

# Domestic Violence & K-12 Settings

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**585-236-4454 (call/text)**

**Willow Domestic  
Violence Center**



# Today's Agenda

1. Willow Information & DV Stats
2. What is Dating/Domestic Violence?
3. What is a School's Obligation?
4. How to Respond.

## Please Note:

- Do not wait to ask questions!
- This is HARD stuff to talk about.
  - Take a break. Walk away. Take care of yourself.
- Disclosures
  - You do not have to disclose anything. Ever.
  - If someone makes a disclosure, please respect their bravery and privacy.
  - Please be mindful of identifying information if disclosing.

## Disclaimer:

Follow your protocol first and always!

We are not a legal experts, do not take anything today as legal advice.

# Dating & Domestic Violence Work

**This. Is. Hard.**

## **Take care of yourself and your colleagues.**

- Your anxiety about doing this work is real!
- This is tough, we struggle too.

## **Know that you *WILL* be affected.**

- What are your triggers?
- Can you avoid them?
- How do you cope in the moment?
- How do you cope when you go home?

## **Use your resources, that is a superpower!**

- EAP or equivalent
- Debrief with your supervisor and/or colleagues as appropriate.
- Give each other space and understanding
- Take time off/away

# Willow Domestic Violence Center Programs & Services

All services  
are free and  
confidential.

## HOTLINE

24/7 Help & Assistance:  
Call: 585-222-SAFE (7233)  
Text: 585-348-SAFE (7233)  
Real time chat:  
WillowCenterNY.org

Basic  
Needs

Supportive  
Housing

Counseling  
Services  
Individual  
Group

Court  
Advocacy  
Legal Aid  
Attorneys

49 Bed  
Emergency  
Shelter  
Children's  
Programs  
Pet Shelter

Prevention  
Education

Mobile Advocacy  
Mobile Advocates  
Community Groups  
HEAL @ URM  
Human Trafficking  
Deaf IGNITE

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En Español


# Why this work matters



**1 in 2**  
Trans &  
Non-binary



**1 in 3**  
Women



**1 in 4**  
Men

## We all know someone.

In NY State, Domestic Violence Occurs between:

- Intimate partners (current, previous, married or divorced), includes LGBTQ+
- Related by blood
- Related through marriage

# The Scope of Violence

**Dating & Domestic Violence have no boundaries and no “face.”**

## Survivors

This can happen to anyone regardless of:

- Gender
- Race
- Socioeconomic Status
- Religion/Faith/Beliefs
- Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Ability
- Education Level
- Zip code

## Abusers & Those Who Harm

This can BE anyone regardless of:

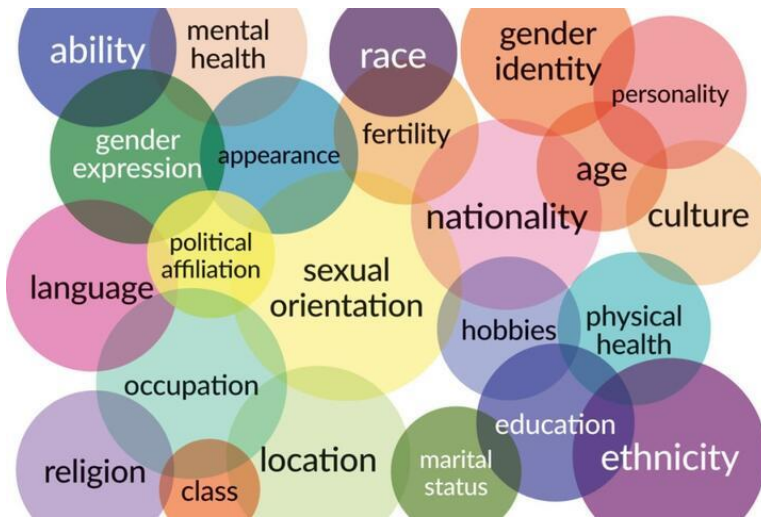
- Gender
- Race
- Socioeconomic Status
- Religion/Faith/Beliefs
- Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Ability
- Education Level
- Zip code

## BUT...

There are risk factors that increase the likelihood that some people, groups, populations may experience Dating/DV at higher rates.

