What is Teen Dating Violence?

95% of the victims of domestic violence are women. Therefore, we choose to represent the abuser as “he”. We do recognize that females can be abusive.

U.S. Department of Justice

Harassment
Frequently showing up where she is (especially uninvited), following her, giving prank phones calls; threatening her on the phone, spreading rumors about her, giving messages to her through her friends and/or family after she has made it clear she does not want to have contact with him.

Intimidation
Putting her in fear by: Subjecting her to reckless driving; kicking, smashing or throwing her personal items or other property; shouting; using certain looks/gestures; threatening to get her in trouble with her family and/or friends.

Isolation
Pressuring her to choose between him or others (family); pressuring her to quit a job or extra-curricular activities; pressuring her not to go to college or to go to the college of HID choice.

Violation of Personal Boundaries
Reading her notes from or to other people; going through her purse or locker without permission; taking her personal items without asking; forcing unwanted touch or sex; refusing to stop horsing around/wrestling after asking him to stop.

Degradation - Humiliation
Calling her names in front of others or privately; putting down her religion, race, class; he may show public interest in other girls after agreeing to see only her; touching/grabbing parts of her body inappropriately in public or private; putting down or making fun of her family home, family situation or family members; showing personal/private items.

Verbal Abuse

Threats
Threatening to harm her and/or family, friends; threatening to commit suicide; threatening to share private information; and/or threatening to break up with her if she doesn’t do what he wants.

Physical Abuse

Limiting Independence
Telling her what kind of clothes she can & cannot wear; telling her how she has to wear her hair; he may decide how she should spend her money, where they go on dates & when they go out; he may not allow her to use her choices of birth control; he may pressure her into using drugs, alcohol or cigarettes.

Using Male Privilege
He may act like he is the boss & what “he says, goes”; he reminds her that she is a girl & that’s why she is supposed to do what he says; he may feel he has the right to be consulted about all her actions—where she goes & with whom; in some situations he believes she should be asking his permission to go or do something.