

# Recognizing the warning signs of abuse

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At the beginning of a new relationship, it can be difficult to identify potential abuse, as many abusive individuals initially seem like ideal partners. Warning signs may not surface immediately but can develop and escalate over time.

While it can be difficult to assess if a partner is abusive, these warning signs can help you to identify and respond to concerning behaviors. **Common signs of abusive behavior in a partner include:**

- Telling you that you never do anything right.
- Showing extreme jealousy of your friends or time spent away from them.
- Preventing or discouraging you from spending time with others, particularly friends, family members, or peers.
- Insulting, demeaning, or shaming you, especially in front of other people.
- Preventing you from making your own decisions, including about working or attending school.
- Controlling finances in the household without discussion, such as taking your money or refusing to provide money for necessary expenses.
- Pressuring you to have sex or perform sexual acts you're not comfortable with.
- Pressuring you to use drugs or alcohol.
- Intimidating you through threatening looks or actions.
- Insulting your parenting or threatening to harm or take away your children or pets.
- Intimidating you with weapons like guns, knives, bats, or mace.
- Destroying your belongings or your home.



Care Team  
817-735-2740

Title IX  
972-338-1125

HSC Police  
817-735-2211