



Teen Dating Violence and the Prom

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With an increase in drug/alcohol use, peer pressure and unsupervised partying, teen dating violence leading up to, during, and after the prom is a reality that is of great concern. While as a community we want to support and encourage our youth to come together safely to celebrate their accomplishments, milestones, friendships and upcoming Summer break, it is of grave importance for us to teach teens about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships/abusive behaviors and how drugs and alcohol can influence these behaviors.

Pre and post prom parties often include alcohol and drug consumption – this fact increases the odds and frequency of date rape. When an individual's awareness is clouded by the effects of alcohol and drugs they become significantly less able to physically and verbally resist unwanted sexual acts. In some instances, date rape perpetrators will use 'date rape drugs' (i.e roofies, Ecstasy, Special-K) alone or mixed into an alcoholic drink to unknowingly sedate a potential victim. While date rape can happen to both females and males, statistics have shown that females experience date rape at a much higher rate than males.

Equipping our teens with the facts on how drug and alcohol use before, during and after prom has the potential of stopping physical, sexual and verbal acts of violence before they happen. Helping our teens to identify what constitutes as healthy, unhealthy and/or abusive behaviors in their dating relationships also has the potential of preventing unhealthy patterns and acts of abuse. Teens are savvy, innovative and interested! They can learn about healthy relationship skills and how to incorporate these skills and characteristics – **trust, honesty, respect, good communication, boundaries and consent** – into their dating relationships and social lives. Let us use prom activities as an opportunity to give our teens the information, guidance and skills necessary to have a fun, happy and safe 2021 Prom season.

For more information on teen dating violence please email/call Molly Conway
at:
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Teen dating violence resource websites:

www.loveisrespect.org
www.breakthecycle.org
www.thehotline.org
www.ncvc.org

***Esperanza Shelter's Mission is to shelter those threatened by
domestic violence and to support healthy relationships.***

For media requests, please contact:
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