

**Relationship violence** is any verbal, written, physical, sexual, or other acts of violence, threat, or intimidation directed at another individual with whom the aggressor is involved in an intimate relationship. **Relationship violence is the leading cause of injury to women.** Although it occurs in heterosexual and homosexual relationships, the predominant pattern is male abuser/female victim.

## SIGNS TO LOOK FOR:

### A victim of relationship violence may:

- make excuses for, or minimize, the batterer's behavior.
- fear his/her partner's temper/anger.
- act ambivalent, guilty—feel responsible for his/her partner's behavior.
- seem fearful of her/his living conditions.
- feel isolated and distrust others.
- have few friends and limited contact with others.
- be emotionally and economically dependent upon the batterer.
- have poor self-image and low self-esteem.
- have been abused as a child or witnessed the abuse of others.
- express anger, embarrassment or shame.
- feel powerless to escape the situation; fear ending the relationship.
- believe she/he might be insane.
- **have unexplained injuries that may go untreated.**

### Perpetrators of relationship violence may:

- anger easily
- hit, punch, slap, or push their partner
- constantly criticize their partner for little things
- force sex
- humiliate their partner in front of others
- stalk or check up on their partner all of the time
- constantly accuse their partner of being unfaithful
- discourage relationships with family and friends
- try to control their partner's activities

## WHAT TO DO:

- If the incident involves physical injury, a fleeing offender, or other highly disruptive circumstances, **contact University Police** (315-464-4000 in Syracuse and 911 in Binghamton) **immediately** and, if appropriate, request **emergency medical services**.
- If the incident does not constitute an emergency, **involve University Police** to ensure appropriate law enforcement action is taken, and if possible, that the parties are separated to avoid further violence, threat, or intimidation.
- **Refer the student to Student Counseling** and provide him/her with contact information. Offer to help the student place the call and make the appointment while you are together. Offer to accompany the student to meet with a counselor if appropriate. **Contact Student Counseling** (315-464-3120) to provide information.
- If appropriate, help the student to identify an alternate place to stay to ensure safety.
- **Notify the Dean of Student Affairs** (315-464-4816) in Syracuse and the **Director of Student Affairs** in Binghamton (607-772-3532).
- Follow up with the student during the next day to determine whether additional services are needed.
- **If a student approaches you to talk about violence in his/her relationship:** Listen without judging. Ask direct questions, gently. Don't rush into providing solutions. Offer your support and caring. Emphasize that violence in a relationship is never acceptable and that it is likely to continue without any intervention. Explain that it is possible to leave the relationship, and help is available.

