

# Gender-Based Violence

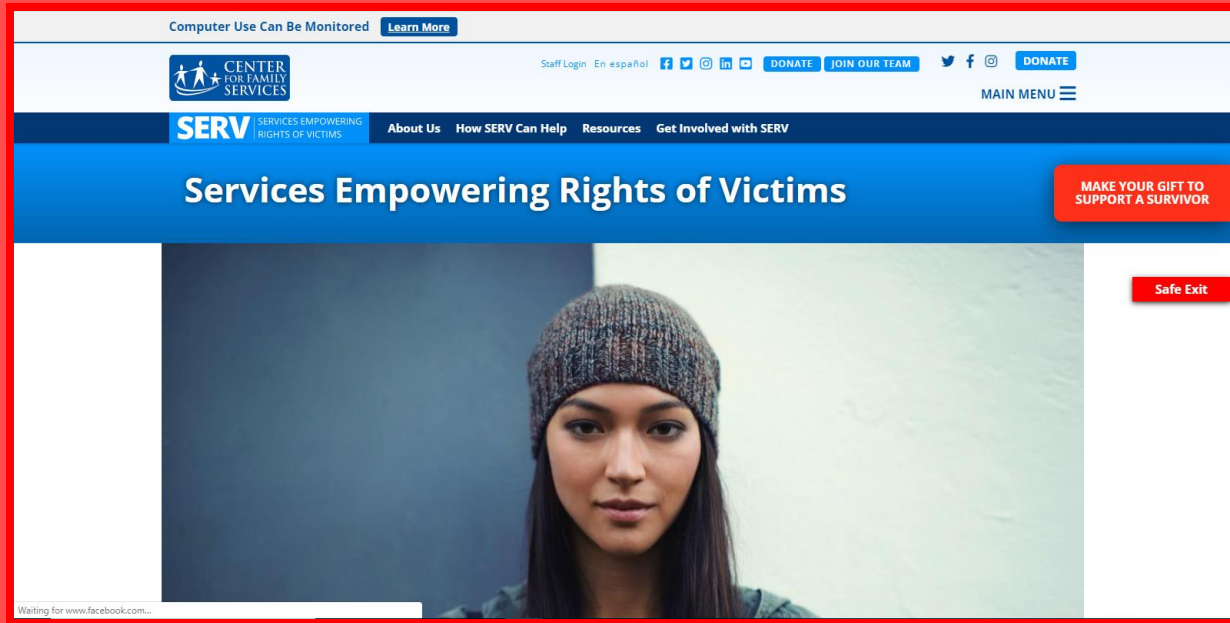
Services Empowering Rights of Victims

Trigger Warning:

The following conversation will include  
Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and  
Teen Dating Violence.

# Introduction





The state  
designated  
sexual/domestic  
violence and human  
trafficking crisis  
center for  
Gloucester County.

# Healthy Relationships






**Remember: abuse is always a choice and you deserve to be respected in a healthy and loving relationship.**



Take our healthy relationships quiz below to find out the status of your situation. If you have questions about your relationship and whether it is or isn't healthy, [contact our advocates 24/7 via text, phone, or live chat](#) to discuss your situation and what to do next.



**Everyone deserves healthy relationships.**

 Yes, that includes you!

**Is your relationship healthy?**

Take the quiz



Call 1.866.331.9474



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Text: LOVEIS to 22522

“Abuse is  
always a  
choice and  
you deserve  
to be  
respected in a  
healthy and  
loving  
relationship.”



## The Relationship Spectrum

### Healthy

A healthy relationship means both you and your partner are:

- Communicating
- Respectful
- Trusting
- Honest
- Equal
- Enjoying personal time away from each other
- Making mutual choices
- Economic/financial partners

### Unhealthy

You may be in an unhealthy relationship if your partner is:

- Not communicating
- Disrespectful
- Not trusting
- Dishonest
- Trying to take control
- Only spending time together
- Pressured into activities
- Unequal economically

### Abusive

Abuse is occurring in a relationship when one partner is:

- Communicating in a hurtful or threatening way
- Mistreating
- Accusing the other of cheating when it's untrue
- Denying their actions are abusive
- Controlling
- Isolating their partner from others



