

# Family Violence in Later Life



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This diagram is based on the Power and Control/Equality wheels developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project,  
202 East Superior St, Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 722-2781 [www.duluth-model.org](http://www.duluth-model.org)

# **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

