

Is Dating Dangerous?

Numerous recent reports indicate that many adolescent dating relationships include the use of control and abusive behaviors. In addition, at a time when peers are most influential, adolescents demonstrate high levels of tolerance, or even support, for these behaviors.



It is imperative that we educate young people to recognize healthy versus abusive behaviors and the impact that abuse has on individuals, their families and friends. In addition, young people need to be aware of resources available to them.

This project is a collaborative effort between the following organizations and individuals:

City Theater Company

Project P.R.I.D.E. at CHLD, Inc.

Nanticoke Memorial Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program

The YMCA Resource Center

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Delaware

Carl Schnee, Esquire

A limited number of free performances may be available due to a grant from Nanticoke Memorial Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program, through funding by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services.

For more information or to schedule a performance, call Dawn Schatz, LCSW at (302) 762-8989.

The Delaware Safe Dating Theater Project presents:



An interactive experience combining live theater & education to raise awareness about dating abuse for students in grades 8-12

Theater Performance

This 60 minute interactive performance presented by the City Theater Company allows students into the lives of five high school friends, including one dating couple, Maddie and Paul.



The audience watches as the romantic relationship between Paul and Maddie gradually becomes abusive.



Through this production, students will witness the effects that abusive relationships have, not only on victims, but also on friends.

Between scenes, the characters entertain comments, reactions and questions from the audience while a professional from the domestic violence field is available to provide accurate information and referrals.

Project at a Glance:

- ♥ Designed for students in 8th-12th grades
- ♥ 60-minute performance
- ♥ Recommended classroom follow-up sessions with written materials
- ♥ Optional 2-day Peer Leader Training for select students

This interactive project aims to provide this much-needed education and to create a dialog among young people about unhealthy dating practices.



Follow-Up

Participating schools are encouraged to schedule a follow-up session for participating students provided by Project P.R.I.D.E. at CHILD, Inc. Using the theater performance as a basis, a Master's level professional will facilitate an educational session and discussion to dispel myths regarding abuse, help students to recognize the various forms of abuse, explain the dynamics of abusive relationships, and offer guidance on helping peers in these relationships.

The follow-up sessions are most effective in a classroom setting. Project P.R.I.D.E. will provide handouts.

Peer Leader Training

The YMCA Resource Center of Delaware provides optional Peer Leader Training for interested schools. The two-day training is conducted prior to the theater performance and includes students selected by school personnel on the basis of potential leadership capabilities, maturity, or interest.

For purposes of this project, the Training includes a two-hour segment focusing on relationship abuse, provided by Project P.R.I.D.E. During the theater performance, Peer Leaders are introduced to the audience to encourage students to seek out these peer resources.