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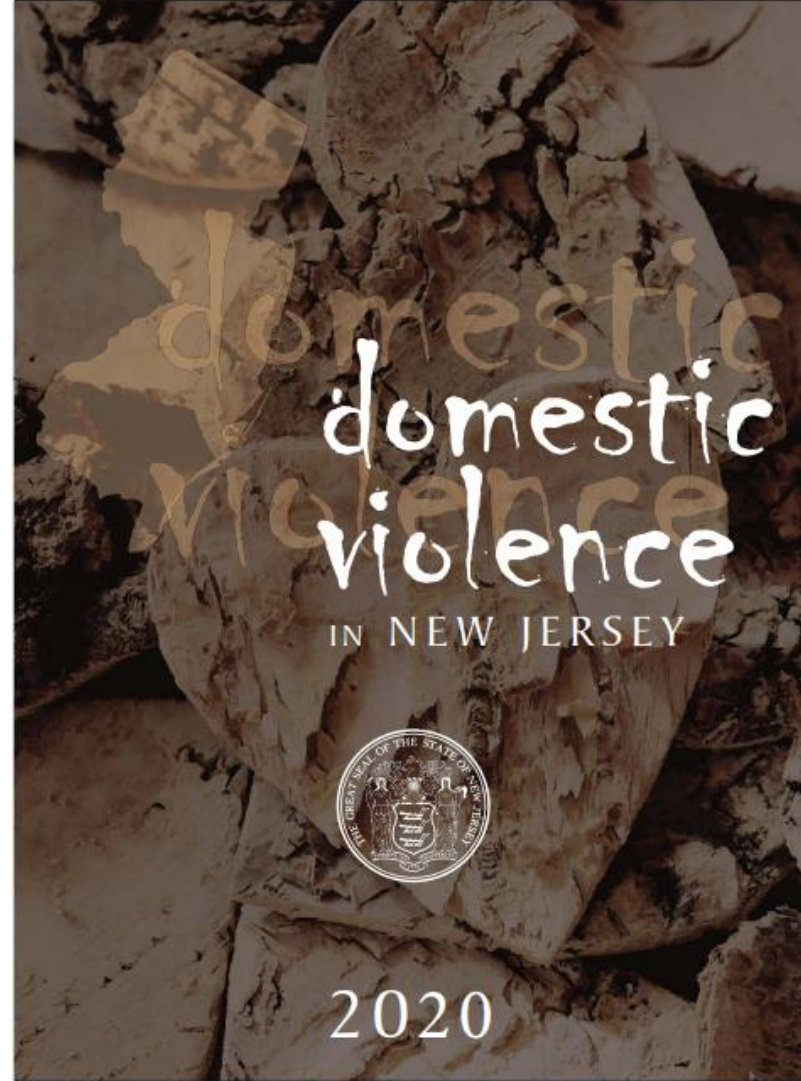
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“All relationships exist on a spectrum from healthy to abusive.”

# Domestic Violence



“Domestic violence affects individuals and families in every community regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality.”





“In the State of New Jersey, domestic violence is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the following criminal offenses inflicted upon a person protected under the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991, c.261 (2C:25-17 et al.).”

Homicide N.J.S.A. 2C:11-1 et seq.	False Imprisonment N.J.S.A. 2C:13-3	Criminal Mischief N.J.S.A. 2C:17-3
Assault N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1	Criminal Coercion N.J.S.A. 2C:13-5	Burglary N.J.S.A. 2C:18-2
Terroristic Threats N.J.S.A. 2C:12-3	Sexual Assault N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2	Criminal Trespass N.J.S.A. 2C:18-3
Stalking N.J.S.A. 2C:12-10	Criminal Sexual Contact N.J.S.A. 2C:14-3	Contempt N.J.S.A. 2C:29-9b
Kidnapping N.J.S.A. 2C:13-1	Lewdness N.J.S.A. 2C:14-4	Harassment N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4
Criminal Restraint N.J.S.A. 2C:13-2	Robbery N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1	Cyber-Harassment N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4.1

In addition, domestic violence acts can also include any other crime involving risk of death or serious bodily injury to a person protected under the "Prevention of Domestic Violence act of 1991," P.L. 1991, c.261 (2C:25-17 et al.)



