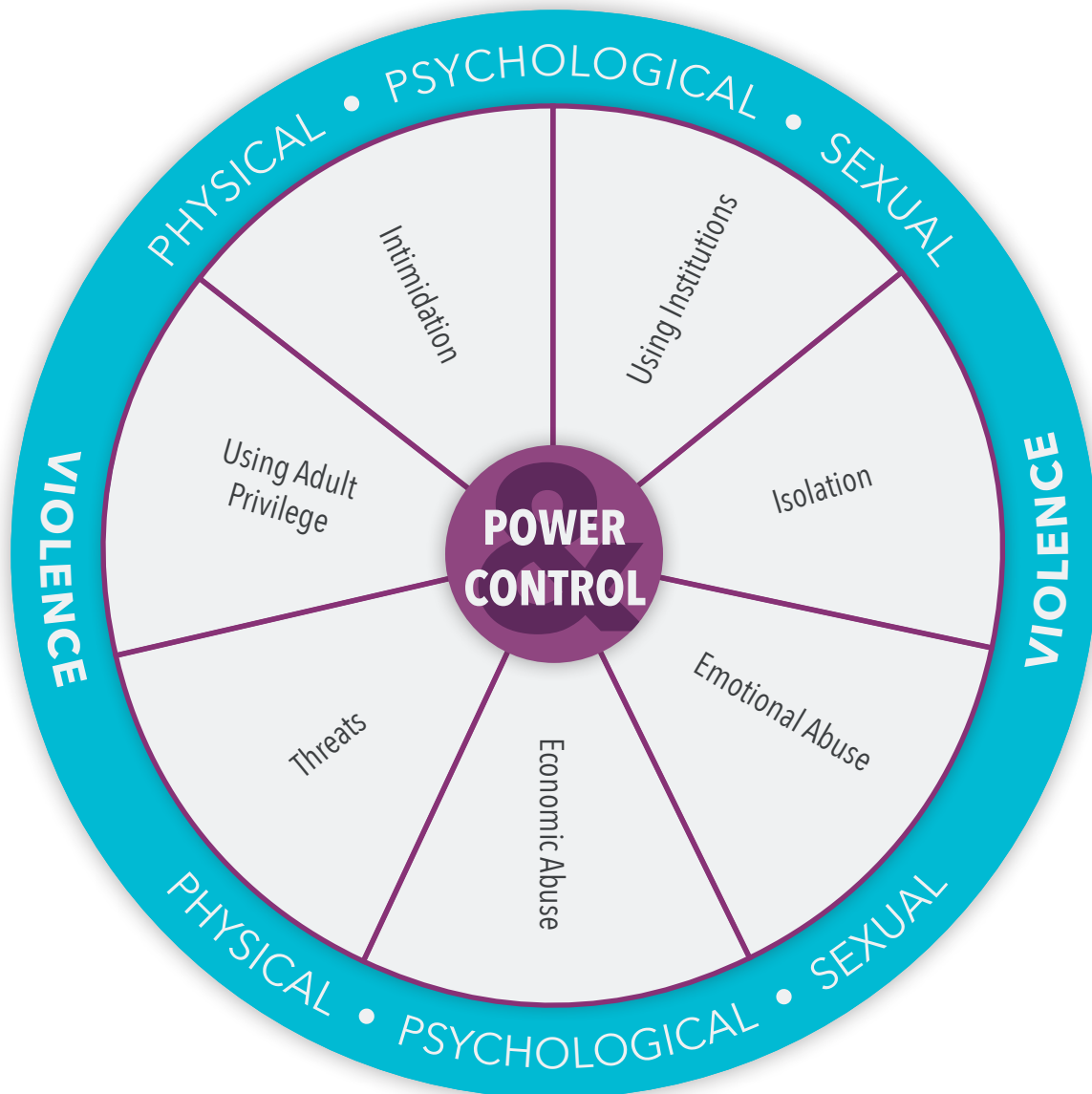


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN

Power & Control Wheel



Children who have experienced domestic violence are navigating multiple complex relationships. They are processing their relationships to the non-offending caregiver, the abuser, and themselves. The complicated nature of these relationships may mean that children experience domestic violence in many different but interconnected ways.

Not all children exposed to violence are affected equally. There are many potential impacts of domestic violence on children. Two common ways are:

1. Experiencing or witnessing violence directly
2. Being used as a method of power and control by an abuser.

USING INSTITUTIONS

- Threatening punishment from a spiritual entity
- Manipulating the court system, threatening placement in foster homes, with other relatives, and/or psych wards
- Threatening law enforcement involvement as a means to control behavior
- Creating a fear of school and supports available
- Gaining access to medical records for non-medical reasons
- Forcing the child to serve as an interpreter

ISOLATION

- Controlling access to peers, adults, siblings, and other caregivers
- Prohibiting the child from accessing peaceful places
- Surveilling social media accounts
- Isolation from mental health provider
- Refusal to seek medical treatment for the child

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Put downs and name calling
- Dead-naming and mis-pronouncing
- Using child as a confidant
- Pressuring child to give and/or get information about other caregivers, intentionally disrupting routines
- Oversexualizing the child with inappropriate comments
- Intentionally speaking in a language that the child does not understand

ECONOMIC ABUSE

- Withholding basic needs
- Misusing household or support funds
- Withholding child support
- Using children as an economic bargaining tool
- Forcing the child to work

THREATS

- Threatening abandonment
- Threats of homicide and/or suicide
- Threats to harm pets, threats of confinement i.e. "grounding"
- Threatens around money and resources
- Threats to take away technology,
- Threats to take away or destroy assistive devices
- Threats to remove the child from social activities and situation they enjoy

USING ADULT PRIVILEGE

- Forced labor, severe punishment
- Denying input in custody and visitation decisions, ie "I'm the grown up, I make the decisions" or "you don't know what's best for you, I do"
- Denying agency of the child, infantilizing the child, denying transportation

INTIMIDATION

- Instilling fear through looks, actions, gestures, and/or property destruction
- Using body stature to intimidate
- Intentionally creating physically and emotionally unsafe spaces
- Intimidating helping supports around the child