

## **Dating Violence & Stalking**

*Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Dating violence often starts with teasing and name calling. These behaviors are often thought to be a "normal" part of a relationship. But these behaviors can set the stage for more serious violence.*

### **What is Dating Violence?**

*Dating Violence is defined as the physical, sexual, or psychological/emotional violence within a dating relationship, as well as stalking. It can occur in person or electronically and may occur between a current or former dating partner. You may have heard several different words used to describe teen dating violence. Here are just a few:*

- *Relationship Abuse*
- *Intimate Partner Violence*
- *Relationship Violence*
- *Dating Abuse*
- *Domestic Abuse*
- *Domestic Violence*

*Dating violence means violence committed by a person—*

- *Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and*
- *Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:*

*The length of the relationship;*

*The type of relationship; and*

*The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.*

*Dating violence is a type of intimate partner violence. It occurs between two people in a close relationship. The nature of dating violence can be physical, emotional, or sexual.*

- *Physical—This occurs when a partner is pinched, hit, shoved, slapped, punched, or kicked.*
- *Psychological/Emotional—This means threatening a partner or harming his or her sense of self-worth. Examples include name calling, shaming, bullying, embarrassing on purpose, or keeping him/her away from friends and family.*
- *Sexual—This is forcing a partner to engage in a sex act when he or she does not or cannot consent. This can be physical or nonphysical, like threatening to spread rumors if a partner refuses to have sex.*
- *Stalking—This refers to a pattern of harassing or threatening tactics that are unwanted and cause fear in the victim.*

*Dating violence can take place in person or electronically, such as repeated texting or posting sexual pictures of a partner online. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Teens often think some behaviors, like teasing and name calling, are a "normal" part of a relationship. However, these behaviors can become abusive and develop into more serious forms of violence.*

### **What are the consequences of dating violence?**

*As teens develop emotionally, they are heavily influenced by their relationship experiences. Healthy relationship behaviors can have a positive effect on a teen's emotional development. Unhealthy, abusive or violent relationships can cause short term and long term negative effects, or consequences to the developing teen. Victims of teen*

*dating violence are more likely to do poorly in school, and report binge drinking, suicide attempts, and physical fighting. Victims may also carry the patterns of violence into future relationships.*

*Violence is related to certain risk factors. Risks of having unhealthy relationships increase if your partner displays the following behaviors:*

- *Believe it's okay to use threats or violence to get their way or to express frustration or anger.*
- *Use alcohol or drugs.*
- *Can't manage anger or frustration.*
- *Hang out with violent peers.*
- *Have multiple sexual partners.*
- *Have a friend involved in dating violence.*
- *Are depressed or anxious.*
- *Have learning difficulties and other problems at school.*
- *Don't have parental supervision and support.*
- *Witness violence at home or in the community.*
- *Have a history of aggressive behavior or bullying.*

### **What is Stalking?**

**Stalking is a crime** and Florida Statute 784.048 defines stalking as a person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person. Depending on the circumstances, stalking can be a misdemeanor or a felony.

*Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:*

- *Fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or*
- *Suffer substantial emotional distress*

*Like domestic violence, stalking is a crime of power and control. Stalking can be carried out in person or via electronic mechanisms (phone, fax, GPS, cameras, computer spyware, or the Internet). Cyberstalking—the use of technology to stalk victims—shares some characteristics with real-life stalking. It involves the pursuit, harassment, or contact of others in an unsolicited fashion initially via the Internet and e-mail. Cyberstalking can intensify in chat rooms where stalkers systematically flood their target's inbox with obscene, hateful, or threatening messages and images. A cyberstalker may further assume the identity of his or her victim by posting information (fictitious or not) and soliciting responses from the cybercommunity. Stalking may involve verbal, written, or implied threats, or a combination thereof, that would cause a reasonable person fear.*

*Stalking behaviors also may include persistent patterns of leaving or sending the victim unwanted items or presents that may range from seemingly romantic to bizarre, following or laying in wait for the victim, damaging or threatening to damage the victim's property, defaming the victim's character, or harassing the victim via the Internet by posting personal information or spreading rumors about the victim.*

**PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, ASSAULT, BATTERY, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND STALKING ARE ALL CRIMES** and are covered under Florida Statutes and can be reported to law enforcement.

**PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, ASSAULT, BATTERY, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND STALKING ARE ALL VIOLATIONS OF SJR STATE COLLEGE POLICY.** If the accused is a student, the matter can be reported to Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary review and possible disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the College. St. Johns River State College will provide an orderly disciplinary process to insure the following objectives:

- Provide a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and resolution.
- Will be conducted by officials who receive annual training on issues related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability.
- The accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunity to have others present during an institutional disciplinary proceeding including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by an advisor of their choice.
- Both the accuser and accused shall be simultaneously informed, in writing, of:
  1. The outcome of the institutional disciplinary proceeding.
  2. The institution's procedures for the accused and the victim to appeal the results.
  3. Any change in the results that occur prior to the time the results become final.
  4. When the results become final.
- Information about how the institution will protect the confidentiality of victims.
- Written notification of students about existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, and other services available for victim's on-campus and in the community.
- Written notification of victims about options for, and available assistance in, changing academic, living, transportation, and working situations, if requested by the victim and such accommodations are reasonable available, regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to campus police or local law enforcement.
- A student or employee who reports to the institution that they have been a victim of one of the aforementioned crimes shall be provided with a written explanation of the student or employee's rights and options.

**Bystander Intervention.** If you see a crime in progress, notify Campus Safety and Security and call 911 as soon as possible. If it is not safe to personally intervene, continue to describe the incident to the 911 operator and describe exactly what you are witnessing and the location of the crime. The 911 operator will ask you questions regarding description of the suspect; if you see any weapon; information regarding the victim and possible injuries. If it is safe to do so, yell in a loud voice that the police have been called and they are responding. You may also call for help in a loud voice to let the perpetrator know that someone is observing what is happening. Be careful not to put yourself in harm's way. Approach the victim if safe to do so and provide aid and assistance until law enforcement or medical authorities arrive. Provide all information you know about the crime to the responding officer(s).

#### **How Do I Get an Order of Protection?**

- Contact your local law enforcement victim advocate. Putnam County Sheriff's Office – 386-329-0801 (Palatka), St. Johns County Sheriff's Offices – 904-824-8304 (St. Augustine), Clay County Sheriff's Office – 904-264-6512 (Orange Park)
- Contact your local State Attorney's Office victim advocate. Clay County – 904-284-6319, Putnam County – 386-329-0259, St. Johns County – 904-823-2300
- Contact your local Clerk of Court. Clay County – 904-269-6363, Putnam County – 386-326-7640, St. Johns County – 904-819-3600

**How Do I Get Assistance While on Campus?**

- Contact the Department of Campus Safety and Security 24/7.

*Director of Campus Safety James Griffith  
(386) 312-4064 - Office*

*Palatka Campus  
Officer on Duty: (386) 937-2052  
Office: (386) 312-4095*

*Orange Park Campus  
Officer on Duty: (904) 626-5885  
Administration: (904) 276-6760*

*St. Augustine Campus  
Officer on Duty: (904) 626-5956  
Office: (904) 808-7495  
Administration: (904) 808-7400*

*Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts  
Officer on Duty: (904) 626-5885*

**Help is available whether you choose to report a crime or not. Please contact:**

- National Dating Abuse Helpline and Love is Respect – 1-866-331-9474 or text 77054 or [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline – 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- National Sexual Assault Hotline – 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
- Florida Department of Health Violence Intervention and Prevention Program – 1-888-956-RAPE (7273)
- Stewart Marchman Behavioral Health Care – 386-329-3780 (Palatka) and 904-209-6200 (St. Augustine)
- Clay Behavioral Health Center – 904-291-5561 (Orange Park)
- Local Law Enforcement victim advocate – Putnam County Sheriff's Office – 386-329-0801 (Palatka), St. Johns County Sheriff's – Office-904-824-8304 (St. Augustine), Clay County Sheriff's Office – 904-264-6512 (Orange Park)
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