

Teen Dating Abuse & Violence: Resources for Judicial Leadership

The Importance of Judicial Leadership

In recent years, states have updated their codes of judicial conduct to encourage judges to participate in outreach to their respective communities. Judges have a unique opportunity to provide leadership on the issue of teen dating abuse and violence in their own courts and in the community. It is important for teens to have a supportive, aware and inclusive environment, that takes their issues seriously. Below is a compilation of useful resources about teen dating abuse and violence for judges, courts, schools, parents, teens, and the community. Listed are various books, articles, websites, and organizations that offer additional insight on the issues discussed in the Information Sheets.*

*NJEP and Legal Momentum have not reviewed all of these resources. This list should not be considered as an endorsement.

1. Resources for the Courts

Organizations:

Center for Court Innovation

The Center for Court Innovation offers a variety of podcasts, programs, articles and videos to assist and educate the courts on a wide variety of issues. These include resources on teen dating abuse and violence, working with youth and running Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Courts.

<https://www.courtinnovation.org/publications?keys=youth+dating&aof=All&program=>

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

The NCJFCJ is the oldest judicial membership organization in the country and provides all judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of the families and children who seek justice. This organization created webinars specific to TDAV and holds a library of their own publications and articles by other judges. These include guidance on social media use, teen brains and more for courts.

<https://www.ncjfcj.org/family-violence-and-domestic-relations/teen-dating-violence/>

**National Institute of Justice,
“Juvenile Domestic and Family Violence:
The Effects of Court-Based Intervention Programs on Recidivism” (2006)**

This document contains a study on two Court-based intervention programs in California (San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties) addressing juvenile, domestic, and family violence. The main findings were that such programs deterred first-time offenders, that domestic/family violence offenders with a prior record were the most difficult to rehabilitate, and that where strategies strive to increase the number of offenders that partake in these programs may lower recidivism rates.

<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/216614.pdf>

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA),
“Essential Components of Trauma-Informed Judicial Practice”**

This SAMHSA publication provides the information judges should be aware of when dealing with victims of traumatic experiences, noting specific strategies judges have found beneficial. This guide defines trauma, examines its impact, and provides recommendations for how judges should communicate with victims. The guide also includes examples of courtroom proceedings and details the reactions of trauma victims, as well as approaches judges can take to lessen anxiety. Finally, the guide reviews the courtroom setting’s effect on trauma victims and how a judge might adapt and modify the environment.

http://www.nasmhpd.org/sites/default/files/JudgesEssential_5%201%202013finaldraft.pdf

Publications

Judge Eugene Hyman, Wanda Lucibello & Emilie Meyer, “In Love or In Trouble: Examining Ways Court Professionals Can Better Respond to Victims of Adolescent Partner Violence,” *Juvenile & Family Court Journal*, Volume 61, Issue 4, Fall 2010.

This article focuses on adolescent partner violence and how it is often excluded by the legal system which focuses on adult partner violence. Through analysis of examples and approaches, recommendations are made for professionals to better engage with adolescent partner violence. The article was co-written by a judge of the Superior Court of California, the Chief of Special Victims at the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, and an attorney with the Family Violence Department of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1755-6988.2010.01049.x/abstract>.

Jennifer y. Levy-Peck, “Addressing Intimate Partner Sexual Violence in Teen Relationships” in *Intimate Partner Sexual Violence*, Patricia Eastel AM & Jennifer Y. Levy-Peck, eds. (2014) Chapter 23, Pages 281-293

This chapter brings together advice for professionals, including those in the justice system, who work with teens who have been subjected to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence (IPSV). Multidisciplinary in approach, the chapter covers key issues salient to all to teen relationships - the impact of IPSV, reproductive coercion, the physical and psychological indicators, possible consequences of taking a case to court, and best practice service responses.

Priscilla Offenbauer & Alice Buchalter, Teen Dating Violence: “A Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography”, July 2011

This extensive annotated bibliography includes literature on responses to the issue of dating violence in the law and from the legal system. It identifies significant research carried out in the decade since 1999 on the issue of dating violence among high school and middle school youth. The survey provided in the bibliography and summary covers quantitative and qualitative literature on the definition, prevalence of, and risk factors for teen dating violence. Commonly researched risk factors, correlates, or predictors of teen dating violence include demographic and community level factors, as well as more proximate family-level, individual-level, and situational risks. Specific mention is made of longitudinal work on such factors. The survey also encompasses research on the deleterious effects of dating violence both in the context of the current relationship and in future intimate partnerships. Finally, the bibliography and summary cover the literature on the effectiveness of prevention programs and on responses to the issue of dating violence in legal systems.

