



Foster Care Forum

Waukesha County
Health & Human Services
February 2012



Is this Love: Teen Dating Violence By: Adoption Resources of Wisconsin - ARW/FCARC

R&B singers Rhianna and Chris Brown made news headlines with their violent dating relationship. On the night before the Grammy music awards, while sitting in a luxurious sports car, Chris Brown punched, choked and bit Rhianna, according to police records.

He threatened her life, he shoved her head against the car window and he bloodied her mouth. Despite being well known and famous, this couple is only one of many young couples that are in a violent dating relationship.

Are you in a relationship that is abusive or could turn violent?
Do you know somebody who is?

Who does it affect?

Young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are at the highest risk for dating violence. One in five teens in a serious relationship report having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner, and physically or sexually abused. You may know others who have been hurt, hit, punched, kicked or slapped by their boyfriend or girlfriend.

Dating violence happens in straight and gay relationships, in casual and serious relationships, in wealthy and not-so-wealthy homes, and among any race. In short, dating violence may happen to anyone at any time. Some violence may happen only once in a while, and some violence may be very frequent between the partners.

What is it?

How do you know if you are in a healthy relationship or one that could become violent and unsafe? Teen dating violence is not an occasional argument or a bad mood after a hard day. It is a *pattern* of controlling, abusive and aggressive behavior that can cause injury and even death.

Continuing in this kind of unhealthy relationship can be dangerous. You may be involved in a potentially abusive relationship if your dating partner shows one or more of the following:

- Control
- Verbal and emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse

Controlling behavior may include:

- Calling or texting multiple times to know where you are and who you are with.
- Trying to keep you from spending time with your friends or family.
- Taking charge and making most of the decisions in your relationship.
- Spreading rumors or posting personal conversations and information about you on your MySpace or Facebook page.
- Telling you what to wear.
- Having to be with you all the time

- Name calling (“ugly, stupid, worthless, fat”).
- Being jealous of friends, co-workers, family.
- Threatening to hurt you, your family or themselves if you don’t do what they want.
- Blaming you for whatever goes wrong.

Physical abuse may involve:

- Pushing
- Shoving
- Slapping
- Pinching
- Hitting
- Kicking
- Hair pulling
- Choking

Sexual abuse may include:

- Unwanted touching and kissing.
- Pressuring or forcing sexual contact or intercourse.
- Not letting you use birth control.

Jeremy and Salina: Is this violence?

Jeremy and Salina have been dating for three months. Salina decided at the last minute to attend the school dance with her girlfriends.

During the dance, Jeremy texted Salina’s cell phone 45 times within an hour. “Who are you dancing with? Are you wearing my favorite blue blouse for the boys? Keep away from Chad or I’ll beat you both” were some of the messages he sent.

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Prospective Foster Parents need to do Part 1 of the training on the following website:
<http://www.wcwts.wisc.edu/foster-parent-training>
We will then meet to discuss the learning points and to answer your questions.

Thursday,
February 9, 2012
6-8 PM

All Classes are held in the Brookfield Room G137 in the Human Services Center located at 500 Riverview Avenue. Please enter the building at door 6. Call Shari Rather at (262)548-7267 to register.

Love is Trusting
It isn't keeping tabs with the obsessive calls and texts

Love is Secure
It isn't being jealous, suspicious or paranoid

Love is Accepting
It isn't telling someone what to do, what to wear or how to act