# Consent



## How consent works



In a healthy relationship, all partners are able to talk openly and agree upon what kind of activity they want to engage in. Whether it's holding hands, kissing, touching, intercourse, or anything else, it's important for all partners in a relationship to feel comfortable with what's happening. [every time it happens](#).

**A common misconception about consent is that talking about or getting consent will make a moment awkward or "ruin the mood."**



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“Consent is often used in the context of physical or sexual activity with a partner, but it has more to do with the decision-making behind your actions than the actions themselves.”

New Jersey has a specific criminal statute that defines a person in New Jersey's ability to consent. It is assumed by the New Jersey criminal justice system that all people in New Jersey are aware of its specific definition of consent.

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## Consent Laws New Jersey

*Last Updated: March 2020*

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DEFINING CONSENT

How is consent defined?

**Answer**

New Jersey's criminal code includes a generally applicable definition of consent as follows:

- In general:** The consent of the victim to conduct charged to constitute an offense or to the result thereof is a defense if such consent negates an element of the offense or precludes the infliction of the harm or evil sought to be prevented by the law defining the offense.
- Consent to bodily harm:** When conduct is charged to constitute an offense because it causes or threatens bodily harm, consent to such conduct or to the infliction of such harm is a defense if:
  - The bodily harm consented to or threatened by the conduct consented to is not serious; or
  - The conduct and the harm are reasonably foreseeable hazards of joint participation in a concerted activity of a kind not forbidden by law; or
  - The consent establishes a justification for the conduct under chapter 3 of the code.
- Ineffective Consent:** Unless otherwise provided by the code or by the law defining the offense, assent does not constitute consent if:
  - It is given by a person who is legally incompetent to authorize the conduct charged to constitute the offense; or
  - It is given by a person who by reason of youth, mental disease or defect or intoxication is manifestly unable or known by the actor to be unable to make a reasonable judgment as to the nature of harmfulness of the conduct charged to constitute an offense; or
  - It is induced by force, duress or deception of a kind sought to be prevented by the law defining the offense.

# Sexual Violence








## Legal Information: New Jersey

[Home](#) » [Legal Information](#) » [Statutes](#) » [Statutes: New Jersey](#) » Title 2C. The New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice » 2C:14-1. Definitions

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New Jersey

### LEGAL INFORMATION

[New Jersey Laws](#)  
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## Statutes: New Jersey

➤ **Title 2A. Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice**

✔ **Title 2C. The New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice**

➤ **Subtitle 1. General Provisions**

✔ **Subtitle 2. Definition of Specific Offenses**

✔ **Part 1. Offenses Involving Danger to the Person**

➤ **Chapter 11. Criminal Homicide**

➤ **Chapter 12. Assault; Reckless Endangering; Threats**

➤ **Chapter 13 Kidnapping and Related Offenses: Coercion**

✔ **Chapter 14. Sexual Offenses**

**2C:14-1. Definitions**

2C:14-2. Sexual assault

2C:14-2.1. Right of victim to consult

Updated: November 10, 2022

### 2C:14-1. Definitions

The following definitions apply to this chapter:

- a. "Actor" means a person accused of an offense proscribed under this act;
- b. "Victim" means a person alleging to have been subjected to offenses proscribed by this act;
- c. "Sexual penetration" means vaginal intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio or anal intercourse between persons or insertion of the hand, finger or object into the anus or vagina either by the actor or upon the actor's instruction. The depth of insertion shall not be relevant as to the question of commission of the crime;
- d. "Sexual contact" means an intentional touching by the victim or actor, either directly or through clothing, of the victim's or actor's intimate parts for the purpose of degrading or humiliating the victim or sexually arousing or sexually gratifying the actor. Sexual contact of the actor with himself must be in view of the victim whom the actor knows to be present;