<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/235368.pdf>

Lynn Hecht Schafran, “Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Who Are the Victims, What Are the Risks? Adults, Teens, and Children”, The Judges’ Journal, Vol. 60, Number 2, Spring 2021

Intimate partner sexual abuse (IPSA) is a frequent aspect of teen dating abuse and violence. IPSA is highly damaging for victims both psychologically and physically, and is often the prelude to trafficking. Forced sex together with physical violence is a red flag for danger and potential lethality.

<https://www.legalmomentum.org/library/intimate-partner-sexual-abuse-who-are-victims-what-are-risks-adults-teens-and-children>

2. Resources Focused on Specific TDAV Topics

Sex Trafficking:

Day One

Day One resources provide insight on the intersection of dating violence and domestic sex trafficking for young people across the United States.

<https://www.dayoneny.org/overview-1>

**Minnesota Judicial Branch, eLearning Module
“Working with Juvenile Victims of Sex Trafficking”**

This eLearning Modules covers the problem of juvenile sex trafficking and the challenges, the victims, the law, and what judges can do in their own courtrooms and to create solutions.

https://mjbstream.courts.state.mn.us/Courses/DN_BESU_vids/Published_Sex_Trafficking/story_html5.html

The Audre Lorde Project, Say What?: How to Talk About Trans and Non Conforming People, Youth, and People in the Sex Trade Respectfully

This report, created jointly by the Audre Lorde Project, FIERCE, and Streetwise and Safe, contains an analysis of language and recommendations on its alteration so as to be more inclusive of trans and gender non-conforming people, youth, and sex workers. It is meant to act as a guide for media outlets and journalists to understand why certain language is problematic and how it can be remedied.

https://alp.org/sites/default/files/saywhat_mediaguide_003.pdf

Center for the Human Rights of Children, University of Loyola Chicago & International Organization for Adolescents, Building Child Welfare Response to Child Trafficking

This is an excellent resource on the trafficking of children and teens, and how advocates can help these victims. The Center's handbook Building Child Welfare Response to Child Trafficking, co-authored by the International Organization for Adolescents, was written to specifically address the needs of child and adolescent victims of trafficking as separate from those of adult victims. "The handbook provides policies, protocols, and forms for incorporating child trafficking identification and response mechanisms into state and private child welfare systems, using Illinois as a case study." The handbook includes Human Trafficking of Children Screening Tools, which can be found on pages 50 through 56.

<https://ecommons.luc.edu/chrc/3/>

Teen Dating Violence and Social Media

**Honorable Matthew A. Sciarrino, Jr., "Social Media's Impact on Criminal Law",
Kings County Criminal Bar Association, October 17, 2013**

This article explains the ways in which social media has affected criminal law. It provides relevant general statistics, explains certain platforms, and delves into important cases including on the topic of sexual harassment, sexting, and distribution of child pornography.

http://www.kccbba.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SML_and_Crim_Law_CLE-Sciarrino.pdf

Futures Without Violence

Effective Responses to Teen Sexting: A Guide for Judges and Other Professionals

This resource acts as a guide for judges and community leaders on sexting; specifically, public education and response to its unintended consequences, and distinguishing between voluntary and involuntary experimentation, and control tactics in youth relationships.

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/effective-responses-to-teen-sexting-a-guide-for-judges-and-other-professionals/>

"That's Not Cool" Public Education Initiative

"That's Not Cool" is a public education initiative created by FUTURES, The Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women and the Advertising Council. The initiative is specifically created to educate teens on dating violence, unhealthy relationships, and digital abuse. The initiative is housed on an interactive website with an "Adult Allies" section of the website for adults who work with teens.

<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/children-youth-teens/thats-not-cool/>

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

“Social Media: Teen Dating Violence: Social Media and Tech Misuse Guidance for Judges” (2021)

“As courts adjust to the new realities of online life, judicial decisions, rulings and court orders must be crafted to reflect an understanding of the dangers and dynamics that youth face as they create their new world of social engagement and human connections.”

<https://www.ncjfcj.org/publications/teen-dating-violence-social-media-and-tech-misuse-guidance-for-judges/>

Urban Institute, Research Report:

“Technology, Teen Dating Violence and Abuse, and Bullying”

This research report is an in-depth look into the violence and abuse that youth to which youth may be subjected to via technology. Of those surveyed, many identified as youth of colour with a large percentage (94%) identifying as heterosexual.

https://www.urban.org/research/publication/technology-teen-dating-violence-and-abuse-and-bullying/view/full_report

3. Resources for Parents & Other Caregivers, Teens and the Community

Futures Without Violence

Futures Without Violence offers a variety of programs, guidelines, prevention strategies and tools to empower and educate youth, parents and communities. These promote resiliency and work to break the cycle of violence in families and teen relationships.

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/children-youth-teens/>

Start Strong

Building Healthy Teen Relationships (Start Strong) was a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in collaboration with Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF) and Futures Without Violence. The core components of the Start Strong program were to: i) educate and engage youth in schools and out of school settings; ii) educate and engage teen influencers such as parents/caregivers, older teens, teachers and other mentors; iii) change policy and environmental factors; and iv) implement effective communications/social marketing strategies.

