

RECOGNIZING INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Fairbanks: June 13, 2006

CASE #1: Bert and Ethel

Bert (age 76) and Ethel (age 73) have been married for 54 years. They live on your street. You see them at the grocery store and in their front yard. You have never seen Ethel without Bert nearby. Bert is friendly and likes to stop you and talk about the weather. Ethel is quiet and generally does not join the conversation unless asked a question.

Ethel has always kept a beautiful garden. Since Bert retired, he "helps" by sitting in a lawn chair and telling her what to do. You have heard him make fun of her and call her stupid for putting some flowers next to each other.

One morning you go for a walk and see Ethel getting her newspaper. She seems to be limping and has a black eye.

CASE #2: Trudy and Matt

You have been friends with Trudy since high school. Trudy (age 32) was in a car accident several years ago and now uses a wheelchair. Following the car accident, her husband divorced her and left her with their children, ages 2 and 5. She met Matt about 6 months ago. He told her she was the most beautiful woman he had ever met and he would love to take care of her for the rest of his life. He moved in with her after knowing her for 2 weeks.

Now that he has moved in, Matt spends most of his time in the basement watching television or playing poker with his friends. He screams at Trudy's children. When you visit Trudy, you notice bruises on her upper arms. Her house is a mess and there isn't much food in the refrigerator. Before Matt leaves, you hear him yelling at Trudy about trying to an advance on her paycheck because he needs the money.