# The Scope of Domestic Violence

## Intersectionality



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CDC  
Safe and Together Institute

Factors that create more of a risk for someone to be a survivor of violence or for someone to engage in violence. These are NOT CAUSES they are potential contributing factors.

### Risk Factors Include (but are not limited to):

- History of physical or emotional abuse in childhood
- Belief in strict gender roles
- Economic stress
- Lack of nonviolent problem solving skills
- Low education or income
- Low self-esteem
- Social isolation
- History of violence – engaging in or witnessing
- Experiencing poor parenting
- Cultural norms
- Systems of oppression

**The more intersections, the more risk.**

# Why This Work Matters

This is not an age dependent Issue.

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CDC  
youth.gov  
Loveisrespect.org  
Dosomething.org  
NSVRC.org  
NCADV.org



- **More than 25%** of youth will experience a violent relationship before they are 18 years old.
- Women **aged 16-24** experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence and sexual assault in the U.S. making them **3x more likely** than the general population to be abused.
- **Only 33%** of youth will confide in someone about the abuse.
- **50%** of young people who experience rape or physical assault will attempt suicide.



# Why This Work Matters

## Children and youth are experiencing violence at home.



It is estimated that over the past year, 60% of children were exposed to violence.

- The most common place for children to experience violence is in the home.
- Children are more likely to be exposed to violence and crime than adults.

Domestic Violence is often a co-occurring issue, up to 60% of people who harm a partner also harm the children.

- Children who regularly suffer from physical violence are aged 2-14.
- 25% of children have been exposed to family violence
- 1 in 10 children have witnessed one family member assault another family member.

More than 70% of children who die as a result of abuse/neglect are 3 years old or younger. And about 80% of fatalities involve at least one parent as perpetrator.

# Why This Work Matters

The impact on youth cannot be understated.



## Short and Long Term Impacts:

- Effects, symptoms and triggers can be immediate and last short term
- Effects, symptoms and triggers may have a delayed onset
- Effects, symptoms and triggers can last long term
- Over time symptoms and triggers may change, may wane, develop/emerge in new and different ways

# **What is Dating & Domestic Violence?**



# What is Dating & Domestic Violence?

**DV is:** A **pattern** of behavior aimed at gaining and maintaining **power** and **control** over another.

**Coercive Control is:** A **pattern** of oppressive behavior **intended** to control someone and strip away their sense of self.

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## Verbal Abuse:

- Name calling
- Put Downs
- Harsh Tone
- Mocking

## Emotional Abuse:

- Threats
- Embarrassing or Humiliating
- Manipulation
- Jealousy and possessiveness
- Isolation from family/friends
- Playing mind games
- Obsession

## Economic Abuse:

- Controlling Money/Resources
- Not allowing partner to work
- Getting partner fired from job
- Forcing partner to justify need for money/resources

## Sexual Abuse:

- Unwanted comments about ones body
- Sharing intimate photos
- Pressing/coercing into sexual contact or acts

## Physical Abuse:

- Hitting, Kicking, Punching, Biting, Slapping, restraining, attempting injuries, killing

## Stalking

# Abuse Is:

Verbal

Emotional

Psychological

Financial/Economic

Physical

Sexual



# What is Dating & Domestic Violence?

**DV is:** A **pattern** of behavior aimed at gaining and maintaining **power** and **control** over another.

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**Abusive behavior is NOT:**

An anger management problem  
A Substance use/abuse issue  
A Mental health issue  
Caused by poverty

**Abusive behavior IS:**

Purposeful  
Strategic  
*Not* an accident

This is a **LEARNED** behavior.  
No excuses.

