



# The Power and Control Wheel for Elders and People with Disabilities

## What is abuse later in life?

Abuse in later life occurs when an older person is subjected to a pattern of coercive behaviors used to gain and maintain power and control perpetrated by a partner, family member, or someone with whom the elder has an ongoing relationship.

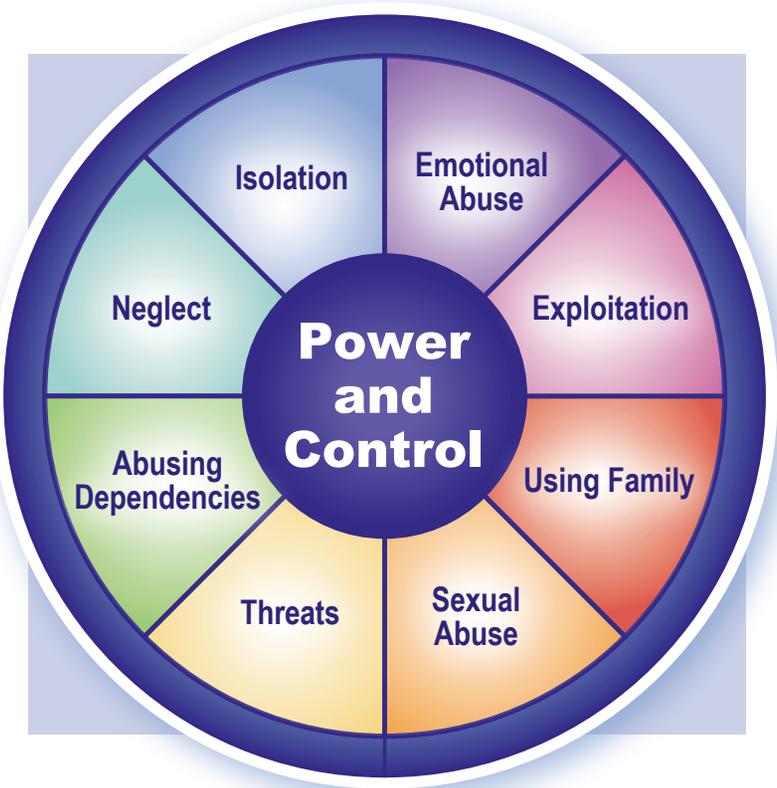
It is the intersection between elder abuse and domestic violence.

We encourage you to report any suspected cases of abuse or neglect to our Free, Private, and Confidential 24-hour hotline...

 **A Woman's Place**  
Free, Private, and Confidential  
**24-hour hotline**  
**1.800.220.8116**

### Identified are common tactics used by abusers.

- The hub of the wheel is the intention of all tactics: to establish power and control.
- Each spoke of the wheel describes a tactic.
- The rim of the wheel, which gives it strength and holds it together, is fear and physical abuse, or the threat of it.



## Abuse knows no age limits.

» 1 in 10 older adults experience some form of abuse, but only about 1 in 5 cases are reported.

**58%** of the time, that abuse is committed by a spouse.

**24%** of the time it is committed by a son or daughter.

» Although each year the number of reported incidents of abuse in later life grows, approximately **84%** of abuse incidents are *not reported*.

» 11% of Americans 60 and older experienced at least one incident (physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional) of abuse in the past year.

» As compared with younger victims, older victims have *less information* about services and resources and *less access* to them.

» As compared with younger victims of domestic abuse, victims of abuse in later life are *less likely to report abuse* due to factors such as fear of retaliation, fear and shame, reluctance to implicate a family member, cultural issues, isolation, loss of social network, concerns of being removed from their own home, and ageism.



## Do you know someone who:

- Has repeated “accidental injuries”
- Says or hints at being afraid
- Appears isolated
- Considers or attempts suicide
- Delays seeking medical help
- Presents as a “difficult”
- Has a history of alcohol or drug abuse (including prescription drugs)
- Exhibits depression (mild or severe)

If you answered YES to any of these questions, further questioning may be warranted. There are people you can talk to and resources that can help.

P.O. Box 299  
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# Abuse Later in Life



*Dignity.*  
*Respect.*  
*Safety.*



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