

## Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review

Summary of Panel Review

**Review Date: September 2007**

### *Dealing With Teen Dating Abuse: Matters of Choice* (2004)

DVD/VHS (18 Minutes)

**Target Audience:** Stated Audience: Grades 7<sup>th</sup> – College  
Recommended by panel: 8<sup>th</sup> - College

**Cost:** \$139.95 plus shipping

**Distributor:** Human Relations Media

41 Kensico Drive, Mount Kisco, NY 10549 • 800.431.2050 • [www.hrmvideo.com](http://www.hrmvideo.com)

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The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel **Highly Recommends** use of this video for the following reasons and with the following reservations:

#### **Review Summary:**

The video *Dealing with Teen Dating Abuse: Matter of Choice* “chronicles the story of Megan, a high school freshman and her boyfriend. As their romance deepens, Matthew monopolizes Megan’s life, isolates her from her friends and activities, controls her clothing choices, criticizes her intelligence and eventually physically abuses her. At the same time, he repeatedly apologizes and proclaims his love. The viewer sees the story from three perspectives: Megan’s, Matthew’s, and Megan’s best friend.” This video and print package is intended to start dialogue about the important issue of teen dating violence.

The panel recommends *Dealing with Teen Dating Abuse: Matter of Choice* for the following reasons:

- Shares powerful, accurate, and age-appropriate example of abusive relationships.
- Focuses on the development or progression of unhealthy relationships (emotional and physical).
- Provides information and messages describing/modeling healthy relationships as well.
- Guide provides follow-up activities to reinforce messages and practice building skills.
- Available in English and Spanish and includes Pre- and Post-Tests.

The panel expressed the following concerns about *Dealing with Teen Dating Abuse: Matter of Choice*:

- Because conversations could be personal, intense, and emotional, strong group skills are recommended to facilitate discussion. Need to be ready for possible disclosure of abuse.
- Might not be appropriate for all youth audiences. The actors and scenarios appeared to be middle class and were focused on heterosexual relationships.

Overall, the panel **highly recommends** the video *Dealing with Teen Dating Abuse: Matter of Choice*. Panel members conclude that this video is impactful and provides a valuable, age-appropriate and empowering message concerning teen dating abuse.

*Dealing With Teen Dating Abuse: Matters of Choice* (2004)

Assessment Criteria	Mean Score	Comments
<b>Accuracy of Information</b> - Provides basic, accurate information about teen sexual health, e.g., risks of teen sexual activity, ways to avoid intercourse or use methods of protection against pregnancy and STDs, human growth and development, relationships, etc.	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accurate portrayal of an abusive relationship; accurate depiction of teens at this age.</li> <li>▪ Behaving appropriately for their age (language, activities, etc.).</li> <li>▪ Excellent portrayal of the continuum of an abusive relationship.</li> <li>▪ Great on what an abusive relationship looks like; guide also does a great job.</li> </ul>
<b>Focus</b> - Focuses on ways to promote sexual health e.g., reducing one or more sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy or HIV/STD infection; understanding healthy physical/emotional development; developing healthy relationships, etc.	4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excellent at showing development of unhealthy relationships.</li> <li>▪ Guide is great for activities on developing healthier discussion.</li> </ul>
<b>Messages</b> - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message, e.g., states message multiple times in multiple ways.	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shows the range of abusive behaviors (emotional, verbal, physical) and portrays them all as abuse.</li> </ul>
<b>Addresses Social Pressures</b> – <b>Video</b> demonstrates social pressures that influence sexual behavior. <b>Guide</b> includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The video demonstrates the important role that friends and family can play in discussing abuse.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication Skills</b> – <b>Video</b> provides examples of being assertive, using negotiation and refusal skills, making decisions, etc. <b>Guide</b> includes activities to practice assertive skills, negotiation and refusal skills, decision-making skills, etc.	4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guide has excellent activities to help people learn assertive skills.</li> <li>▪ Lessons were appropriate for a variety of ages.</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching Methods</b> - Engages participants and helps them personalize information	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When using video and guide together – lots of opportunities to practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Appropriateness for Audience</b> - Incorporates behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students (as stated by publisher.)	4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Video engages audience in a powerful way. The activities in the guide are well developed, address a variety of issues, and use a good range of teaching methods.</li> <li>▪ Applicable for 7<sup>th</sup> through college aged. Great for 8<sup>th</sup> through high school.</li> <li>▪ Video is timeless –it could be used with all ages without seeming too juvenile.</li> <li>▪ Neither video nor guide talks down to kids.</li> <li>▪ I would also use this for teaching parents of teens to show them.</li> </ul>
<b>Multicultural Perspective</b> – This resource is most appropriate for the following audiences.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Very middle class and heterosexual focused.</li> <li>▪ Gender/sexual orientation issues addressed in guide.</li> <li>▪ Guide is more multicultural.</li> </ul>
<b>Teacher-Friendly</b> - Is well organized with clear, thorough instructions or discussion guide. Minimal assembly or preparation time required.	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guide is well organized, has good handouts and activities that can be used immediately.</li> <li>▪ Guide and video are excellent pairing and this is extremely teacher friendly</li> </ul>
<b>Facilitation Skills Required</b> - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires moderate content knowledge because the guide provides good background information.</li> <li>▪ Strong group skills needed to facilitate discussion, because the discussion could be very intense and emotional. Need to be ready for possible disclosure of abuse.</li> </ul>
<b>Presentation Quality</b> – How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.) ?	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Believable and appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Production values of the video are outstanding and the guide is laid out well.</li> <li>▪ Easy and fun to use. Very up to date with appearance and vocabulary.</li> </ul>
<b>Overall Recommendation</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Recommend Highly - 15</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Recommend – 0</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Reject - 0</b></li> </ul>