

# VIDEO SCRIPT

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**TITLE: Domestic & Dating Abuse**

**PREPARED FOR: Women's Center of Monmouth County**

**WRITER: Steve Pender  
4980 N. Vista Del Cerro Ranch Rd.  
Tucson AZ 85745  
520.743.4090  
Fax: 520.743.0963**

**DRAFT: Final**

FADE IN:

A round wall clock is suspended in limbo on a black background. The clock face features black Arabic numerals, black hour and minute hands, and a black second hand, the kind that pauses briefly at each second mark. The hand is just moving from the number twelve to second number one. We HEAR the ticking of the second hand. It is faint at first, but grows louder as the seconds pass.

After a couple of seconds the following statement is superimposed over the clock:

“Every 15 seconds, a woman in the U.S. is battered by her partner.”

As the second hand reaches the seven second mark, we dissolve to a closer view of the clock face. The camera follows the tip of the hand as it relentlessly ticks off the seconds. The SOUND of the ticking is loud and disquieting. Another statement replaces the first. It reads:

“In the time it’s taken to read these words, another woman will have been beaten.”

The second hand reaches the fifteen second mark.

We flash to slow motion, out of focus, strobing ambulance lights. At the same time, we HEAR a gun blast, followed by a cacophony of sirens mixed with jarring, staccato percussion. Against the background of the lights appears the picture of a smiling young woman. The photo is of Kimberly Nolan, who was shot to death by the husband she was attempting to divorce. Next to Kimberly’s image appear the words:

“Kimberly Nolan.”

And then:

“Domestic Violence Murder Victim.”

We flash to news footage showing a body bag holding Kimberly’s remains being lifted into an ambulance. The flash is accompanied by the EXPLOSION of a second gunshot. The gunshot segues into somber, pulsating music.

TV NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Police say Robert Nolan's wife died instantly this morning when he shot her in the head with a rifle. They say he then turned the gun on himself.

With a WHOOSH, the ambulance shot grows in size and becomes abstract. At the same time, it takes on a blue tint and moves in slow motion. This shot, and the rest of the news footage of the murder investigation, forms the background for our interviews. Layered into this background are interviews telling Kimberly's tragic tale.

VERONICA DAVIS, ESQ.

(Board Member, The Women's Center of Monmouth County & Attorney for Kimberly Nolan)

She was a very intelligent, articulate, caring person who I understand met or knew Bob Nolan because they all lived in the same town.

JOHN KAYE

(Monmouth County Prosecutor)

She was known in the community for her enthusiasm for different projects and she was very much involved in many community activities.

VERONICA DAVIS, ESQ.

He had become verbally abusive the more she became active in the community, the more she became her own person. He apparently felt threatened because he was a very jealous, possessive, controlling person.

Against the background, we see a group of police. They are conferring outside the Nolan house. The shot slowly sinks into the background.

TV NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Officials say Nolan was just served with divorce papers and that he and his wife had been having problems for quite some time.

VERONICA DAVIS, ESQ.

The complaint for divorce came at the tail end of a lot of conversation about her plan, which was to get a divorce and hopefully remain friends with him. That was her goal, for her childrens' sakes.

In the background an ambulance appears. A WARBLING siren rises briefly above the music.

ANNA M. DIAZ-WHITE

(Executive Director, The Women's  
Center of Monmouth County)

Seventy five per cent of the women that are injured in a domestic violence incident are injured when they attempt to leave or after they've just left.

Against the background, we see the TV News Anchor. Her image grows to fill the screen.

TV NEWS ANCHOR

Seventeen years ago, Robert Nolan was put on trial for murdering his first wife and her boyfriend. Well, he was later acquitted by reason of insanity. Ironically, he met his second wife Kim during that trial.

The TV News Anchor dissolves into a background composed of stock courtroom shots, still tinted blue and moving in slow motion.

ANNA M. DIAZ-WHITE

He was never, ever held accountable for his behavior, never once, not even murder. This man, there was no question that he had murdered his first wife and her boyfriend or friend at the time. There's no question about it. Two juries failed to make him accountable for his behavior. And, in fact, they had the opportunity to force him to have inpatient psychiatric help.

VERONICA DAVIS, ESQ.

Doctors testified that he did not need inpatient treatment because it was an aberration and that he would never hurt anybody again. And Kimberly Nolan sat through that trial and that's what she heard from the experts. That he was not a dangerous man, that that would not happen again. She believed that.

ANNA M. DIAZ-WHITE

And these kinds of things – if someone can commit murder, it's not an act of passion, it's an act of domestic violence.

