

Handout 14.1: Red Flags That Indicate Someone May Have the Potential to Become Abusive

Client Initials: _____ Date: _____

On this checklist, place check marks next to the red flags, or warning signs, exhibited by your partner before he became abusive with you.

1. Possessiveness
2. Jealousy
3. Dislike of your family or friends
4. In a hurry to get romantically involved
5. Lying
6. Secrecy
7. Imposition of his opinions or beliefs
8. Belittling your opinions or beliefs
9. A bad temper
10. Physical aggression with others
11. Verbal mistreatment of others
12. Blaming others for his problems or mistakes
13. "Playful" use of force during sex
14. A regular or past heavy user of alcohol or drugs
15. A reputation as a womanizer
16. Unreliability
17. Invasion of your privacy
18. Acts differently when the two of you are alone than when you're with others
19. Cruelty to animals or children
20. Charm or charisma

Would you have gotten intimate or emotionally involved with this person if you had been aware of these signs in advance? _____