

We know that people fall in love and want companionship. They may also feel in a financial bind, and feel that being with someone will help to ease that burden. However our children also need love and nurturing from everyone that comes into their lives. Anyone we bring into our homes will impact our children, but it should always be a positive impact.

We hope that this information has been helpful, but there are other resources that may help:

- Family, friends, your faith community
- Counselors
- Your child's Pediatrician
- You may also contact 1-800-CHILDREN
- National Sex Offender Registry to see if your partner's name is listed. (<http://www.nationalsexoffenderregistry.com/>)



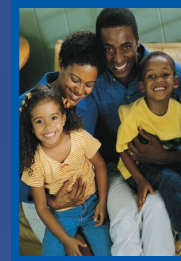
Visit our website at www.pcain.org

For prevention and parenting information and resources, call 1-800-CHILDREN (1.800.244.5373)

To Report Abuse & Neglect
Call 1.800.800.5556

We wish to thank Prevent Child Abuse Illinois for their assistance in the creation of this brochure.

How Well Do You Know Your Partner?



A Chartered State Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America

We want to believe that the person we love and who shares our life is someone whom we can trust unconditionally. With regard to our children however, we need to go “above and beyond” when it comes to protecting them. We have some tips then, to which you can refer when trying to determine if your partner is safe to be around, and sometimes care for, your child.

- Does your partner yell at your child?
- Do they hit your child?
- Talk badly about your child?
- Have they ever told your child to keep a secret from you?
- Do they have a history of domestic violence?
- Are they cruel to animals?
- Do they abuse alcohol or drugs?
- Do they have a criminal history that involves violence?
- Are they easily angered or frustrated?
- How much do they know about children, especially young children?
- Do they seem to have high expectations of children?
- Do they know about Safe Sleep practices?
- Do they criticize you or attempt to control you?



You can also pay attention to your child's cues in order to gauge if there is a safety concern:



- Does your child seem afraid of your partner?
- Do they cry when left with your partner?
- Do they have unexplained bruises or marks (and especially in infants, there should be no “unexplained” bruises or marks, as they are not yet mobile)
- Does your child act differently with your partner than they do with you?
- Don't assume that if your partner is a woman, that she will automatically know how to care for a child. The ability to parent is not an “instinct”; it is a learned behavior.

There are some positive signs as well that may help you to gauge how your partner is interacting with your child.

- Does your partner speak to you and your child in a respectful way?
- Respect your child's wishes?
- Use positive discipline techniques like re-direction and time out?
- Understand what children can and cannot do and certain ages and stages?
- Do they know about Safe Sleep practices?
- Does your child like being at home?
- Is your child open with you about their feelings?