



**Elephant in The Room Q & A
BLOOMING POINT 6-16
Summer 2018**

Resources:

BLOOM365 Advocate	Text or call 602-799-7017 for free, confidential support. Please allow up to 24 hours to receive an initial response.
BLOOM365 Hotline	Call 1-888-606-HOPE (4673)
BLOOM365 Drop-In Support Groups	Every Monday (Holidays excluded). Please email teens@bloom365.org for more information.
Teen Lifeline	Text or call 602-248-TEEN (8336) for free, confidential support 24/7 relating to suicide, depression, bullying, or relationships
National Teen Dating Violence Hotline	Text "LOVEIS" to 22522 24/7
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
National Sexual Assault Hotline	1-800.656.HOPE (4673)

Q: Student

A: BLOOM365 Advocate

1) Does verbal abuse with some signs of emotional abuse count as an abusive relationship in a marriage, especially if they continuously say they are sorry?

Dating abuse (or domestic violence) involve a pattern of behaviors, such as verbal, emotional, and/or physical abuse, to gain or maintain power and control over a dating (or domestic) partner. A one

time incident would likely not be indicative of an abusive relationship, but if this is something that is happening continuously, then this might be a sign that this relationship is abusive. In abusive relationships, we often see things play out in a continuous cycle where one partner is abusive (whether verbally/emotionally/or physically), that partner later apologizes and “makes up” with the other partner, there’s a period where things are good, and then we see the cycle repeat. If you or someone you know is experiencing these issues or if you’d like to discuss this situation further, we encourage you to reach out to an advocate or the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

2) When on the topic of gender norms, can a wife for example, be a CEO and the man a house husband, but he still be the abusive person?

While a rigid belief in unhealthy gender norms increases one’s risk for being a victim or perpetrator of abuse, this does not mean that the relationship will for sure be abusive. Though, rigid beliefs in unhealthy gender norms often do lead to one person having more power in the relationship and could lead to an unhealthy relationship. On the other hand, if these beliefs are not held in the relationship, that doesn’t automatically mean that the relationship will be healthy. That being said, a male can certainly still be a perpetrator of abuse even if his wife holds a position of power in the workplace. Abuse knows no bias, so it’s important to recognize that anyone can be a perpetrator of abuse regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, etc. While rigid beliefs in unhealthy gender norms are a risk factor, it is only one of the root causes for relationships stemmed in power and control.