

### Definition of Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence can be defined as any assault, aggravated assault, battery, sexual battery, stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member on another. Domestic violence typically refers to persons who are living together as a family, are married, or have a child in common.

### Signs That A Relationship May Be Abusive:

Has your partner ever.....

- Ignored your feelings?
- Ridiculed or insulted your gender as a group?
- Ridiculed or insulted your most valued beliefs, your religion, race, heritage, or class?
- Withheld approval, appreciation, or affection as a punishment?
- Continually criticized you, called you names, shouted at you?
- Humiliated you in private or in public?
- Refused to socialize with you?
- Kept you from working, controlled your money, made all decisions?
- Refused to work or share money?
- Took car keys or money away from you?
- Regularly threatened to leave or told you to leave?
- Threatened to hurt you or your family?
- Punished or deprived the children when angry at you?
- Threatened to kidnap the children if you left?
- Abused, tortured, or killed pets to hurt you?
- Harassed you about imagined affairs?
- Manipulated you with lies and contradictions?
- Destroyed furniture, punched holes in walls, broke appliances?
- Wielded a weapon in a threatening way?

**REMEMBER:** Answering “yes” to any of the above questions does not necessarily mean the relationship is abusive. The list merely serves as a guide to help determine if the relationship may be abusive. If you are unsure if your relationship is abusive or not, call one of the on-campus or off-campus numbers listed on the Crime Definitions and Resource site and ask to speak with someone about your relationship.

[http://www.belmont.edu/ocs/crime\\_definitions\\_and\\_resource\\_information.html](http://www.belmont.edu/ocs/crime_definitions_and_resource_information.html)