

Warning Signs for Parents

- Since your teen has been dating this person, they've dropped school activities that used to be important to them.
- Since they have been dating, your teen has been getting failing grades.
- You see sudden, uncharacteristic changes in your teen's clothing or make-up that only began after they started dating.
- Since your teen has been seeing this person, you've noticed a change in their body language (e.g. slouching, biting fingernails, nervousness, little or no eye contact). You see constant bruises, notice other signs of injury, or damaged personal property, and your teenager's explanations seem out of place or don't make sense.
- Your child's dating partner has an extraordinary influence on their behavior and decisions.
- Your teen is not eating, not talking, and not acting as they normally would.
- You notice sudden changes in your teenager's mood or personality since they began dating this person. They have a constant bad temper and emotional outbursts.
- Your teen seems increasingly anxious or depressed since they have been dating their partner.
Your child's conversations with their dating partner are often in the form of explanations, concerning where they've been, what they've been doing, and whom they've been with.
- Since they started seeing each other, your teen has suddenly become secretive and is acting out. (Teens naturally have some secretive behaviors since this is a period in life when they are trying to establish their identity. Parents should respect that but pay attention to an increase in secretive or odd behaviors.)
- Your teen has stopped seeing friends and family members, and is becoming more and more isolated.
- Since they began dating, your teenager is avoiding eye contact with you, having crying jags, or becoming hysterical.
- Your teen constantly apologizes for their dating partner's behavior and makes excuses for them.

- Your teen has a sudden change in dress, which uncharacteristically covers them up (it may be to cover injuries)
- Your teen's dating partner acts extremely jealous when others pay attention to them specially when it is people of the opposite sex.
- Excessive telephone calling can be a sign of an abusive relationship. Pay attention to that, especially if you notice much of the conversation is your teen justifying what they've been doing and with whom.
- You know your teen's boyfriend or girlfriend has a temper, but when they're around you they're extraordinarily charming.
- Your teen's partner tells your teen that you don't like them.
- When your teen and their partner are together around you, you notice the partner calls them names and puts them down.
- Since your teenager started dating this person, they have become increasingly insecure, destructive and angry.
- Your teen shows bullying behaviors, which could indicate they have the potential to be abusive in a dating relationship.