

## What Is Intimate Partner Violence?

By Elsa Roberts

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) covers a broad range of behaviors, and is also sometimes referred to as domestic violence or domestic abuse. IPV is perceived and defined differently depending on whom you talk to. Common perceptions of IPV are not necessarily the same as the legal definitions of IPV. Also, feminists and other advocates may have broader, more fine tuned analyses of IPV due to their work with IPV.

### The Legal Definition of IPV in Michigan:

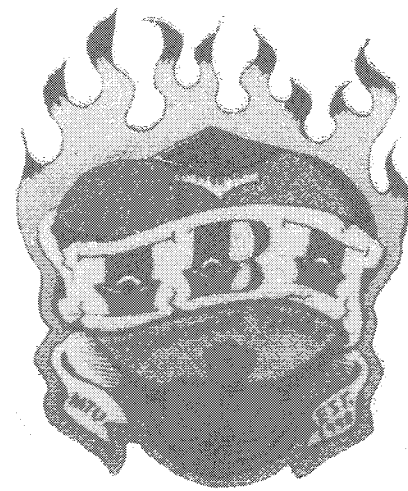
'Domestic Violence' means the occurrence of any of the following acts by a person that is not an act of self-defense: causing or attempting to cause physical or mental harm to a family or household member; placing a family or household member in fear of physical or mental harm; causing or attempting to cause a family or household member to engage in involuntary sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress; and/or engaging in activity toward a family or household member that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested.

[http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5460\\_7261-15005--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5460_7261-15005--,00.html)

As feminists we define IPV as 1) physical violence (hitting, punching, pushing), 2) mental abuse, 3) emotional abuse, and 4) control of day-to-day activities.

Mental and emotional abuse covers a broad range of behaviors, listed here:

1. Belittling
2. Yelling
3. Other verbal violence



4. Telling victim that they are worthless, unworthy of love etc
5. Switching between being verbally abusive to apologetic
6. Threatening to harm your person
7. Threatening to harm or destroy pets, possessions, friends, family etc.

*Control of time and day-to-day activity includes:*

1. Constant demands on your time
2. Never being allowed alone
3. If alone must check in often to confirm whereabouts/activities
4. Severely limiting friends and contact with the outside world

### Who can be affected by IPV?

- Anyone - man or woman, gay, straight, bisexual, transgender, asexual, lesbian, intersexed
- Friends and family of the victim are also affected

### Unhealthy vs. Healthy relationships:

- Control is substituted for concern
- Love is used to restrict and punish or make the victim feel guilty
- Verbal abuse replaces arguments and discussions
- Consent is presumed and victim is never given an opportunity to consent (or is afraid to voice concern)

### How to spot abuse:

Keep in mind that abuse covers more than just physical violence, abuse can also manifest as emotional, sexual, or mental.

Some signs of an abusive relationship are:

- Constant criticism
- Restricting activities
- Limiting friends
- Creating dependency (economic, emotional dependency)
- Abusers having access to all personal information (such as SSN, passwords to bank accounts, etc.)
- Abusers not allowing victim to make decisions without them (big or small)
- Victim being afraid to refuse any of their partners wishes
- Rape or other sexual violence
- Never being allowed alone

Some signs of an abuser:

- Denies behavior and attempts to discredit partner as "crazy" or irrational
- Claims partner is delusional
- Claims to be the wronged party (partner hates them and is trying to ruin their life)

### Resources:

#### Counseling Services (On Campus)

Location: The Little White house between Fisher and Walker  
Phone: 906-487-2538  
Email: dswillia@mtu.edu

#### National Domestic Violence Hotline

Website: <http://www.ndvh.org/>  
Phone: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

#### Public Safety

Emergency Phone: 911  
Phone: 487-2216

A Message from the Technobabe Times Staff:

Hello again! A new year has started. For two of the TBers, it's their last year. But never fear, because we have gained some wonderful new members! The Technobabe Times is pleased to welcome to its ranks Kayla Herrera, a first year student from Wisconsin currently pursuing a degree in Liberal Arts - after working on her high school newspaper, Kayla was looking to flex some journalistic muscle, and we are very glad that she's chosen the TBT as a place to do that; and Dominique Blair, a Biological Sciences student who is very active in lots of campus communities - we're overjoyed that she's been willing to add the TBT to that list of communities.

As always, we are very happy to welcome new members into the fold. We have no requirements for membership other than that you come with an open mind. It looks like it will be another fantastic year for the Technobabe Times, and we'd like to thank Michigan Tech, the USG, and especially all our readers for supporting us. It means a lot!

Thanks,  
The TBT Staff



### What to do:

If you are a friend of a victim, try talking to them privately but don't be pushy if they are unreceptive to you. Maintain contact over the long term so they have someone to turn to if they decide to leave.

Remember that abusers slowly make victims solely dependent on them and try to isolate them from friends, so it is important to stay in contact even if a victim seems to be pushing you away.

If you are the abused person try to discuss the situation with a trusted friend/coworker/other, be careful not to put yourself in danger, when you leave first contact a local shelter/safe house and if one is not in your area find a place to stay that your partner will be unlikely to look (stay with someone your abuser doesn't know or at a hotel out of the area). Second, attempt to put legal protections for yourself in place (such as a personal protection order), and keep police informed of violations of the order. Unfortunately, the legal system and the police do not always respond appropriately to victims of intimate partner violence (especially violence in LGBT communities), so be prepared for the fact that these methods may sometimes be ineffectual and inadequate. In order to escape your abuser you may be forced to move and change your name, and even then you will not always be safe.

### Resources:

Survivor Project (services specifically for Trans and Intersexed people)  
Website: <http://www.survivorproject.org/>

#### Dial Help

Location: Downtown Houghton  
Website: [dialhelp.org](http://dialhelp.org)  
Toll Free Number: 1-800-562-7622

Stop Abuse For Everyone  
Website: <http://www.safe4all.org/>

Baraga County Shelter Home/ Women's Center

Location: L'Anse, MI  
Phone: (906) 524-5017

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Shelter

Location: Baraga, MI  
Phone: (906) 353-4533



