part of the body) inside the anus or vagina of another person; or the unlawful placement of the genitalia or any sexual device inside the mouth of another person.

•Child sexual abuse is the deliberate exposure of a minor to sexual activity that the minor cannot comprehend or consent to. This means a minor is forced or coerced into sex or sexual activities by another person. This behavior includes acts such as inappropriate touching of a minor's breasts or genitalia, someone exposing their genitalia to a minor, fondling, oral-genital contact, genital and anal intercourse, as well as exhibitionism, voyeurism, and exposure to pornography.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



The **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)** defines child abuse and neglect as any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.

Now, let's define child abuse and neglect, which will be discussed later in more detail.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) defines child abuse and neglect as any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.

## TEEN PREGNANCY



- In and of itself, pregnancy that occurs in girls, ages 12 to 17, is NOT child abuse.
- However, teen pregnancy is a risk factor of abuse and in some instances, may be the result of sexual abuse.

During this presentation we will also give information and resources on teen pregnancy.

In and of itself, pregnancy that occurs in girls, ages 12 to 17, is NOT child abuse.

However, teen pregnancy is a risk factor of abuse and in some instances, may be the result of sexual abuse.



## YOUTH-PRODUCED SEXUAL IMAGES



- Also known as “sexting”.
- Nude, sexually suggestive, or explicit images possessed and/or transmitted by way of personal electronic device such as a cell phone, iPad, etc., or online with intent to cause harm.

Lastly, we will talk about youth-produced sexual images, also known as “sexting”.

Youth-produced sexual images are nude, sexually suggestive, or explicit images possessed and/or transmitted by way of personal electronic device such as a cell phone, iPad, etc., or online with intent to cause harm.

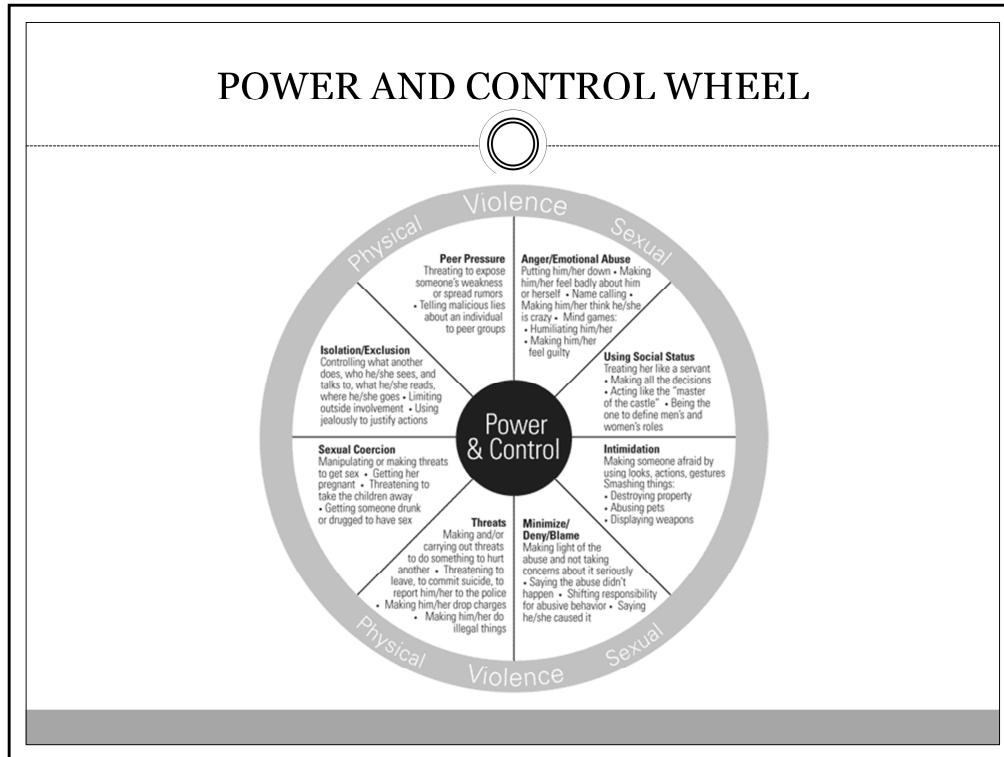
# Dynamics and Indicators



**WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK OUT FOR?**

Now that we have reviewed the definitions, let's turn our attention to the dynamics and indicators regarding teen dating and sexual violence – and give you an idea of what to look out for.

## POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL



“The power and control wheel was created in 1984 by the Domestic Abuse intervention Project. It includes the most common abusive behaviors that have been experienced by battered women. Battering is characterized by the pattern of actions that an individual uses to control or dominate his partner. Physical and sexual violence holds the wheel together. This wheel does not attempt to show that females are the only gender that experience domestic violence; it is only an explanation of tactics used by men to batter women.”

“This wheel is commonly used among women’s groups. A woman can point to each of the tactics that have been used against her, and give an explanation of what occurred.”

<http://www.theduluthmodel.org/training/wheels.html>

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE CAN REMAIN HIDDEN



### **Teenagers typically:**

- are inexperienced with dating relationships.
- are pressured by peers to act violently.
- want independence from parents.
- have "romantic" views of love.

Statistics show that one in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship. A survey of 500 young women ages 15 to 24 revealed that 60 percent of these women were currently involved in an ongoing abusive relationship. Although we may not hear about every case of teen dating violence, it is very common. Most of the time, dating violence is not reported and instead remains hidden.

