



UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE

Office of Institutional Equity

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Defining Domestic Abuse

The National Domestic Violence Hotline (n.d.) defines domestic violence as “a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.” The perpetrator uses this unhealthy behavior in order to intimidate and instill fear in their partner (No More, 2020). People of all races, genders, and sexualities can experience domestic abuse!

The University of Evansville (2020) *Title IX and other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy* defines dating and domestic violence as “any act of violence against a complainant who is or has been involved in a sexual, dating, domestic, or other intimate relationship with the Respondent, or against a person with whom the Respondent has sought to have such a relationship.”

Domestic Violence can be:

- Threats of or actual physical violence
- Threats of or actual sexual violence
- Emotional/Psychological abuse
- Stalking
- Control over finances (Safe Horizon, 2020)

Defining Sexual Assault

Domestic violence often includes sexual assault as well.

Sexual is the forced or coerced action of sexual contact without consent driven by the need to control, dominate, harm, and humiliate (No More, 2020).

The University of Evansville (2020) *Title IX and other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy* defines sexual assault as “having or attempting to have sexual conduct with another individual without consent or where the individual cannot consent because of age or temporary or permanent mental incapacity.”

Recognize the signs!

Signs that someone in an abusive relationship include:

- Being fearful around a partner
- Persistent cancelation of plans at the last minute
- Unexplained injuries
- Isolation from friends and family (No More, 2020).
- Their partner dislikes when they spend time with you.
- They put their partner’s needs before their own.
- Drastic appearance changes (Safe Horizon, 2020).

Signs that someone is creating a violent relationship include:

- They have strict financial, social, and other control over their partner.
- They have the need for constant contact as well as excessively texting or calling
- They insult their partner in the presence of others.
- They pick fights with their partner in public.
- They have extreme jealousy towards their partner (No More, 2020).

*References available upon request