



Newly released: Best practices guidelines for professionals working with youth who use abusive behaviors

Unhealthy relationship behaviors can and do start at a young age, but there are limited interventions in Colorado for young people who engage in relationship abuse (sometimes called teen dating violence).

Unlike adults who perpetrate domestic violence, there is no mandate for a professional to be approved through the Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board to work on behavior change with youth who engage in abusive, harmful, and/or illegal acts toward a dating partner. And until now, there were no guidelines for treatment of this population.

To address this need, Stand Up Colorado collaborated with a variety of community organizations, state agencies, and individuals across Colorado for over two years to develop guidelines for professionals to work with youth ages 10-17 who engage in relationship abuse.

And now, the guidelines are here! This new resource was released in a recent press conference and addresses a critical gap in services for youth by offering information and guidance to professionals who work in education, mental health, and juvenile justice, who could be influential in supporting behavior change in young people.

Access the guide and relevant FAQs [here](#). For additional questions about the guide, [contact Ellen Stein Wallace](#), Stand Up Colorado advisor. For media inquiries, [contact Tamika Matthews](#), Community Impact Manager at Violence Free Colorado.



A huge thank you to all who dedicated their time, hard work, and expertise to the development of these guidelines.

We are so grateful for you. ♥

Relationship violence is not ok. It is ok to ask for help.
Stand Up Colorado is a project of Violence Free Colorado.
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