

Crime Prevention

Signs of a Battering Personality

The following signs often occur before actual abuse begins and may serve as clues to potential abuse.

If someone you are dating or your spouse displays a combination of of these behaviors, they may be a potential batterer:



St. Joseph, Missouri
Police Department

501 Faraon Street
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Crime Prevention Unit
816-271-4882
816-236-1473



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1 Quick Involvement. Comes on strong, claiming, "I've never felt loved like this before." Pressures for an exclusive commitment immediately.

2 Jealousy. Excessively possessive. Calls or visits constantly.

3 Controlling Behavior. Questions continually about whom you are talking to, where you were, or checks mileage on car. Keeps all money. Insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.

4 Unrealistic expectations. Expects you to be perfect and meet their every need.

5 Isolation. Tries to cut off family and friends. Deprives you of a phone or car. Tries to prevent you from having a job.

6 Blames others for problems. The boss, you and everybody. Everyone is out to get them. It is always someone else's fault.

7 Blames others for feelings. They say, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you," or "You made me angry," instead of "I'm angry."

8 Hypersensitivity. Is easily insulted. Complains about injustices that are just part of life.

9 Grew up in a violent family. Either abused or witnessed spousal abuse during childhood. Thinks that violence is normal behavior.

10 Cruelty to animals and children. Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also, may expect children to do things beyond their ability.

11 Playful use of force. Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will. Finds the idea of rape exciting.

12 Verbal abuse. Constantly criticizes you or says cruel things; degrades, curses or calls you names.

13 Rigid sex roles. Expects you to serve, obey and stay at home.

14 Past battering. Admits to previous abuse, but says victim caused it.

15 Sudden mood swings. Switches from sweet to violent in a matter of minutes.

16 Threatens violence. Makes statements such as "I'll break your neck," then dismisses them with, "You know I was only joking."

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