Love is Freedom
It isn't about possessing anyone or anything

www.loveisrespect.org



Lisa's Corner

Lisa Roberts
Manager of the Children and
Family Division

Well the changes at the Department of Health and Human Services continue! Jesus Mireles ended his last column with the notice that he had moved into the manager's role of Intake and Shared Services and a new manager for Child and Family Services would be coming. I graciously accepted that position the end of December. Most of you are familiar with me having been the Permanency Services Supervisor for the past 10 years. For those of you that don't know, I'll share a little of my history. I have a BS in Psychology and an MS in Counseling Psychology. I am a licensed Professional Counselor and started my career here in Waukesha in the Mental Health Clinic. Prior to coming to Waukesha, I worked "the trenches" in Child Protective Services in Milwaukee County for several years as well as spending a few years doing therapy at an in-patient mental health hospital. Here in Waukesha, I have been a mobile crisis worker then the Children's Mental Health Outreach Coordinator before moving into supervising the Permanency Services Unit. I have thoroughly enjoyed supervising that unit and the fantastic workers there for the past decade but am excited to take on the new challenge of broadening my perspective and managing this Division. I only hope to continue the extraordinary work that Jesus Mireles and the supervisors and staff throughout the Division have done in making Waukesha County a leader in both Child Protective Services and CLTS Waiver/Family Support - meeting the needs of Children with Special Needs. I look forward to continuing my work with all of you and value any feedback you have for me. Please know that my door is always open.

A few other pressing issues... Waukesha County will be undergoing it's third QSR (Quality Service Review) the week of March 19 – 24, 2012. Some of you will be asked to participate in a focus group, a guided discussion facilitated by State QSR reviewers, getting your feedback on how our system is running from your perspective. If anyone is especially interested in participating in this type of activity, please contact Shari or your social worker to ensure you are included in the list of invitees; otherwise, we will randomly select 12 to 18 of you and send letters asking for your participation and letting you know when and where it will be held. In addition, the State selects approximately 12 specific cases involved in our system to do a thorough review. All members involved in the case are contacted and interviewed. Some of you will be contacted as a result of being involved in a family's case that was chosen. We will let you know! A full report of the review will be written by the State and available to the public a few months following completion of the review week. Thank you all so much for your part in giving us the feedback we need to keep us moving forward and always finding ways to improve how we work.

I want to make sure all of you are aware of a FANTASTIC training coming up March 9, 16, 23, and 30 held in Menomonee Falls from 9 am to 2 pm. The cost is \$20.00 per person, to register call CCR at 608- 827-7100. This training is a National curriculum giving caretakers specific information and tools for parenting kids who have a trauma history. I encourage all of you to attend this if you can. Waukesha is committed to expanding the knowledge and skills of Trauma Informed Care with everyone involved in Child Protection. As a result, we will be offering this training later this fall too.

Thank you again for all you do for the foster kids of Waukesha County!

Lisa

Training Offered By Waukesha County

Parent Café
March 15, 2012
5:30 PM
Center for Excellence
N4W22000 Bluemound Road
Waukesha



To register for childcare, RSVP or for questions call, 262-548-8080.

Trauma Informed Care Training
February 15 & 16, 2012 (both dates are required to attend)
5:30 PM
Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services
500 Riverview Avenue, Brookfield Room
Register online at: southernpartnership.wisc.edu

Training

Parents Place Programs
262-549-5575
www.ppacinc.org

Prices for some classes may apply. Call 262-549-5575 to register.
Free pre-registered childcare is available while attending most classes.
Space is limited.

Love and Logic ®
Monday, February 6 - 27
6:00 - 7:30 PM

Love and Logic is a philosophy founded by Jim Fay and Foster W. Cline, M.D., and provides simple and practical techniques to help parents have less stress and more fun while raising responsible kids. This curriculum provides immediate results with techniques like: setting limits with enforceable statements, sharing control through lots of small choices, and many more. Being a Love and Logic parent and unlock the secret of successful parenting with these effective techniques.

Teens Managing Anger
(For Parents and Youth)
Tuesdays, February 7 - 28
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Do you feel like you have lost some control because of your teen's defiant behavior? This class focuses on improving the quality of parent-teen interactions, giving parents sufficient skills to manage disruptive, defiant and noncompliant behaviors. Parents and teens will learn how to negotiate conflicts, resolve problems and develop more effective communication skills.

Bullying
(For Parents and Youth)
Wednesday, February 22
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Help your child develop skills that can prevent them from being bullied or becoming a bully.