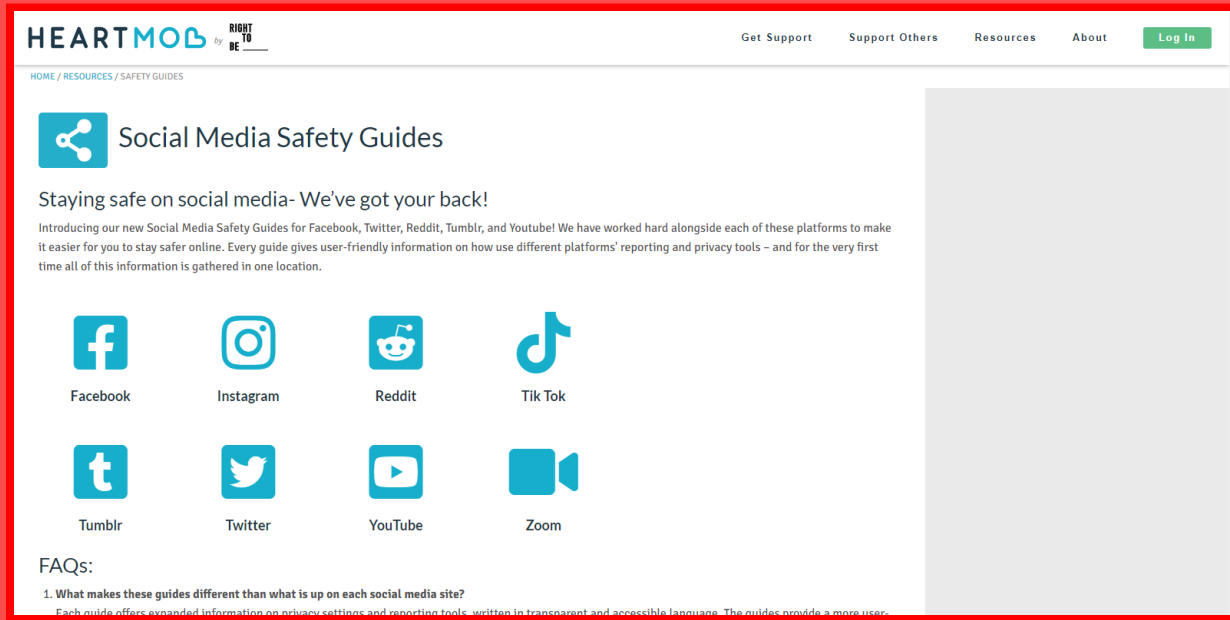
# The New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice

# Safe Digital Practices









Your safety and well-being should be everyone's priority. You should be encouraged to use the internet safely.

Are you having conversations with your guardians about online safety?



“Parents and caregivers can help to keep teens and kids safe while they interact and connect with others online.”

# Conclusion





February is nationally  
recognized as Teen Dating  
Violence Awareness Month.

love is  
respect.



**be about it**

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month 2023 • Action Guide

## Welcome to TDVAM 2023!

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM) is a campaign to amplify the needs of youth and their experiences with dating abuse. In 2010, Congress declared Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month each February. Teens, young adults and their loved ones join together to spotlight this pervasive and harmful issue, and how prevention and education can change the outcomes for those impacted by it.

**This guide includes:**

- Navigating healthy relationships
- Online harassment
- Warning signs of unhealthy relationships
- Supporting teens & young adults (a special section for adult helpers)
- On-campus experiences
- Self-care
- Technology & culture
- Community resources

At love is respect, we use the gender-neutral term "partners" to refer to people in an intimate relationship but you may use a different term like cuffing, kicking it, situationship, etc. No matter what language you use, it's essential to make sure you're on the same page with your partner.

**A message from the love is respect Director**

Hello Friends,

Uplifting healthy relationships is our focus for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM) 2023. This year's theme "Be About It" was chosen by our amazing national love is respect Youth Council as a continuation of last year's theme "Talk About It."

We want to join you to unapologetically be about education, engagement, and empowerment. Out with the societal norms within relationships. No labels. Your life is your choice, and you deserve a healthy relationship, free from violence. Join us as we amplify your voice, focus on some key topics you may be facing, and how to navigate a healthy relationship.

—Angela Lee

be  
about  
it

2 • Be About It • TDVAM Action Guide





“The 2023 theme for TDVAM is **“Be About It”**. Selected by the love is respect Youth Council, **“Be About It”** is a continuation of last year’s theme, ‘Talk About It.’”

