

### Dating violence scenarios

Please read the following scenarios and discuss the four questions that follow.

#### Scene #1

Cindy met Freddie at a party last month. She is 15 years old and Freddie is 17 years old. This is Cindy's first "serious" boyfriend and she is thrilled because he has a car of his own and is incredibly attentive to her. He has even bought her presents and has taken her to nice places! Since meeting, they have seen each other every day, usually spending a couple of hours together. He also calls four or five times a day and sends even more text messages. On most school days, he picks her up right after school. She has noticed that he doesn't like to wait on her; when she mentioned this, Freddie explained he just didn't want her to waste time when they could be together. Because she has been so busy with Freddie, Cindy has hardly seen her friends except at school. Her friends have been a little "cool" toward her, but she thinks it's probably just jealousy – Freddie is such a wonderful boyfriend! Cindy has been so busy with Freddie that she has decided not to try out for spring soccer.

#### Scene #2

It's been about two months since Cindy met Freddie at a party. Cindy loves Freddie paying so much attention to her, but she is beginning to be a little confused. Somehow, she keeps making him mad by doing really dumb things. For example, last week she was talking with Kevin after school; they were talking about a school project the teacher had assigned them to work on together and they were exchanging numbers so they could talk later about the project. Freddie was waiting for her and got really mad. When she got in the car, Freddie called her names and accused her of seeing Kevin behind his back. Cindy felt the whole scene was her fault because she kept Freddie waiting and she knew he didn't like to be kept waiting. That night, Freddie brought her flowers and told her he got mad because he just couldn't stand seeing her with someone else. Freddie reminds her every day that their relationship is special and that no one will ever love her like he does. Cindy knows this, but keeps doing dumb things that make Freddie mad.

#### Scene #3

The relationship continued into its fourth month and things got worse. Although she wanted to make him happy, nothing Cindy said or did seemed to please Freddie. She feels she is on a roller coaster. One moment Freddie would seem to be madly in love with her and she would dream of being his wife someday; in the next moment, he would find something she did wrong, tell her that no one else would put up with her, and threaten to break up if she didn't "shape up." Last night, Cindy could tell that Freddie had been drinking and he slapped her. Cindy wants to make Freddie happy more than anything, but last night scared her. She realizes she is scared of Freddie and scared of losing Freddie. Cindy is beginning to believe the rumor that Freddie beat up his former girlfriend. Today, Freddie brought her flowers and blamed his hitting her on the liquor.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Based on what you know about the warning signs for violence, what kinds of things are happening that would concern you?
2. What form of dating violence appears to be present?
3. If you were friends with either Cindy or Freddie, how would you react to their relationship?
4. What kinds of help might you offer either Cindy or Freddie?

**To learn more****About Dating Violence**

Virginia Department of Health, Division of Prevention and Health Promotion  
<http://www.vahealth.org/injury>

National Center for Victims of Crime  
<http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbName=DocumentViewer&DocumentID=37939>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Teen Dating Violence  
[http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen\\_dating\\_violence.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen_dating_violence.html)

Love is Respect  
<http://www.loveisrespect.org/>