VERONICA DAVIS, ESQ.

Our society has to spend more money, time and energy educating and preventing domestic violence so that we don't have to talk to women about getting restraining orders and shelters. We have to start at an early age and socialize our children differently. We have to teach young women at an early age that verbal abuse is not acceptable, that possessive, controlling behavior is not love and is not flattering. And we have to teach boys, our young men, that it is not appropriate to be verbally abusive or possessive.

We dissolve to a high school-age boy and girl chatting in a school yard. The background MUSIC changes to a neutral tone. We hear no voices, only the music.

Cut to the girl's boyfriend. He walks through the schoolyard, stops and stares jealously at the off screen couple.

Cut to the girl. She glances in her boyfriend's direction and catches his gaze. Her smile fades as her eyes widen in fear. A menacing undercurrent enters the music.

Cut to a wall elsewhere in the schoolyard. The jealous boyfriend slams his girlfriend against the wall. They argue. Text, timed to Michelle Mackay's voice over, appears over the scene:

"28-30%,"

"High School Teenagers,"

"Abusive Dating."

MICHELLE MACKAY (V.O.)

Twenty eight to thirty per cent of all teenagers in high school will be involved in an abusive dating situation by the time they graduate high school.

The boy slaps the girl. The music CRESCENDOS, with a cymbal crash like a thunderclap. We flash to our next background treatment, black and white stock footage of students in hallways. Like our previous background treatment, these shots move in slow motion and appear abstract.

MICHELLE MACKAY

(Teen Dating Abuse Prevention  
Pgm., The Women's Center of  
Monmouth County)

If you grow up in a violent household and you see domestic violence all around you, then you may be more likely to end up being the perpetrator or the victim in this situation. If it's normal in your family to be screaming insults and throwing dishes across the room, when you get into a relationship as a teenager, you will use those same techniques.

A beeper rises from the bottom of the screen. As it moves, the beeper reveals another background shot of students. Within the music we HEAR seven echoing tones, as if a phone number is being keyed.

MICHELLE MACKAY

A lot of girls will get a beeper as a gift from their boyfriend. And they think that's a wonderful gift: "He wants to get in touch with me, he really cares." Well, all of a sudden that beeper becomes like a chain.

A beeper, hanging on a hand bag, fills the screen. Numeric pager displays, all showing the same telephone number, float across the background. Within the music, we HEAR an annoying and repetitious tone, as if someone is being paged repeatedly.

MICHELLE MACKAY (V.O.)

The partner will beep continuously to see where the girl is, or how quickly she calls back.

In the background, boys are harassing girls – chasing them, berating them.

MICHELLE MACKAY

I've been in schools where I've had to call the police to intervene in a situation. I've had high school freshmen who are what, fourteen years old, come up to me after a presentation and say, "I'm so glad you were here today because I've been in something like this for two years. So we're talking about twelve years old, even younger. Boundaries have to be set. And I help teach them what the boundaries are and what someone's not allowed to do to you.

Flash to a black and white shot of the jealous high school boy, his face contorted in rage, and his girlfriend. He slaps her with all his strength. We HEAR a cymbal crash accompanied by the girl's cry of pain. The image freezes on the young lady's anguished face.

MICHELLE MACKAY (V.O.)

Never, ever underestimate how serious abuse is because people do die from this. Teenagers do die.

Flash to another background sequence, a series of slow motion shots of an abused and weeping woman being wheeled from an ambulance, through a hospital corridor, and into an examining room. These shots are tinted purple. The music here is a bit calmer, but pensive. A series of statistics dissolve in, land on the center of the screen, then dissolve out. As each lands, we HEAR a low boom, like a distance explosion:

“Violence will occur at least once in two-thirds of all marriages.”

“In the U.S., a woman is more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped or killed by a male partner.”

“Each year, 3 to 4 MILLION American women are battered by their husbands or partners.”

“Battering often occurs during pregnancy.”

Once again, the body bag containing the remains of Kimberly Nolan is wheeled to a waiting ambulance. Over this shot is superimposed the final statistic:

“30% of female homicide victims are killed by their husbands or boyfriends.”

We dip to black, then fade up on our ticking clock. Once again, we HEAR the ticking of the second hand. Over the clock we see the following text:

“We can’t stop time.”

And then:

“Help us stop abuse.”

The music takes on a hopeful tone as we dissolve to the The Women’s Center of Monmouth County logo, then to a series of domestic abuse and sexual abuse hotline numbers.

The music ends.

FADE OUT.