# Resources

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## Washington Township High School

BA, Interpersonal/Organizational Communication  
MA, Counseling in Educational Settings - Rowan University

Certification: School Counselor

Activities: School Test Coordinator(Start Strong, NJGPA, NJSIA), Naviance Co-lead, Governor's School Co-facilitator



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### Ms. Abigail Hull, School Counselor



Ms. Abigail Hull is a graduate of Stockton University, having earned her bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology before pivoting her career to the counseling field. She received her master's degree in Counseling in Educational Settings from Rowan University in 2020 and fulfilled a long-term substitute position in the Washington Township school district before accepting her role at the high school. Her education enabled Ms. Hull the opportunity to work in a variety of settings, including elementary and middle school levels, as well as a medical rehabilitation facility. When Ms. Hull is not working, she enjoys running, traveling, and spending plenty of time at the beach. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to support and serve the students of Washington Township as a member of the WTHS Counseling Team!

**Appointments:** Email, Remind, Schoology

**Phone:** (856) 589-8500 Ext. 7429

**Email:** [ahull@wtpps.org](mailto:ahull@wtpps.org)

**Degrees and Certifications:**

BA, Speech Pathology - Stockton University

MA, Counseling in Educational Settings - Rowan University

Certification: School Counselor

Activities: College & Career Fair Facilitator, Group Counseling Lead, I&RS Co-lead, Junior Night Lead



## Washington Township High School

Degrees and Certifications:

MA, Student Personnel Services - Rowan University

Certifications: Teacher K-12, School Counselor  
Activities: Freshman Transition Program Advisor,  
Counseling Lesson Co-lead



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### Mrs. Francesca Contino-Jackson, Student Assistance Coordinator & Anti-Bullying Specialist, Grades 9-10, Room I113

Mrs. Contino-Jackson received her BA in Psychology and a BA in Theatre with a minor in Dance from Rowan University. She then continued at Rowan University for her MA in Counseling in Educational Settings as well as her MA in Mental Health Counseling. While at Rowan, she ran cross country and indoor/outdoor track and field. Mrs. Contino-Jackson then attended The College of New Jersey for her Student Assistance Coordinator certificate. Since then, she has been obtaining her PhD in Addiction Psychology from Capella University. Mrs. Contino-Jackson is a National Certified Counselor (NCC). She works as a therapist in the evenings for a private practice. When not working or completing homework, Mrs. Contino-Jackson enjoys running, traveling, and hanging out with her cat and husband.

**Appointments:** Email

**Phone:** 856-589-8500 Ext. 7664

**Email:** [fcontinojackson@wtps.org](mailto:fcontinojackson@wtps.org)

**Degrees and Certifications:**

BA, Psychology & Theatre - Rowan University  
MA, Counseling in Educational Settings - Rowan University  
PhD Candidate, Addiction Psychology - Capella University

Certifications: School Counselor, SAC, LAC  
Activities: Anti-Bullying Specialist, WTHS School Safety/Climate Team, WTHS Crisis Counseling

“The SAC is best suited to address student substance abuse, mental health and behavioral problems”



## The Role and Value of a Student Assistance Coordinator



A strikingly large percentage of school-aged children in the United States are in crisis. Drug and alcohol abuse, violence, bullying, depression, suicide, stress and anxiety disorders, gambling, eating disorders, gang involvement, and other social/emotional issues threaten the well-being of all students, their families, and society as a whole. As the problems have escalated in recent years, so have the demands on schools throughout the country to address them. Legislators and government officials, boards of education, school administrators, teachers, parents, and students themselves, understand that school success is predicated on a safe and healthy learning environment, and that learning objectives are frequently undermined by psycho-social, emotional, and behavioral problems. Unfortunately, schools are poorly equipped to identify problem students, and particularly ineffective in preventing social/emotional problems from occurring or escalating. Furthermore, schools are limited in their ability to accurately assess the efficacy of classroom-based prevention and education programs.

The creation of the Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) position in many school districts throughout New Jersey has been the most effective strategy to identify, address, and monitor individual students as well as coordinate and oversee district prevention/intervention efforts. The SAC is best suited to address student substance abuse, mental health and behavioral problems for the following reasons: they uniquely possess the specific training to identify and address these behaviors; they provide confidential services in more effective one-on-one settings without conflicting with the law or creating conflicts of interests for other faculty members; and, they can save school districts money and substantial resources by allowing other faculty members to focus on the responsibilities consistent with their skills, interests, and official job descriptions.

