

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Get a background check on all roommates, partners, and care providers (e.g. family of partner). Also, you can search Google, check social media, or check references for potential warning signs.
- Get to know your partner and pay attention to how they act with your child before leaving your child alone with them.
- Create a back-up plan in case you suddenly need a caregiver.
- When you need to hire childcare, use a professional service who has screened potential caregivers.
- Ask your partner/caregiver what they did while you were gone.
- Teach your child(ren) that it is okay to talk to you about any problems or concerns they may have about your partner/caregiver.
- Teach your child(ren) the name of a trusted neighbor close to home who they can call or go to if they think they are in danger.
- Teach your child(ren) how and when to call 9-1-1.

KNOW IF YOUR PARTNER HAS A CRIMINAL HISTORY

EL PASO COUNTY CASE RECORDS SEARCH
<http://casesearch.epcounty.com/PublicAccess/default.aspx>

FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE,
PLEASE VISIT

www.ywca.org

TEXAS LAW REQUIRES ANYONE WITH
KNOWLEDGE OF SUSPECTED CHILD
ABUSE OR NEGLECT TO REPORT IT TO
THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES

TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE OR
MALTREATMENT IN THE STATE OF TEXAS,
CALL:

9-1-1 OR YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY IF THE CHILD IS IN IMMEDIATE
DANGER!

-OR-

TEXAS ABUSE HOTLINE -
CALL TOLL-FREE 24 HOURS A DAY,
7 DAYS A WEEK, NATIONWIDE. CONTACT
THEM AT:
1.800.252.5400



For More Resources, Visit Us At:
www.project-chance.org

IS YOUR CHILD AT RISK?

TAKE THE SAFETY TEST

YOUR CHILD IS COUNTING ON
YOU TO MAKE THE RIGHT
DECISION WHEN CHOOSING YOUR
PARTNER.

NEVER, EVER LEAVE YOUR CHILD
WITH SOMEONE YOU CAN'T TRUST
WITH THEIR LIFE!

THINK BEFORE YOU TRUST!





Just because someone is a lover, relative, or close friend does not mean they are able to safely care for your child.

Most single parents never think that someone who cares about them, especially a boyfriend or girlfriend, could hurt their child.

Take the Safety Test:

DOES YOUR PARTNER....

1. Enjoy spending time with you and your child? .
2. Say nice things about both you and your child?
3. Talk to you and your child in a respectful way?
4. Give your child positive attention?
5. Listen to and respect you and your child's feelings?
6. Understand that children do different things at different ages?
7. Use positive discipline, like time-outs?
8. Take interest in your child's schoolwork and activities?
9. Make you and your child feel special?
10. Make you and your child laugh and feel happy?
11. Make you and your child feel safe and secure?
12. Treat other women/men in his/her life with love and respect?
13. Treat other children (nieces, nephews, friends' children, etc.) with love and respect?

If you answered "YES" to these questions, the person is likely to be responsible and a great support to you and your child.

If you answered "NO" to even one of these questions, your child could be at risk.

You Should Know...

According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, a parent's paramour accounted for approximately 12% of the child abuse related fatalities during 2014-2018, second only to the parents as primary perpetrators at 69%.

Over 50% of children who died as a result of child abuse during 2014-2018 were not in school or daycare at the time of their death.



Warning Signs

Know how to identify a potential abuser BEFORE introducing him/her to your child:

- Initially charming • Isolates you • Controlling
- Jealous • Unpredictable moods • Extremely critical of you • Cruel to animals • Insists they are the victim

It's not always easy to detect an abuser as some signs may not emerge right away.

Therefore, keep looking for warning signs. AFTER introducing him/her to your child:

- Angry or impatient when children have tantrums, cry, or misbehave.
- Calls your child bad names or put him/her down
- Violent with you
- Makes all the decisions for you and your child
- Abusing alcohol/drugs, including marijuana.

When Choosing Someone to Care for Your Child, They Should...

- Have **experience** caring for babies and young children.
- Be **patient and mature** enough to care for an excited or crying baby.
- Understand that young children must **always** be watched.
- **Never** shake, hit, yell at, make fun of, or withhold food from a child as punishment.
- **NOT abuse alcohol or drugs or illegally carry a weapon** and will not surround a child with others who may be drinking, using drugs, or carrying weapons illegally



A partner or caregiver should know what to do when your child won't stop crying, such as...

- Check to see if he or she **is hungry, wet, cold, hot, etc.**
- **Walk around** holding the baby close in his or her arms or in a carrier; try talking or singing to the baby.
- **Call a trusted friend, relative, or neighbor** who can come over and talk to him or her.
- If all else fails, put the baby in the crib on his or her back, making sure the child is safe—check in every five minutes or so... **it is much better to let the baby cry than to do something to stop the crying that may be harmful.**
- **Never shake the baby**—shaking a baby can cause bleeding in the brain, which can injure or kill a child. It takes only a few seconds of shaking to seriously hurt a baby's brain.