Wednesday Workshops - The Wonders of Healthy Nutrition
Wednesday, February 18, 2012
5:30 - 7:00 PM



Is this Love: Teen Dating Violence Continued from Page 1

Jeremy is attempting to control Salina through threats and intimidation. Salina feels guilty for attending the dance without him. She also feels threatened and is afraid of him. She thinks that if she does not cooperate with him, he may break up with her or he may harm her. Salina and Jeremy have a relationship that involves dating violence.

How can I tell if I am in an abusive relationship?

Trust your instincts. If you sense you are in an unhealthy relationship, you probably are. Your stomach might be tight or your body tense.

Other signs include:

- You are frightened by the other person's anger, jealousy and control.
- You think that the poor treatment your partner give you is your fault.
- You feel anxious and do not trust what your partner may do next.
- You feel angry, sad, lonely, depressed and confused.
- You are afraid or embarrassed to talk to family or friends about this relationship.
- You are afraid of getting hurt, feel unsafe and are fearful.
- You feel worthless and your self-esteem is not boosted by spending time with your date.
- You stick up for your boyfriend or girlfriend.
- You have bruises or injuries from your partner.

Your Rights

It is not your fault if you are in a relationship that is violent or has the signs of possible violence. It is not happening because of what you have said, done or what you wear. Nobody has the right to be controlled, hurt, threatened or scared.

You have the right to:

- Be treated with respect.
- Be in a healthy relationship.
- Not be hurt physically or emotionally.
- Refuse sex or affection at any time.
- Have friends and activities apart from a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- End a relationship.

How can you get help?

Get help right away. If you are hurt, get medical help immediately. Be honest with the staff about your situation. If you are not physically harmed but worried about your dating relationship, talk to someone you trust: a friend, parent, teacher, parent of a friend, or school counselor.

Try to spend more time with family and friends than with your boyfriend or girlfriend. During a disagreement with your partner, walk away before it gets out of control. Consider getting counseling for yourself too.

If you know friends who are in an abusive relationship, listen to them, tell them you are worried and offer support by finding people to help.

Contact the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline at www.loveisrespect.org for resources. Locate Wisconsin resources at <http://www.wcasa.org/> or in the phone book under crisis intervention services.

To learn other ways to support a friend go to, <http://www.seeitandstopit.org>.

Teens are at high risk for dating violence. Listen to your body and intuition. Are you in a safe and healthy relationship or is there a pattern of control and abuse? By learning more about the warning signs and your rights to be respected, you will be on the road to a healthy dating relationship. You deserve it!

Resources/References

- **Rhianna and the Reality of Abuse**, March 10, 2009, and **Can Love and Abuse Co-Exist?**, April 29, 2009, National Public Radio
<http://www.npr.org/>
- **National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline**
www.loveisrespect.org
- **Dating Violence Resource Center**
http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID+DB_DatingViolenceResourceCenter101
- **Wisconsin Council Against Sexual Assault**
<http://www.wcasa.org>
- **National Teen Dating Violence Prevention Initiative**
<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/teendating.shtml>
- **The Aurora Center**, Program Against Sexual Violence. 612-626-9111
<http://www1.umn.edu/aurora/>
- **Teen Dating Violence**
<http://www.womenslaw.org/>

Tips and Tools for Dating Violence

- **The Safe Place**
Breaking the cycle of teen dating violence
<http://www.thesafespace.org/>
- **Know The Red Flags** is designed to help young adults form healthy relationships by learning to spot and deal with the warning signs of dating violence.
www.knowtheredflags.org
- **Break the Cycle** engages, educates, and empowers youth to build lives and communities free from domestic and dating violence.
www.breakthecycle.org
- **The Date Safe Project** is committed to being the nation's leading organization for teaching how "asking first" makes all the difference in creating safer intimacy and in decreasing occurrences of sexual assault.
www.thedatesafeproject.org
- **The GLBT National Youth Talkline** provides peer counseling via telephone and email for gay and questioning teens
www.glnh.org/talkline
- **See It and Stop It** addresses ways teens can work against dating abuse in their everyday actions.
www.seeitandstopit.org

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February 2012 Foster Parent Spotlight

Michelle & Steven Raasch



Michelle and Steven met through a friend in high school and stayed connected, but did not start dating until they graduated college. The couple got married in November of 1995 and now have two biological daughters, Kayley age 12 and Emma who is 10. Michelle stated that the couple knew since they got married that they wanted to be foster parents. They wanted to become foster parents to help provide a child with a safe and loving place to stay, until they are able to return home. They couple decided to wait until their daughters Kayley and Emma were old enough to understand and help make this important decision. Michelle said it was definitely a change for the girls, but they soon became very accepting. The couple received their license in December 2010.

