



Patrick Doherty

*ABUSE IN LATER LIFE EDUCATION SERIES FOR ADVOCATES:*  
**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE  
IN LATER LIFE**

Module 3

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

2017

## Office on Violence Against Women Abuse in Later Life Program

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## As a Result of This Training, Participants Will Be Better Able to:

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- Define intimate partner violence in later life
- Recognize that a significant portion of elder abuse cases involve female victims with spouses as perpetrators
- Describe power and control tactics in abuse in later life

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## Intimate Partner Violence in Later Life

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- Physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and/or psychological abuse, neglect or stalking against an older victim by a former or current intimate partner
- Victim is 50 years of age or older

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Studies have consistently shown that a significant portion of elder abuse cases involve female victims with spouses as perpetrators.

Lane et al., (2013).

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## Relationships Where IPV Occurs

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- Long-term relationships
- New relationships
- Late onset abuse

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# Abuse in Later Life Power & Control Wheel

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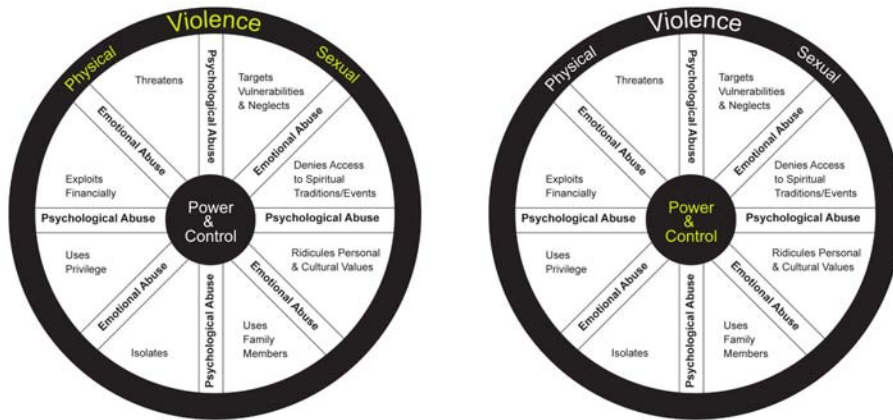


Created by the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), Madison, WI • [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us)  
This diagram adapted from the Power and Control/Equality wheels developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN • [www.duluth.model.org](http://www.duluth.model.org)

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# Abuse in Later Life Wheel Components

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## Tactic: Targets Vulnerabilities & Neglects

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- Takes or moves walker, wheelchair, hearing aids, glasses
- Takes advantage of confusion

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## Tactic: Threatens

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- Threats to kill or harm
- Threats to commit suicide
- Threats to leave
- Threats to institutionalize

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## Tactic: Exploits Financially

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- Long standing financial abuse
- Not allowing victim to have any money
- Keeping victim in the dark about family assets

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## Tactic: Uses Privilege

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- Treats victim like a servant
- Makes all major decisions
- Manipulates against assumptions

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## Tactic: Isolates

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- Controls what victim does, whom they see, and where they go
- Limits time with friends and family
- Denies access to phone and computer

## Tactic: Uses Family Members

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- Magnifying family disagreements
- Denying access to adult children and grandchildren
- Misleads family members about extent and nature of illnesses/conditions

## Tactic: Ridicules Personal & Cultural Values

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- Ridiculing religious, personal and cultural values
- Use victims religious or personal belief and values to keep victim trapped in relationship

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## Tactic: Denies Access to Spiritual Traditions/Events

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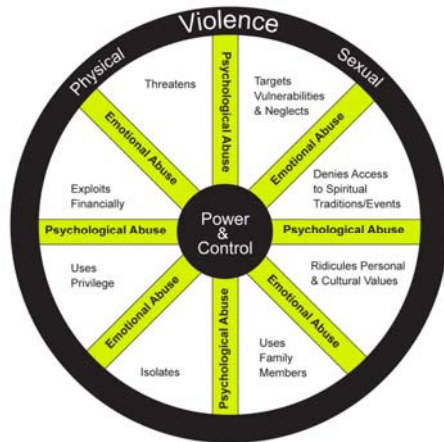
- Prevents victim from attending important spiritual, cultural, or religious events
- Prevents victim from practicing important spiritual, cultural, or religious traditions

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## Emotional and Psychological Abuse

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- Emotional Abuse
  - Name calling
  - Verbal attacks and abuse
  - Yelling
- Psychological Abuse
  - Crazy-making behavior to make victim doubt own judgement or thinking
  - Withholds affection

## Lois

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## Tactics Used Against Lois

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- Physical abuse: kicked, pushed, knocked to the ground, blackened eyes, pushed down stairs
- Threatens: threatened with guns
- Using family members: threatened to kill daughter

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## Sam

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## Tactics Used Against Sam

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- Physical abuse: punching and stabbing
- Isolation: alienating Sam from his family and friends
- Threats: threatened with knives
- Emotional: verbal abuse
- Psychological: using his beliefs and values to keep Sam in the relationship

## Summary

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- IPV in later life can occur in new or long-term relationships
- Many elder abuse cases involve abuse by an intimate partner
- Power & control tactics are often used against older victims

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## Special Appreciation

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To Lois and Sam, for the courage to tell your story so others may benefit.

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## Thank You

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- Special thanks to Terra Nova Films for the ongoing working partnership with NCALL and the beautiful video production
- [www.terranovalife.org](http://www.terranovalife.org)

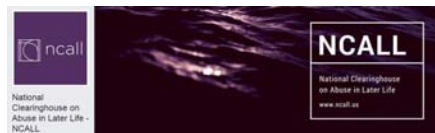


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## Staying Connected to NCALL and Other Advocates

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- Sign up for our enewsletter: <http://oi.vresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262>
- Join our listserv for advocates serving older survivors: [ncall@ncall.us](mailto:ncall@ncall.us)
- Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ncall.us](http://www.facebook.com/ncall.us)
- Join us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ncall\\_us](http://www.twitter.com/ncall_us)



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## National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

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National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life,  
a project of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin:  
(Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

[www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us) | [ncall@ncall.us](mailto:ncall@ncall.us)

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