

Screening for Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a **pattern of controlling or violent behaviors**, including emotional, verbal, physical, sexual and economic abuse that adults and adolescents may use against their intimate partners. It can take on many forms and be different in each relationship.

Things to Look For...

- Scratches or bruises that look like fingerprints around the neck, arms, and waist
- Individual is isolated from friends and family or unable to see you alone
- Exhaustion, confusion, memory loss, sleep disturbance
- Significant changes in mood or body language when partner is around; loss of confidence
- Clothes that conceal or that are inappropriate for the season
- Misses work often or receives unusually high number of calls from their partner
- Overly cautious about making minor decisions, being late or spending money

Things to Ask...

- Do you feel safe at home?
- Does your partner ever hit, kick, grab, push or choke you?
- Does your partner constantly criticize you, call you names or put you down?
- Does your partner control your everyday life?

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Things to Say...

- You don't deserve to be treated this way.
- Your safety is very important. I can connect you with an advocate that can support you with:
 - Provide Orders
 - Safety Planning
 - Legal Assistance
 - Support Groups
 - Children's Groups
 - Talking Through Options
 - Shelter Housing
 - Community Referrals

Things to Do Right Away...

- **Provide the number for Georgia's 24-Hour confidential statewide domestic violence crisis line - 1.800.33.HAVEN (1.800.334.2836).**
- Seek interpretative services for a limited-English speaker instead of relying on family, friends, or children
- **ONLY** talk about domestic violence when the partner and children are not around.
- Understand that **danger may increase for victims when they attempt to leave the relationship** or when their partners are depressed, suicidal, own weapons or abuse substances
- Learn as much as you can about domestic violence and get connected with other helping professionals in your community including attorneys, physicians, counselors, etc., that can provide information, referrals and support.