



DIGITAL ABUSE

DIGITAL ABUSE IS A PART OF DOMESTIC ABUSE (IN YOUNG PEOPLE, WE MAY CALL THIS TEENAGE RELATIONSHIP ABUSE). HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE YOU WORK WITH:

A perpetrator telling their partner who they can and cannot be friends with on social media (e.g. their support network or people of the gender the victim is attracted to)

A perpetrator monitoring and controlling sites their partner uses, accounts they follow and what they put on their profile

A perpetrator insisting that their partner makes reference to them in all social media updates, and has all pictures and videos including them – to make it clear they are 'taken'. They may use the guise of 'being protective' whereas this is actually a form of control

The sending of insulting, or threatening messages or emails. This might involve threats towards the victim's family, friends or pets. The threats may be sent in the form of images or videos of violence

A perpetrator sending the victim threats to harm themselves or to suicide, as a form of control. This can include images of their self harm in order to illicit a response and gain control. This may happen more if the victim tries to assert boundaries or end the relationship

A perpetrator using social media and location settings (or apps that track location) to track the victim's whereabouts and activities. This might include insisting the victim has their webcam on at all times when they are at home



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REMEMBER, IF THIS TAKES PLACE BETWEEN TWO YOUNG PEOPLE, IT COUNTS AS CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE. IF YOU SPOT ANY OF THESE SIGNS IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE YOU WORK WITH (WHETHER YOU THINK THEY'RE THE VICTIM OR PERPETRATOR) - REPORT TO YOUR DSL IMMEDIATELY.

A perpetrator sending unwanted indecent images, then pressuring their partner to send similar images...or perhaps taking indecent images without consent - e.g. during or after sexual activity or while the victim is showering

The perpetrator makes insulting, embarrassing or humiliating posts online about the victim - this could involve sharing secrets or posting unflattering photos or videos

The perpetrator might steal or insist on being given their partner's account passwords to all social media and gaming sites. They may insist on being in charge of all posts and friends lists

The perpetrator insists upon checking through their partner's devices and checking all pictures, texts, and phone records. They may demand to know who each contact is and want to know the content of each interaction and the reason behind it

The victim is constantly called or messaged. If they don't pick up the phone in time, they may be bombarded with messages across all their social media and email sites. The victim may feel like they can't be separated from their phone in case they anger their partner. This may mean they answer their phone in class because they are more scared of their partner than of breaking rules

The perpetrator may create fake social media profiles in the victim's name and create problems between the victim and their family and friends, in order to isolate the victim