

# An Introduction to Elder Abuse for Professionals

## Abuse in Later Life (Related Phenomenon)



## INTRODUCTION

This document supports the NCEA slide deck *An Introduction to Elder Abuse for Professionals: Abuse in Later Life*. The slides and the guidelines for using them are at [www.ncea.aoa.gov/Training/Curricula/index.aspx](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Training/Curricula/index.aspx).

## EXPLANATION FOR ABUSE IN LATER LIFE WHEEL: SLIDE 14

The Abuse in Later Life Wheel is patterned on the original Duluth Power and Control Wheel. The Duluth Power and Control Wheel can be found at: [www.theduluthmodel.org/training/wheels.html](http://www.theduluthmodel.org/training/wheels.html). Older women in support groups were shown the original wheel and asked if their later life abuse was the same as or different from what was shown in the Duluth model. The older women reported that while there are many similarities, there are also some tactical differences.

### Similarities

- > Goal of abuse is power and control
- > Outer “rim” of violence still is present, though violence may be less frequent
- > Fear is induced through violence, threats, coercion, and intimidation
- > Violence is both physical and sexual
- > Importance of isolation
- > Assertion and use of privilege to make all significant decisions
- > Financial exploitation and control continues

### Differences

- > Emotional abuse now is both emotional abuse (derogatory terms, demeaning statements) and psychological (attacks on mental capacities and ability to manage own affairs)
- > Minimizing, denying and blaming others is not part of the wheel but is built into existing tactics, including psychological abuse
- > Using children is now using family members
- > Neglecting and taking advantage of dependencies and ridiculing values and beliefs are new tactics

## PRESENTER NOTE

Consider reviewing the abuse in later life information on the NCALL website: [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us).

## TEAM TEACHING

When presenting on abuse in later life, consider working with trainers who have expertise in the dynamics of abuse in later life, including power and control.

## POSSIBLE VIDEO CLIPS

Video clips of older victims and survivors sharing their experiences can be a powerful way to engage the audience. If time permits, consider using a video clip in place of or in combination with the case examples at the beginning of the module. A description of the videos and ordering information can be found at <http://ncall.us/sites/ncall.us/files/resources/2013%20EA%20Video%20List.pdf>.

Possible videos examples of abuse in later life include:

- > In Their Own Words (Lois, Sam)
- > Older Mothers Never Give Up Hope (Ruth, Lova, Rita and Anne)
- > Walk in Their Shoes (Patsy, Bonnie, Betty)
- > Broken Trust (Dot)
- > Martha's Story: A Lifetime of Walking on Eggshells
- > Just to Live a Peaceful Life (Pat)

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