This is because teenagers are typically,

- inexperienced with dating relationships
- pressured by peers to act violently
- want independence from parents and
- have "romantic" views of love

## DATING VIOLENCE IS INFLUENCED BY HOW TEENS LOOK AT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS



### Young males may believe:

- they have the right to "control" their female partners in any way necessary.
- "masculinity" is physical aggressiveness.
- they "possess" their partner.
- they should demand intimacy.
- they may lose respect if they are attentive and supportive toward their girlfriends.

### Young females may believe:

- they are responsible for solving problems in their relationships.
- their boyfriend's jealousy, possessiveness and even physical abuse, is "romantic."
- abuse is "normal" because their friends are also being abused.
- there is no one to ask for help.

Dating violence is influenced by how teenagers look at themselves and others.

Here, you can see the differences on what young males and females believe should occur in a relationship. Males believe they have control and possession over their partner. In many situations, these types of behaviors turn in to abuse. A major problem with young women in abusive relationships is that they do not turn for help, believing it to be their own responsibility to solve the problems. Females believe this type of behavior is 'romantic' and completely normal. They may think it is normal because their friends experience abuse as well.

## WARNING SIGNS TO BE AWARE OF:



- Physical signs of injury
- Truancy, dropping out of school
- Failing grades
- Indecision
- Changes in mood or personality
- Use of drugs/alcohol
- Pregnancy
- Emotional outbursts
- Isolation

Since dating violence is often hidden, here is a list of certain warning signs that we should be aware of:

- physical signs of injury,
- truancy, dropping out of school,
- failing grades,
- indecision,
- changes in mood or personality,
- use of drugs/alcohol,
- pregnancy,
- emotional outbursts, and
- isolation.

# Confidentiality and Title IX



## WHAT CAN I SHARE?

Next, we'll address confidentiality and regulations related to information sharing.

## CONFIDENTIALITY



- School Counselors, Mental Health and Medical Professionals (including school nurses): bound by professional licensure and code of ethics.
- Confidentiality is the rule for mental health and medical professionals, even when presented with teen dating violence.
- HIPAA provides for confidentiality in some situations, BUT NOT in the case of law enforcement investigations, mandatory reporting, and in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding.

School Counselors, Mental Health and Medical Professionals (including school nurses) are bound by professional licensure and code of ethics. They are required to maintain confidentiality.

Confidentiality is the rule for mental health and medical professionals, even when presented with teen dating violence.

HIPAA provides for confidentiality in some situations, but not in the case of law enforcement investigations, mandatory reporting, and in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding. Students may also give informed consent to release their information.



## CONFIDENTIALITY (CONT.)



### **Exceptions:**

- Any suspicion of child abuse, OR
- For Mental Health Providers - a student communicates an explicit and imminent threat to kill or seriously injure a clearly identified victim or victims (including themselves), OR
- For Medical Providers - in a case when the student- presents with serious burns, non-accidental poisoning, stab wounds, bullet wounds, gunshot wounds, powder burns, or other injury caused by the discharge of a gun, pistol, or other firearm.
- Other school employees (teachers, administrators, coaches, etc.) are NOT bound by confidentiality.

Although mental health and medical professionals are required to maintain confidentiality of all information acquired from clients in a professional capacity, there are a few exceptions to this rule.

These exceptions are:

- any suspicion of child abuse, or
- for Mental Health Providers, if a student communicates an explicit and imminent threat to kill or seriously injure a clearly identified victim or victims (including themselves),
- or for Medical Providers, in a case when the student presents with serious burns, non-accidental poisoning, stab wounds, bullet wounds, gunshot wounds, powder burns, or other injury caused by the discharge of a gun, pistol, or other firearm.

School employees, including teachers, administrators, and coaches, are not bound by confidentiality. However, once a school employee knows or reasonably should know of possible sexual violence of a minor and/or any sexual violence that could have occurred in the school environment, the he or she must take immediate and appropriate action to explore the incident and keep the student victim safe.

## TITLE IX



School districts may be liable for student-on-student sexual harassment, and accordingly acts of teen dating violence that constitute sexual harassment, when:

- A student has been sexually harassed,
- The school has actual knowledge of the harassment,
- The harassment was severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive,
- The harassment caused the student to be deprived of access to educational opportunities or benefits, and
- The school is deliberately indifferent to the harassment.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibits discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funds. The implications of Title IX reach farther than that of sports (which many remember as allowing female athletes to perform in college sports programs). Title IX prohibits harassment of both male and female students regardless of the sex of the harasser (i.e., even if the harasser and target members are of the same sex).

School districts may be liable for student-on-student sexual harassment, and accordingly acts of teen dating violence that constitute sexual harassment, when:

- (1) a student has been sexually harassed,
- (2) the school has actual knowledge of the harassment,
- (3) the harassment was severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive,
- (4) the harassment caused the student to be deprived of access to educational opportunities or benefits, and
- (5) the school is deliberately indifferent to the harassment.

Failure to adopt and implement policies on sexual harassment and teen dating violence that qualifies as sexual harassment exposes school districts to civil liability under Title IX.

# The End



**PLEASE PROCEED TO MODULE TWO:**  
**TEEN DATING VIOLENCE**  
**PROMOTING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**