

# **Parents Guide**

## **Is My Teen An Abuser?**

**Teen dating violence is similar to and can be as lethal as adult relationship violence. Both include hitting, yelling, threatening, name calling and other forms of verbal, sexual, emotional and physical abuse. These facts make it very important for parents to be aware of abusive relationships.**

### **For Parents of Abusive Teens**

- Recognize and confront the abusive behavior. Be sure to have specific examples.
- Let him/her know what is not acceptable.
- While being supportive of your teen as a person and his/her efforts to overcome the abusive behavior, you may have to make the difficult decision to report your teen's violence to law enforcement.
- Be a role model for supportive, healthy relationships with your own partner.

### **How Can I Tell if my Teen is an Abuser?**

- Is your son or daughter jealous or possessive?
- Does your teen have an explosive temper?
- Does he/she consistently ridicule, criticize or insult his/her partner?
- Does your teen blame others when he/she gets angry?
- Does your teen exhibit any abusive behaviors toward you, family or friends?



**Family Guidance Center**  
**17 HWY 70, SE**  
**Hickory, NC 28602**

**For Confidential Help, Call First Step**  
**Phone: 828-322-1400**  
**Crisis Line: 828-228-1787**