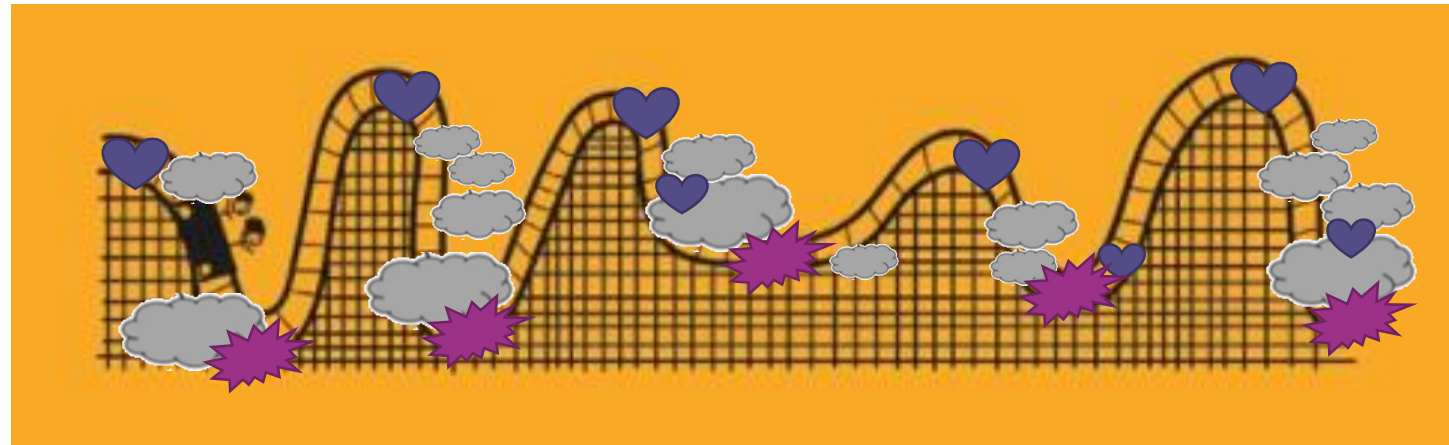
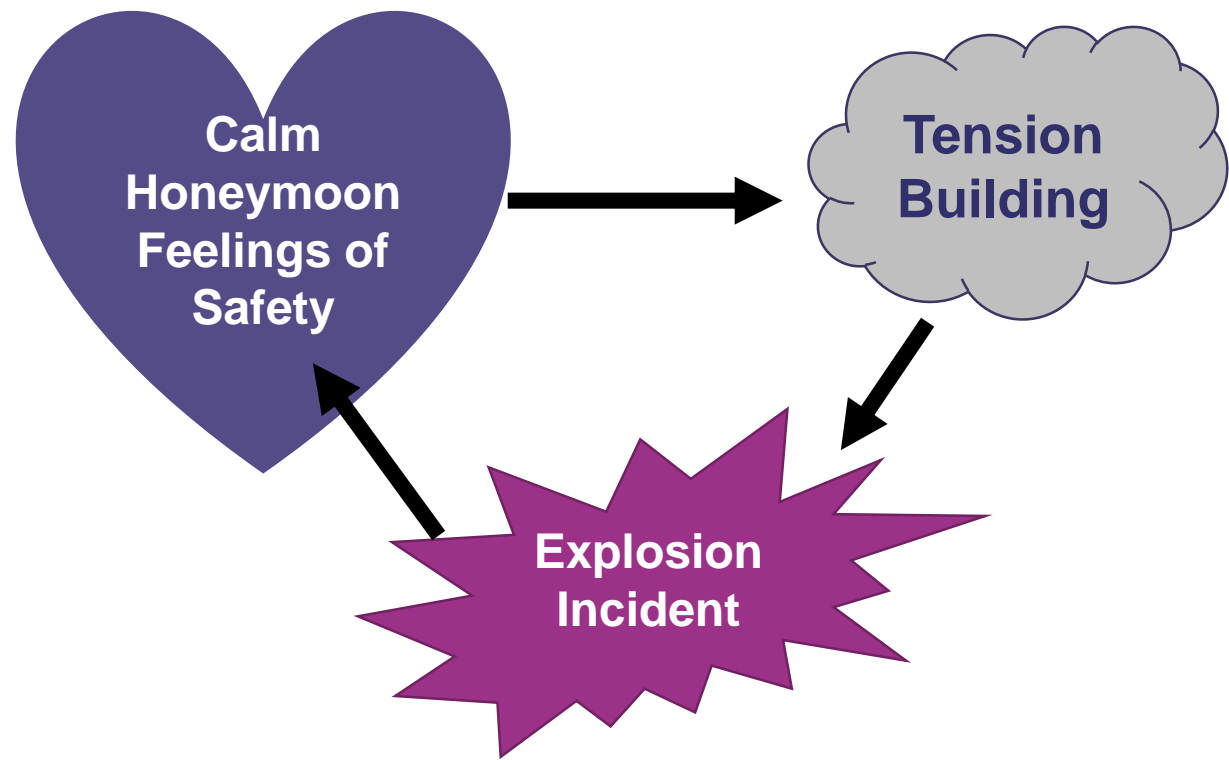


