



**VIOLENCE FREE**  
**MINNESOTA**

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

## Warning Signs

- “[Injuries](#) to the head, neck, chest, breasts, and abdomen; multiple sites or repeated injuries; and injuries during pregnancy”
- Patients who “have been [injured](#) in the head, face, neck, thorax, breasts, and abdomen”
- “[Patients] (are) [more likely](#) to have come for a routine physical examination, whereas abused [patients] (have) specific and often stress-related complaints.”
- “Frequent medical visits for multiple [somatic complaints](#) such as fatigue, sexual dysfunction, chronic pelvic pain, headaches, chest pain, gastrointestinal disturbances, and abdominal pain may be linked to domestic abuse.”
- “The [perpetrator often accompanies](#) the victim to the emergency department or the health-care provider's office and is unwilling to leave the victim alone.
- The perpetrator may be [overly attentive](#) to the victim and often is the one who relates the chief complaints and also answers for the patient.”
- “Appears nervous, ashamed, or evasive; describes partner as [controlling](#) or prone to anger; gives unconvincing explanations of injuries.”
- [Delays](#) in seeking medical attention