



Questions to Ask Before Starting a New Relationship

To Prevent. To Protect. To Prevail.

- Can you identify the qualities you like about this new partner? Can you give examples?
- How many of these do you consider qualities of your "ideal partner" ?
- Does your new partner understand that you have the right to decide if you want to work?
- Does this new partner give you time for yourself, even though he wants to be with you?
- Does this person like that you have other friends and that you like to share your wants or needs with them?
- Is this person happy about your success, triumphs, ambitions and victories?
- Does this person think that women are intelligent, self-confident, strong and independent?
- Does this new partner ask for your opinions?
- Does this person listen as much as he speaks?
- Does this person tell you when he feels hurt and vulnerable?
- Does he think that men deserve to earn more money than women?
- Does this person think men can show vulnerability and that it's okay for a man to cry?
- Is there a female quality that he admires?
- Does this person admire and respect his mother and sisters?
- Does this new partner have good friends?
- Does he have other interests apart from you?
- When this person gets upset, does he break and throw things?
- Has this person asked about your other relationships and want details?
- Does this person demand to know where you go when you go out?
- If you arrive late, do you have to give an explanation?
- Does he believe that there are circumstances in which a woman deserves to be hit?
- Is this person jealous of your friends and relatives?
- If this person calls and you are not home, does he think that you are cheating on him?
- Does this person think that if you talk or dance with an old friend, you are going to cheat on him?
- Can this person express affection, apart from when he wants to have sex with you?
- Does your new partner understand that you have the right to decide whether or not you want to use contraceptive methods?
- Does this person only want to have sons and associates this with his masculinity?
- Does this person think that you have enough education and not need more?
- Does he get upset if you serve dinner late, or it's not to his liking?
- Does this person have qualities that are usually related to abusive relationships?
- Does this person try to solve problems for you even though you want to do it yourself without help?
- When this person feels vulnerable, does he act in a violent manner?
- Does he become silent when irritated?
- Does your new partner drink or use drugs daily?
- Does this person use food or some substance with frequency and in a compulsive manner?
- Does this person laugh at you for being stupid or for being like all the women he knows?
- Do you feel worthless around this person?

- Has this person had legal problems or been in jail?
- Was this person abused as a child?
- Does this person sometimes tell you that he doesn't deserve your love?
- Is there any personal trait or quality that you like about yourself that this person jokes about and doesn't take seriously?
- When you act independent and self-assured, does this person call you names?
- Do you know if this person has been involved in street fights or has abused other partners in previous relationships?

Please note, while this document reflects the victim as female and the abuser as male, we understand that female to male, male to male and female to female violence exists. The Shelter provides life-transforming programs and services to all victims of dating violence, bullying, domestic violence, elder abuse and related animal cruelty.

Contact The Shelter for Abused Women & Children for free and confidential support:

24-hour crisis line: 239.775.1101

TTY: 293.775.4265

239.775.3862 Administration

www.naplesshelter.org

Facebook: TheShelterNaples

Twitter: TheShelterTweet

YouTube: TheShelterNaples