# The Pattern of Abusive Relationships

It's not always bad.  
There can be long periods of happiness.

Abusers are often the main source of love, comfort and stability for a survivor.

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## Listen For:

- Feelings of being on a rollercoaster and constant ups/downs.
- Feeling like walking on egg shells all the time.

# Why Stay?

It's  
complicated.

Reasons vary why a survivor may choose to stay in a relationship for a period of time or may choose never to leave.

- **Safety**
- **Fear**
- **Money, finances, resources**
- Threats
- Culture, Religion, Community expectations or connections
- Family – kids, pets, extended family
- Abuse is normalized
- Stigma, guilt, shame, embarrassment
- Love and hope – there is often still goodness here!



# Escaping.

# It's complicated.

The average number of times it's takes someone to escape a dangerous relationship is between 7-11.

When we ask/tell/advise survivors to leave or escape, we must understand we are asking them to do the most dangerous thing they can do.

- Escaping is very complicated
- Escaping is not quick process
- Escape is filled with barriers for survivors.
- Escape is VERY dangerous

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We place the burden of safety on the survivor when we talk about escape, we don't place responsibility or accountability on the person who is doing harm.

# K-12 Specifics



# Mandated Reporting Vs. District Protocol

## Mandated Reporting = Child Abuse

- An adult(s) who is legally responsible for child is harming the child(ren).
  - Physical or sexual harm/abuse
  - Maltreatment
  - Neglect
- Children are under 18 years old
- What about harm at home that is not directed at a child?

## What about teen-on-teen relationships? Where do we report? What about 18+?

- Not reportable to CPS or Law Enforcement
- Parents have some legal options (Order of Protection On Behalf of a Minor)
- What's your District Protocol?
  - This can be a place to make a difference for a young person.

# Obligations of the school

## All K-12 schools in the US are under Federal Title IX regulations.

- Applies to all issues happening within the school setting including:
  - Student-on-Student behavior/relationships
  - Adult-on-Student behavior/relationships
  - Adult-on-Adult behavior/relationships
- Basic tenants of Title IX: **Stop. Remedy. Protect.**
- Schools must have a Title IX Coordinator and clear method of contacting this person.
- Schools must have a clear and transparent policy/process.
  - Equal opportunities and rights must be given to reporting parties and accused parties.
- All K-12 school staff members are required to report Title IX issues to the Coordinator no matter their staff role.
- All school staff (and students) should receive training/education around this.

# How To Respond



# Assess The Current Situation

## “Crisis Continuum”

Things are all  
good here.

### Crisis Situation:

An upset in the balance in the survivors life, their usual ways of coping are no longer effective.

### Difficult Situations:

The survivor is remembering what has happened or is reminded the impact the abuser has had on their life.

