



Signs of an Abusive Personality

Domestic violence crosses all socioeconomic, ethnic, sexual and religious boundaries, affecting men, women and children of all ages and from every walk of life. It can be physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and/or financial abuse, as well as neglect.

To Prevent. To Protect. To Prevail.

If a person exhibits three or more of these behaviors, there is a strong potential for physical violence. The more signs your partner exhibits, the more likely this person is an abuser:

- **Jealousy** – possessiveness and lack of trust
- **Controlling behavior** – which can lead to stalking
- **Quick involvement** – the relationship moves quickly from dating to serious involvement
- **Unrealistic expectations** – expecting the victim to fulfill all the abuser's needs
- **Isolation** – from family, friends and coworkers
- **Blames others for problems** – doesn't take responsibility for actions
- **Blames others for feelings** – "You make me mad," "You make me happy"
- **Hypersensitivity** – easily insulted, claims feelings are hurt when he or she is really angry
- **Cruelty to children and/or animals** – outright abuse or expecting children & pets to be able to do things that they cannot do
- **Playful use of force in sex** – without concern as to whether the victim is consenting
- **Verbal abuse** – put downs, yelling and screaming to prevent the victim from sleeping, etc.
- **Rigid sex roles** – women are to obey men, wives submit to husbands, etc.
- **Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde personality** – sudden and extreme mood changes
- **Past battering** – shared by family and friends, or even the abuser who justifies his or her actions
- **Threats of violence** – "I'll kick you if...." "Don't make me...."
- **Breaking or striking objects** – breaking beloved items as punishment and/or to control the victim
- **Any force during an argument** – including holding someone against the wall, blocking a doorway, pushing or shoving to hitting

For free, confidential support contact The Shelter for Abused Women & Children:

24-hour crisis line: 239.775.1101

TTY: 293.775.4265

239.775.3862 Administration

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