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In March of 2011 the Raasch family got a placement of a four-year-old girl. According to Michelle, the placement was definitely a change for the two older girls, but they soon became very accepting and showed the little girl lots of care and love. It is important to Michelle and Steven to still respect Kayley and Emma's traditions now that another child is in the home. So the girls still have their special visit with grandma and have one on one time with Michelle and Steven.

For Michelle and Steven one of the biggest rewards of being a foster parent is watching the little girl's behaviors and insecurities change. When first placed in the home she was very scared that she was being left behind every time someone left the room, over the last nine months the family has seen these behaviors diminish, and her blossom. They are proud to have her call their home safe.

If the couple could give advice to other foster parents, it would be the importance of communication. It is very important to communicate as a family, making sure everyone's feelings are being heard. Michelle also said she would tell foster parents it is important to become part of a bigger team. Be a team with your caseworker, therapists, and your children's teachers. You can all help each other make this placement the best it can be.



<p>Contact Numbers:</p> <p>Waukesha H & HS 262-548-7212</p> <p>Children's Mental Health Outreach 262-548-7666</p> <p>Medical Emergency: 911 Family Emergency: 211</p> <p>Foster Parent Mentor Jen Barcus..... 262-542-2926 David Mersfelder 262-542-2926 Nikki Mertens..... 262-246-6180</p> <p>Rebecca Hollister, Supervisor 262-548-7271</p> <p>Mary Alice Grosser, Supervisor Relative Licensing 262-548-7272</p> <p>Shari Rather, Foster Care Coordinator 262-548-7267</p> <p>Libby Sinclair Relative Licensing 262-548-7277</p>	<p>December 2011 Placements</p> <p>Regular Foster Care: 35 Children</p> <p>Treatment Foster Care: 11 Children</p> <p>Group Homes: 4 Children</p> <p>Residential Care Facilities: 12 Children</p> <p>Relative Placements: 36 Children</p> <p>Level 2 Foster Homes: 111 Homes</p> <p>Level 1 Foster Homes: 33 Homes</p> <p>Total Homes Assisting Other Counties 17 Homes</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>For Allegations of Abuse and Neglect Support, please call:</p> <p>FASPP Norma Schoenberg 920-922-9627</p> </div>	<p>Social Workers:</p> <p>Jennifer Adler 262-548-7265</p> <p>Bob Alioto 262-548-7262</p> <p>Suzanne Arnold 262-548-7348</p> <p>Kate Flansburg 262-896-6857</p> <p>Laura Jahnke 262-548-7359</p> <p>Maria Maurer 262-548-7345</p> <p>Susan Peck..... 262-896-8574</p> <p>Madeline Prange 262-548-7394</p> <p>Janis Ramos..... 262-896-8069</p> <p>Michael Reed..... 262-548-7347</p> <p>Cindie Remshek 262-548-7639</p> <p>Greg Rewolinski 262-548-7270</p> <p>Elizabeth Russo 262-548-7349</p> <p>Kim Sampson 262-548-7273</p> <p>Mark Sasso 262-548-7346</p> <p>Linda Senger 262-548-7698</p> <p>Deanna Stevlingson . 262-896-8570</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">We Need You!</p> <p>For more information about becoming a foster parent in Waukesha County, please contact Shari Rather at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">srather@waukeshacounty.gov</p> <p style="text-align: center;">262-548-7267</p> <p>Or visit our website at www.waukeshacounty.gov And follow the links to foster care.</p> <div style="background-color: #000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Jack Saфро Toyota•Ford•Lincoln•Mercury Lexus•Infiniti•Scion</p> </div>
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