<http://startstrong.futureswithoutviolence.org/>

One Love

One Love offers workshops, peer-to-peer discussions and educational resources on relationships, abuse and love for youth. They offer a framework that helps students spread their message online and in their communities.

<https://www.joinonelove.org/>

Day One

Day One is a New York City-based nonprofit that “partners with youth to end dating abuse and domestic violence through community education, supportive services, legal advocacy, and leadership development.” The Day One website provides informational resources on dating abuse and domestic sex trafficking for young people across the United States. Day One also provides in-person educational workshops for youth and adults on topics such as “dynamics of power and control,” “Criminal and Family Court Resources,” “stereotypes and assumptions about survivors of dating abuse,” various legal workshops, and specialized workshops on “related topics” such as “relationship abuse in the LGBTQ community” and “technological abuse.”

<http://www.dayoneny.org/>

Parents & Other Caregivers:

This sheet provides a list of warning signs, preventative actions and directions on how to approach a teen disclosing about TDAV for parents & other caregivers.

http://static1.squarespace.com/static/535a821ce4b0a24faf6af3b8/t/53fe880be4b0408d593f8aeb/1409189899087/tips_parents_eng_pdf.pdf?sm_au=iVV1snZfVjM26kVQ

Love Is Respect

The mission of loveisrespect “is to engage, educate, and empower young people to prevent and end abusive relationships.” The organization provides a free and confidential phone, live chat, and texting informational support service available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year that can be used by “concerned friends and family members, teachers, counselors, service providers, and members of law enforcement.

<http://www.loveisrespect.org/>

LGBTQIA2S + specific

This resource provides useful guidelines for LGBTQIA2S+ teens and young adults to help navigate the world of dating.

<https://www.loveisrespect.org/resources/lgbtq-relationships-and-dating-violence/>

Parents & Other Caregivers:

This sheet provides education, action and awareness around healthy relationships for youth parents & other caregivers.

http://www.loveisrespect.org/pdf/Help_Your_Child.pdf

New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), Teen Dating Violence

This resource provides an overview of what constitutes teen dating violence by listing common behaviors and red flags apparent in teen relationships.

<https://www.ny.gov/programs/teen-dating-abuse-awareness-and-prevention>

Information for Parents:

This resource provides an overview of what constitutes teen dating violence by listing common behaviors and red flags apparent in teen relationships. They also provide suggestions for parents on how to speak to and support their children in these situations and a list of external resources specific for parents.

<https://opdv.ny.gov/whatisdv/tdvinfoparent.html>

<https://www.ny.gov/teen-dating-abuse-awareness-and-prevention/teen-your-life>

Bystander Intervention, Prevention, and Education:

This resource provides an overview of different resources available to learn the tools of bystander intervention.

<https://opdv.ny.gov/whatisdv/tdvinfobystan.pdf>

**Barrie Levy, “In Love and In Danger: A Teen’s Guide to Breaking Free of Abusive Relationships”
(2006)**

This book gives youth information about abusive dating relationships to help them understand the causes and consequences of TDAV, what they can do, how they can find help from parents and other adults, and how to build healthier relationships. It addresses youth directly in a straightforward and non-condescending manner through advice, statistics, and interviews with teens.

Miranda Pratt, 20 Things I Wish I Had Learned in Sex Ed: A Young Woman’s Guide to Sex, Saying “No” and Surviving the Modern Minefield of Gender Relations (2018)

In this short book the author draws on her own very negative experiences to describes healthy relationships, the hallmarks of unhealthy relationships, and her involvement in an extremely toxic teen relationship marked by repeated sexual abuse. The section titled “Your Sexual Assaulter Can Be Your Boyfriend: Consent and Relationships,” includes subsections titled “Rapists Are Counting on Your Silence,” “What To Do if You Are Sexually Assaulted,” and “Shame is a State of Mind.”

4. Resources for Schools and Youth Serving Organizations:

Day One

The Day One website provides informational resources on dating abuse for young people across the United States, and also provides “Tools for Educators...to support educators and youth work toward ending dating violence among youth.”

<https://www.dayoney.org/tools-for-educators>

**Jewish Women International, the Avon Foundation for Women and NoMore.org,
“Dating Abuse: Tools for Talking to Teens”**

This resource “explains the dynamics of teen dating abuse and provides usable strategies for all adults to have realistic and successful conversations with young people.” The resource comes in two parts, which can be used together or separately: “Learn On-Site: The Workshop,” a scripted, in-person, one-hour educational workshop that anyone can facilitate to teach adults about teen dating violence; and “Learn Online,” a collection of online courses, tip sheets, a video, and a webinar recording of the in person worksheet.