### Emergency Situation:

Immediate danger, just been abused or could be seriously injured.



**We need to meet survivors where they are,**  
willow **not where we want them to be or where we think they should be.**

# Build Rapport

**Start expecting disclosures:  
All the time.  
From everyone.**

## **Make asking about relationships part of your routine.**

- Tell students it's part of the routine and why it's part of the routine.
  - "Your relationships have a significant impact on your physical and mental health, academic performance, athletic performance, etc."
  - "I care about you and want to make sure you have all the support you need."
- Ask every single time.
  - Things change and they can change fast. So I'm going to ask every time to be sure you're ok and so you know I'm here for you.

## **Preface your question.**

- Tell students why you're asking the question.
- Tell students what you're going to do with the information once you have it.
- Working with you shouldn't feel like an inquisition.

## **Be clear and transparent about your policies and reporting procedures.**

## **Own the awkward moment.**

# Recognize Protective Factors

**Protective factors are contributing factors (not causes) that help protect individuals from experiencing dangerous relationships by providing buffers, alternatives, coping, community, self-worth building and support.**

## **Relationship Factors\***

- Strong social support networks and
- Stable and positive relationships with others

## **Community Factors\***

- Neighborhood collective efficacy, meaning residents feel connected to each other and are involved in the community
- Coordination of resources and services among community agencies
- Communities with access to safe, stable housing
- Communities with access to medical care and mental health services
- Communities with access to economic and financial help



# Recognize Protective Factors

Although we can give kids suggestions of Who, What, Where, we *must* trust them to identify these things for themselves.

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## Protective Factors Real Life Application

### Stop. = Who?

Who is a safe adult students can rely on when they need them good things or bad things?

### Drop. = What?

What are things a student can do to help themselves cope with the situation in the moment, after the moment and all the times in between.

### Roll. = Where?

Where can a student go that ***IS*** safe and/or that feels safe to them?

# Disclosures: What do I Do?

Remember, everyone is going to make decisions about a dangerous relationship in their own time.

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## **Believe and listen.**

Believing seems very simple, but this is truly the most important thing you can do for a survivor.

- “I’m sorry this is happening to you.”
- “How can I support you?”

## **Try not to judge and do not give advice.**

- Do not pressure, bully, or frighten someone into doing or not doing something.
- Do not make decisions on their behalf and/or without permission (i.e. call the police, schedule an appointment).
- Try to avoid telling someone what you think they should do or what you want them to do.

# Disclosures: What do I do?

Do not adopt the  
mindset of trying  
to “**save**” people.

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## Support and provide resources, options and choices:

- Give choices whenever possible.
- Connect with resources
- Follow up! Maintaining communication and support consistently is important.

## **REFER, REFER, REFER**

“I’m not an expert in this type of situation,  
but I know who is...”

**Hope is like the sun. If we only believed it in when we could see it, we'd never make it through the night.**

**Take care of  
yourselves and  
your colleagues.**

**Our role is to make sure survivors know we are here and they have options and choices.**



# You are welcome at Willow.

Reach our advocates 24/7 to get the support you deserve.  
Free and confidential. No judgment.

**24/7 Hotline:**

**(585)222-SAFE<sub>(7233)</sub>**

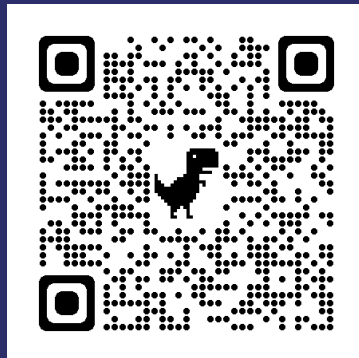
**24/7 Texting:**

**(585)348-SAFE<sub>(7233)</sub>**

Secure online messaging through Facebook  
Secure webchat at [WillowCenterNY.org](https://WillowCenterNY.org)



En Español



Please feel free to  
provide us some  
feedback about our  
time with you today.

