

Before you decide to bring your partner into your life/your home, please be sure that your partner is not going to harm your child.

Too many children have died at the hands of their parents' partner, many of whom had a violent past that the parent was fully aware of.

If you are single, PLEASE choose your partner wisely. Don't allow your child become another statistic.

If at any time you feel that you and your child(ren) are at risk, PLEASE put your child's needs first and...

- ❖ Get you and your child(ren) to a safe place
- ❖ Contact your local domestic violence 24 hour crisis hotline (In El Paso, call Center Against Family Violence at 915.593.7300)
- ❖ If you cannot get to a safe place, call 911 for immediate assistance

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




Project C.H.A.N.C.E.
Creating Hope for Abused and Neglected Children Everywhere

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

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE IS AS EASY AS SAYING YOUR ABC'S

AWARENESS
BEFORE
COMMITMENT
SAVES

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!!





Very few people believe that someone they love or trust could ever hurt their child, but it happens.

Choosing the right person to care for your child, including a partner, is one of the most important decisions a parent can make. Unsafe caregivers could be your boyfriend/girlfriend, relative, or neighbor. Statistics show that children are more likely to be abused, neglected or DIE at the hands of an unsafe caregiver than from a stranger.

Most caregivers give loving attention to children and keep them safe, HOWEVER, sometimes we don't plan ahead or think it through to conclusion. Sometimes we are in such a rush that we trust someone we shouldn't.

Far too often, a child is abused or even killed when left in the care of a parent's partner, usually a mother's boyfriend (who is typically not the biological father).

Think Twice About Who You Allow Around Your Children

Many non-biological partners have no relationship or commitment to the child. They are primarily interested in their own romantic involvement with the parent and become irritated when problems with the child arise. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the common circumstances for a child's death are the child being at home, being alone with the parent's partner, and crying.

Questions to Ask Yourself

Some single parents with limited options for child care may leave their children with their partner who may lack the necessary knowledge to care for a baby, who feel no attachment or love for the child, which can result in potentially dangerous situations.

No matter how much you may love your partner, no matter what his/her feelings for you might be....he/she may not love your child. If your partner shows any of the following signs, your child may be at risk.

- ▶ Get angry or short tempered when you spend time with your child?
- ▶ Demand constant attention?
- ▶ Get angry or impatient when your child cries or has a tantrum?
- ▶ Call your child bad names or put them down?
- ▶ Think it's funny to scare your child?
- ▶ Make all the decisions for you and your child?
- ▶ Put you down or tell you that you're a bad parent or that you're not strict enough?
- ▶ Pretend when he/she hurts your child that you are to blame or that it's no big deal?
- ▶ Tell you that your child is a nuisance or annoying?
- ▶ Scare your child by using guns, knives, or other weapons?
- ▶ Stop you and your child from attending family events?
- ▶ Prevent or make it difficult for you and your child to be with friends and family?
- ▶ Moved you and your child away from family and friends?

Warning Signs Displayed By Your Child

Sometimes, when you are in love, you can miss or ignore the warning signs. One of the most important signs to look for is how your child acts when left alone with your partner. Is your child afraid every time you leave? Does he or she cry often? Shake with fear? Has your child begun to show new behaviors like bed-wetting, thumb sucking, being clingy to you, or crying often when you leave the room?

If you answered "yes" to even one of these questions, your child could be at risk. NEVER ignore the warning signs and NEVER leave your child with someone you don't trust to keep your child safe. Their life may literally depend on it.

Baby Crying? Don't Know What to Do?

It's very easy for a parent/caregiver to lose control when there seems to be no end to a child's crying or tantrums. If you leave your child in your partner's care, PLEASE be sure he/she knows what to do when your baby won't stop crying.

- ▶ Check to see if she or he is hungry, wet, cold or hot, etc.
- ▶ Offer a pacifier.
- ▶ Walk around holding the baby close in his or her arms or in a carrier; try talking or singing.
- ▶ Leave a telephone list somewhere easily accessible with the names of relatives, friends, or a neighbor who he/she can call for help, if needed.
- ▶ If all else fails, put the baby in the crib on her or his 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 child — 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.

Know the Facts

Young children who live in households with one or more unrelated adult are nearly 50 times more likely to die from an inflicted injury, usually being shaken or struck, than children living with two biologic parents. (Source: Journal of American Academy of Pediatrics, 2005.)

According to the Child Maltreatment Reports developed by The Children's Bureau, the parents' partner was the alleged perpetrator in 3% of the 6,175 child fatalities reported between the years 2008-2012. It is estimated that between 50-60% of child fatalities due to maltreatment are **not recorded as such on death certificates**; therefore, these numbers may be higher. (Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway, *Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities 2011: Statistics and Interventions*).