### UNIQUE AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

The New Jersey Department of Education has established specific criteria required for individuals to become certified Student Assistance Coordinators. These criteria ensure that the SAC is qualified to provide substance abuse/mental health prevention, intervention, counseling and related services. On-going professional development ensures that SACs remain up-to-date on current research, trends, techniques, and community resources. Professional development for all other school faculty members rarely, if ever, addresses these critical issues.

### THE SAC VERSUS OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Interventions by non-SAC faculty members often create a conflict of interest for the faculty member and threaten student privacy. The New Jersey State Legislature has correctly identified the extent of non-academic challenges facing students today. For example, they have recognized that a significant number of young people are already involved in the abuse of alcohol and other drugs, and that many children and adolescents are at a high risk of developing alcohol and other substance abuse problems. As a result, legislation was created that mandates schools to provide both education and intervention with students experiencing substance abuse and other social/emotional issues (18A:40A-8). Each school district must determine the methods for addressing these issues. Without the SAC position, the inability to effectively intervene with these students will continue to prevent teachers from teaching, prevent students from learning, and draw vast amounts of time and other resources away from teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, and special services personnel - all in an attempt to address issues that they are not qualified to address. The costs are immeasurable: decreased academic performance and productivity, behavioral acting out and classroom disruptions, significant family, social, and legal problems, and potentially permanent consequences including premature death.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

Students are by nature quite guarded regarding the disclosure of many issues (particularly drug/alcohol use) to adults. Many students worry about the conflict of interest in discussing personal issues with teachers, administrators, and guidance counselors when these are the very faculty members who grade them, discipline them, write their recommendation letters, and frequently communicate with their parents. Congress has recognized these obstacles, and created federal confidentiality regulations (42 CFR Part 2), providing student access to confidential treatment for alcohol and drug related issues. In the event that other issues surface, the SAC is best equipped to communicate the nature of the problem with both the student and their family, and develop an appropriate treatment plan, which might involve additional community resources when necessary.

### SAC VERSUS TEACHER/COMMITTEE INTERVENTIONS

A comprehensive review surveying a wide body of research from 1994 – 2008 shows that individual interventions with children ages 12 – 19 years old are more effective than any other type of interventions, including factual knowledge, classroom-based programs, media efforts, and even family-based therapy, particularly in terms of reducing alcohol use.<sup>1</sup> Interventions by individual teachers are undermined by lack of knowledge, training, interest, or compensation. Large classroom size and limited individual access to students in confidential settings, as well as established FERPA regulations, limit teachers' access to information and limit students' willingness or ability to share information. Schools that attempt to provide intervention services through committees are limited in both the ability to gather detailed and relevant personal information and provide on-going services. Information obtained by committee is often restricted to behavioral observations (which can be misleading) and require significant time and effort to gather. With a trained intervention specialist, this information can be obtained quickly and effectively in counseling sessions, where the counselor is qualified and trusted by the student.

<sup>1</sup> Brauser, D., Vega, C.P. "Individual Interventions May Be More Effective Than Family-Based Therapy in Reducing Teen Alcohol Abuse." *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, January 2010.



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—  
**love is more than  
just the way you  
feel.**

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I WAS THIS HAPPY  
ON THE INSIDE...

## ABOUT US



2NDFLOOR is a confidential and anonymous helpline for New Jersey's youth and young adults. We are here to help you find solutions to the problems

## HELPLINE



If you are between the ages of 10 and 24, live in New Jersey, and need to talk about an issue or problem that you are facing call 888-222-2228 anytime or text us at

## MESSAGE BOARD



Dec. 29, 2022, 2:18 a.m.

**Sexuality and Friend problems**

[View thread in forum >](#)



I'm here to answer  
your questions  
about bodies, sex,  
relationships  
and more.

## Introducing Roo

Roo answers all your awkward questions about sexual health, relationships, growing up, and more. Chatting with Roo is free and private, so go ahead and ask the things you don't want to ask out loud.

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Dirigida por sobrevivientes • Movilizando para acabar con el abuso de pareja

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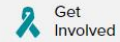
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