

SHOULD YOU TELL A FRIEND IF HE OR SHE IS BEING CHEATED ON?

NO

By Michael Schwab, 17, Staff Writer

When you watch someone cheat on your friend, a certain feeling comes over you. You get angry and you feel like you should be a good friend and tell him or her what's happening. Ignore this feeling. There is too much that you don't know.

Consider this: You go to a party and you know your friend isn't going. You walk in and see your friend's boyfriend or girlfriend kissing some guy or girl. Before you react, there are a few things you should consider.

COUPLES BREAK UP

Is your friend still dating this guy or girl? For teenagers, the breakup thing happens pretty quickly. Nowadays, couples can break up while text messaging. If they have broken up, not only are you reminding your friend about someone he or she probably wants to forget about, you are also telling your friend that his or her ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend is already over it. If someone had just broken up with me, the last thing I would want to hear about is who the person is getting with. So before you turn into super-friend and save your peer from imminent heartbreak, be sure that your friend is even still dating the person.

YOUR FRIEND BLAMES YOU

Picture this: You tell your friend that he is being cheated on. He goes to confront the offender and the offender denies the whole thing ever happened. What if your friend believes the offending boyfriend or girlfriend? This puts you in a bad place. Your friend

the cheater that he or she is caught. Tell the cheater that if he or she really cares about your friend, then he or she should admit the cheating to your friend. Who knows? You could jump start a reconciliation between the two, which is way more helpful than breaking them up.

IT'S NOT REALLY YOUR PLACE TO TELL

Life is full of experiences. Being cheated on unfortunately might be one of them. Maybe your friend was doing something wrong in the relationship (i.e., not giving enough attention to the cheater.) If this is the case, which it may be, telling on the cheater won't really help the friend. It will make the cheater seem like the bad guy or girl. The most natural feeling is that the cheater is the real wrongdoer. But there is a chance that the cheating is just the result of some other issue in the relationship that needs to be dealt with.

I know being cheated on sucks. I also know that it is hard not to tell a person you care about the scoop, especially if it is a very close friend of yours. It is hard not to tell the cheater off and make a scene out of it. But if you think about the big picture, being "Officer Friend" isn't really something that will help. But if you must tell your friend that he or she is being deceived, make sure you let your friend know that you are there for him or her and there are other fishes in the sea.



might get the idea that you are interested in his boyfriend or girlfriend. This could ruin your friendship.

If you really want to be helpful, your best bet is to confront the cheater. Make it clear to

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STREET TALK

Jacob, 14, Pennsylvania

I would tell them. They don't deserve to be cheated on. They may take it hard or blame me for some reason or another. But I would say it's the humane thing to do.

Don, 14, U.S. Virgin Islands

I think it depends on the person. If you think he or she would get mad at you or blame you, don't tell. You will get yourself in way too deep.

If you think the person would like for you to tell, then I would as soon as possible. But make sure you do it the right way. Don't just blurt it out. Do it real nice and make sure they know you're trying to help out!!!

Eve, 16, Kentucky

I would tell them. I know what it feels like to be cheated on when your friends know about it and don't tell you. It's crappy. A true friend will always tell, even if it is going to hurt the person. It will end up helping the person in the long run.

Cameron, 19, California

Of course you should. You're her friend. She needs to know the truth. Who else better to tell her than someone she knows—who's got her back. But make sure it's true before you tell her.

YES

By Taryn Dexter, 17, Contributor

My friend Don was dating this girl for about four months. He thought he was in love.

One weekend, I went to the mall with my friend Jess, and we saw Don's girlfriend there with another guy. They were sitting very close together on a bench near the food court. He had his arm around her, and she was leaning up against him. Of course, I jumped to conclusions. Jess told me not to. We kept walking, but I kept my suspicions.

The following weekend, Jess and I were at the city pool. We saw Don's girlfriend again all over the same guy we saw her with at the mall! She was kissing him, hugging him. This really got to me. I lost it. Jess and I started arguing over whether or not we should tell Don what we saw.

TRUTH LEADS TO ANGER

I opted for yes and told Don. He broke down and cried and then got angry with me. I couldn't believe it. He was angry with me?!?! It wasn't even my fault. Then he confronted

his girlfriend and found out the truth: She was cheating on him. In the end, he was grateful I told him.

TELLING: A WEIGHT OFF YOUR SHOULDERS

Yes, you should tell a friend if he or she is being cheated on. It will hurt him or her a lot less to find out from you and to find out before the relationship gets deeper. Think of it this way: Would you want your friend to tell you if your boyfriend or girlfriend was cheating on you? And besides, you wouldn't want to hide something like this from a friend.

Once you find out your friend is being cheated on it will haunt you until you tell him or her. When you finally tell him or her, it's a weight off your shoulders. If you never tell your friend, when he or she finally finds out and realize you knew all along, it could ruin a friendship. You don't want to see your friend get hurt. So, if you find out someone is cheating on a friend, tell him or her!