DATING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In a dating relationship, you have rights that the other person has the responsibility to respect. And your partner has the same rights that you have the responsibility to respect. If both of you recognize and exercise your rights and both of you accept responsibility for respecting each other’s rights, the relationship will be safe and healthy. Here are some of those rights and responsibilities.

**I HAVE THE RIGHT**

- To say yes or no to you about anything.
- To spend time with my own friends. To go places with my friends/family.
- To be trusted and shown respect.
- To make my own decisions about what is right for me.
- To wear what I want and dress in my own style.
- To be myself and not have to change for you.
- To not be pressured into anything.
- To not be made to feel obligated to you.
- To be safe and feel safe at all times.
- To share in making decisions about what we do as a couple.
- To have some privacy.
- To have and express whatever feelings I need to.

**IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY**

- To accept no for an answer. To listen to and respect your opinions.
- To accept your friends/family and your choice to spend time with them.
- To trust you and treat you with respect.
- To encourage you to make your own decisions about what is right for you.
- To support your right to dress as you choose.
- To accept you for who you are and not try to change you.
- To not pressure you into anything.
- To give you gifts or do nice things for you without expecting anything in return.
- To not intentionally hurt you or threaten you.
- To share in making decisions about what we do as a couple. To not be controlling.
- To respect your privacy and to give you some space when you need it.
- To recognize and accept that your feelings may differ from mine and you have the right to express them.

Talk about these rights and responsibilities with your dating partner. Then make a promise to each other to maintain a safe and healthy relationship.

**If you or someone you know needs help with a violent relationship:**

[Blackburn Center]

24 Hour Hotline: 724-836-1122 OR Toll Free: 1-888-832-2272
www.blackburncenter.org