<https://www.jwi.org/tools>

**National Public Safety Partnership,
“Real Talk – A Resource Guide for Educating Teens on Healthy Relationships” (2012)**

This guide is designed for adults, including youth workers, to improve their ability to teach healthy relationship dynamics to youth.

<https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/clearinghouse/Resource/577>

**National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)
“Take a Stand for Healthy Relationships”**

This new program offers a 6 module curriculum for educators for grades 6-8, teaching students how to understand and build healthy relationships. These modules encourage communication and self-awareness skills. https://www.teens4healthyrelationships.com/?utm_source=blog&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=mayblog_cep&utm_content=blog_may

**New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), Teen Dating Violence:
Bystander Intervention, Prevention, and Education**

This resource, provided by the State of New York, contains information on bystander intervention, prevention, and education. It links to other resources for teens, parents, and schools. <https://opdv.ny.gov/whatisdv/tdvinfobystan.pdf>

5. Resources by State

California:

Injury and Violence Prevention Branch of the California Department of Public Health

This webpage defines teen dating violence and adolescent dating abuse and situates it in the context of adult intimate partner violence. It contains links to several other resources and programs. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/SACB/Pages/TeenDatingViolence.aspx>

Minnesota

Women’s Foundation of Minnesota - Young Women’s Initiative

This resource is a 20 point action plan to achieve equity for young women and girls in Minnesota. These goals are aimed at improving the lives of girls and young women ages 12 to 24 focused on issues of safety and violence prevention, education and preventing violence through healthy relationships. <https://www.wfmn.org/young-womens-initiative-minnesotas-blueprint-action-release/>

Violence Free Minnesota

This resource is the official website of Violence Free Minnesota, an organization working to end relationship abuse in the state. Their Youth Advisory Board meets monthly to work on campaigns, trainings, events and more to prevent youth relationship abuse. <https://www.vfmn.org/>

New York

New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), Teen Dating Violence: Information for Teens

This document provides definitions of what constitutes teen dating violence by listing common behaviors and red flags apparent in teen relationships.

<https://opdv.ny.gov/whatisdv/tdvinfo teen.pdf>

Andrew Sta. Ana & Stephanie Nilva, “Teen Victims of Intimate Partner Violence” in Lawyer's Manual On Domestic Violence, New York Appellate Division, First Department (Mary Rothwell Davis, Dorchen Leidholdt & Charlotte A. Watson eds., 6th ed. 2015).

This manual on domestic violence centres on victim safety and abuser accountability in cases of different types of intimate partner violence such as stalking, physical violence, firearms surrender, etc. Under Section 5, the chapter entitled “Teen Victims of Intimate Partner Violence,” includes information on intersectionality, the seriousness of teen dating abuse, disclosure, and technology.

<http://ww2.nycourts.gov/sites/default/files/document/files/2018-07/DV-Lawyers-Manual-Book.pdf>

North Carolina

Love Speaks Out

This is a Teen Dating Violence prevention program that seeks a future without dating abuse and domestic violence. LoveSpeaksOut provides engaging, dynamic presentations that makes the information relatable and understandable for teens.

<https://www.mecknc.gov/CommunitySupportServices/PI/Prevention/Pages/Love-Speaks-Out.aspx>

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

This organization has a variety of programs specific to addressing TDAV and serving victims. These are in collaboration with community services and schools. They also have a program specifically geared to Latino youth. They also have links to articles and other resources for TDAV.

<https://nccadv.org/our-services/teen-dating-violence>

Virginia

The Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Alliance

Alongside other organizations, the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Alliance created a website for resources and information for professionals to address sexual violence in Virginia. This contains a Teen Dating Violence Prevention Guide with 6 units that address TDAV and promote healthy relationships with teens.

<https://www.communitysolutionsva.org/index.php/resources/item/building-healthy-relationships-across-virginia>

Washington

The Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP)

WCSAP is an organization that unites “agencies engaged in the elimination of sexual violence” across Washington State. WCSAP provides “information, training, and expertise to program and individual members who support victims, family and friends, the general public, and all those whose lives have been affected by sexual assault.” The WCSAP website has materials on teen intimate partner sexual violence – or “teen dating violence” – specifically for parents, advocates, and teens themselves. One of these resources is a webinar given by Jennifer Y. Levy-Peck, co-editor of *Intimate Partner Sexual Violence: A Multidisciplinary Guide to Improving Services and Support for Survivors of Rape and Abuse*, on “Sexual Assault and Coercion in Teen Relationships.”

<http://www.wcsap.org/sexual-assault-and-coercion-teen-relationships>.

Wisconsin

Dare2Know

Dare2Know is an organization that educates teens on healthy relationships. They have different programs for Teen Ambassadors and Adult Mentors, and online educational tools.

<https://dare2knowwi.org/>