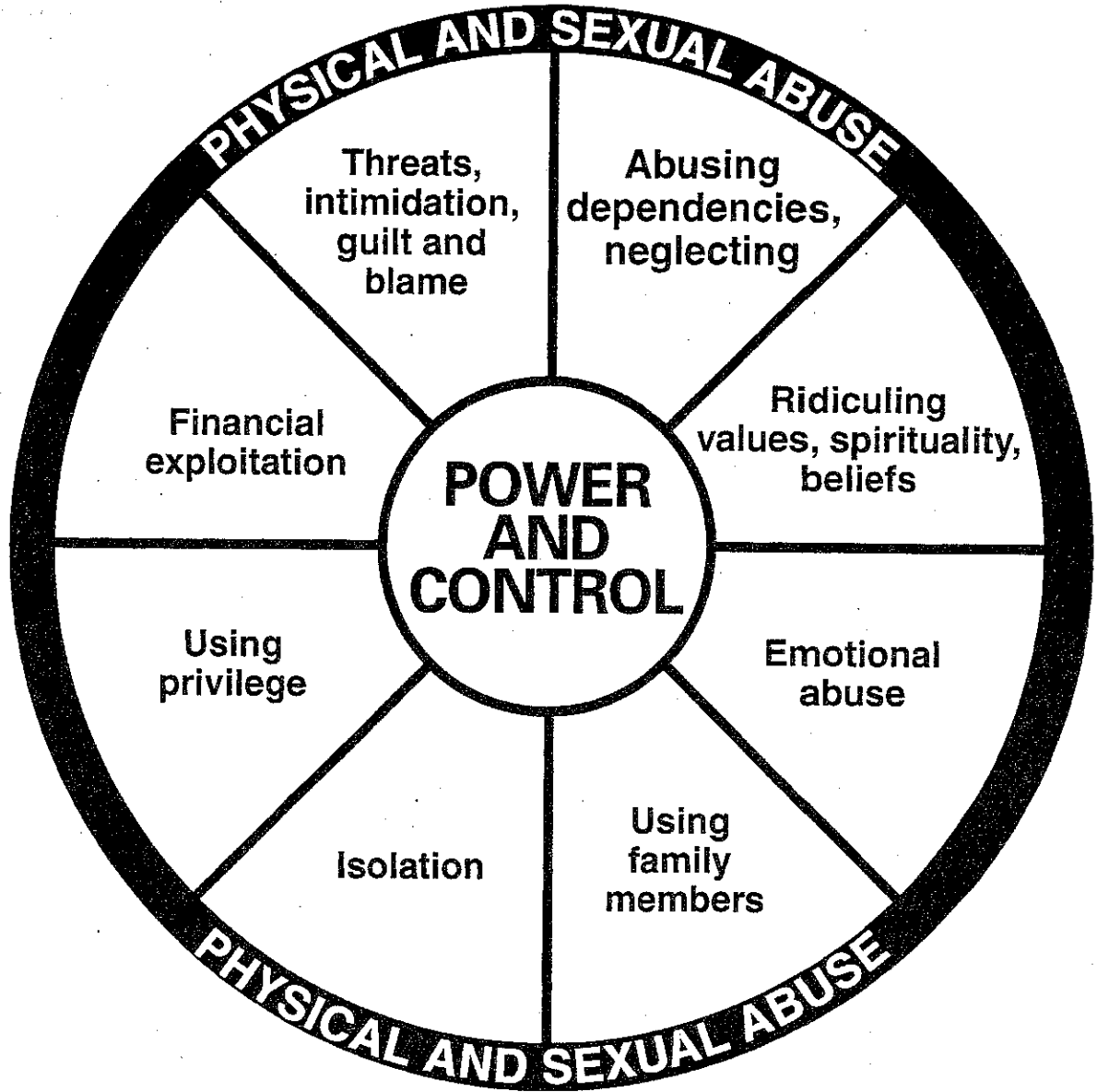


Domestic Violence in Later Life



Created for WCADV by participants of older abused women's support groups.

This diagram is based on the Power and Control/Equality wheels developed by the Domestic Violence Intervention Project, Duluth, MN

TACTICS USED BY ABUSIVE FAMILY MEMBERS

Physical Abuse

- ◆ Slaps, hits, punches
- ◆ Throws things
- ◆ Burns
- ◆ Chokes
- ◆ Breaks bones

Sexual Abuse

- ◆ Makes demeaning remarks about intimate body parts
- ◆ Is rough with intimate body parts during caregiving
- ◆ Takes advantage of physical or mental illness to engage in sex
- ◆ Forces you to perform sex acts that make you feel uncomfortable or against your wishes
- ◆ Forces you to watch pornographic movies

Abusing Dependencies, Neglect

- ◆ Takes walker, wheelchair, glasses, dentures
- ◆ Takes advantage of confusion
- ◆ Denies or creates long waits for food, heat, care or medication
- ◆ Does not report medical problems
- ◆ Understands but fails to follow medical, therapy or safety recommendations
- ◆ Makes you miss medical appointments

Threats, Intimidation

- ◆ Threatens to leave, divorce, commit suicide or institutionalize
- ◆ Abuses or kills pets or prized livestock
- ◆ Destroys property
- ◆ Displays or threatens with weapons

Ridiculing Values, Spirituality

- ◆ Denies access to church or clergy
- ◆ Makes fun of personal values
- ◆ Ignores or ridicules religious/cultural traditions

Emotional Abuse

- ◆ Humiliates, demeans, ridicules
- ◆ Yells, insults, calls names
- ◆ Degrades, blames
- ◆ Withholds affection
- ◆ Engages in crazy-making behavior
- ◆ Uses silence or profanity

Using Family Members

- ◆ Magnifies disagreements
- ◆ Misleads members about extent and nature of illnesses/conditions
- ◆ Excludes or denies access to family
- ◆ Forces family to keep secrets

Isolation

- ◆ Controls what you do, who you see and where you go
- ◆ Limits time with friends and family
- ◆ Denies access to phone or mail

Using Privilege

- ◆ Treats you like a servant
- ◆ Makes all major decisions

Financial Exploitation

- ◆ Steals money, titles or possessions
- ◆ Takes over accounts and bills and spending without permission
- ◆ Abuses a power of attorney