

Why Teenagers May Stay in an Abusive Relationship

- Fear of physical harm to themselves, friends, family, or pets.
- Fear of physical harm to their property or possessions.
- Fear that people will blame them for the abuse.
- Shame.
- Fear that the abuser will spread rumors.
- Fear that the abuser will ruin their reputation.
- Fear of involvement with legal - judicial system.
- Fear of what parents or school staff might say or think.
- Cultural and religious constraints.
- Not wanting to be labeled.
- Lack of support from friends, family, or school administration.
- Afraid of getting accused of being a troublemaker or attention seeker.
- Fear of abuser's friends.
- Fear of being alone.
- Fear that the abuser will not be able to survive alone or that they will commit suicide.
- Fear of the unknown.
- Guilt about failure of relationship.
- Belief that no one else will ever come along.
- Belief that the abuser will change.
- Belief that it will get better.

