

DOMESTIC / SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND DISABILITY

WHAT IT IS

Domestic Violence

A pattern of behaviors used by one person to maintain power and control over another person.

Stalking

Unwanted and/or repeated watching by an individual or group. Stalking includes harassment and intimidation and may include following the victim in person or monitoring them.

Sexual Violence

Any unwanted sexual act.

Abuse

Any action that intentionally harms or injures another person.

Neglect

The failure to provide and care for someone.

WHY IT MATTERS



70%

70% of people with disabilities report experiencing abuse.



80% of women with disabilities report experiencing sexual assault.



Having a disability leads to increased barriers when seeking support.



Often domestic violence can lead to disability, and is the leading cause of injury to women ages 15-44.



Men with disabilities are more likely to experience stalking and psychological abuse.

*Sources: The National Crime Victimization Survey and the 2012 National Survey on Abuse of People with Disabilities

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Call 911

If you feel that you are in immediate danger, call **911**.

Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL)

BCIL assists people with disabilities to navigate the services and resources that will help support your goals. Contact BCIL at: **(617)338-6665** or **contactBCIL@bostoncil.org**.

Safelink

Call **(877)785-2020** for assistance in safety planning, community resources, and assistance connecting to domestic violence shelters in Massachusetts.

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)

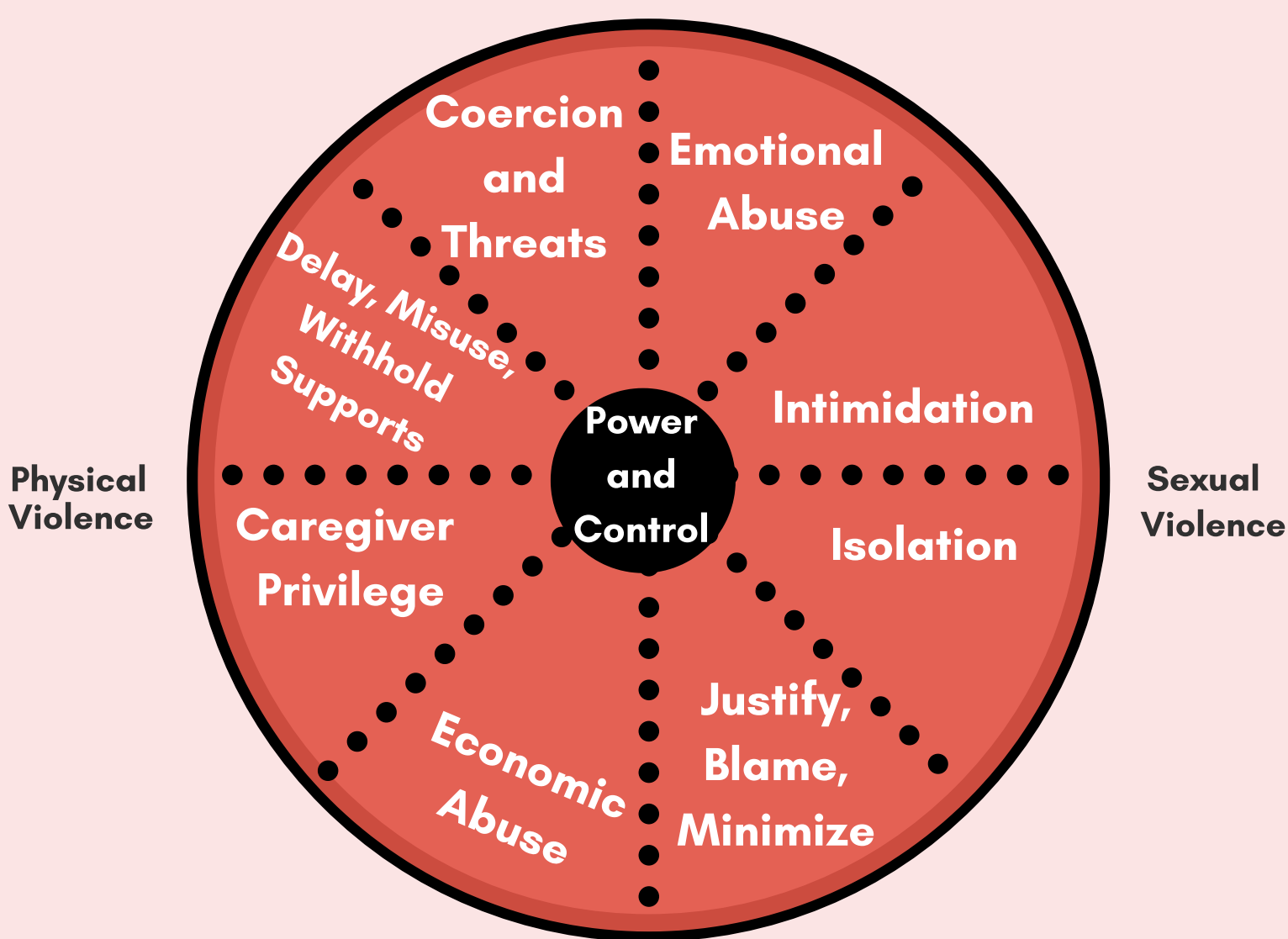
BARCC has a hotline that can be reached at: **(800)841-8371**.

BOSTON CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING

60 TEMPLE PLACE, 5TH FLOOR, BOSTON MA 02111

WWW.BOSTONCIL.ORG 617-338-6665 CONTACTBCIL@BOSTONCIL.ORG

POWER AND CONTROL METHODS IN DOMESTIC / SEXUAL VIOLENCE



▲ Emotional Abuse-

Uses your disability to shame or humiliate you. Punishing or ridiculing you. Refusing to speak to you or ignoring requests. Threatening to withhold care or support.

▲ Economic Abuse-

Limits access to financial information and resources. Steals or withholds your SSI/SSDI check. Denying you the right to work and be economically independent. Does not listen to how you want to control your money.

▲ Intimidation-

Raising a hand or using looks, actions, or gestures to create fear. Destroying property and displaying weapons. Mistreating or threatening service animals. Moving or withholding mobility devices or other needed equipment and supplies.

▲ Caregiver Privilege-

Denying the right to privacy. Ignoring, discouraging, or prohibiting the exercise of full capabilities. Treating you like a child or lesser than.

▲ Isolation-

Controlling access to friends, family or support team. Limiting employment possibilities because of caregiver schedule.

▲ Delay, Withhold, Misuse Needed Supports-

Breaking or not fixing adaptive equipment (wheelchairs, canes, walkers, other). Refusing to use or destroying communication devices. Withdrawing care or equipment to immobilize you.

▲ Justify, Blame, Minimize-

Blaming the disability for abuse. Denying or making light of abuse.

▲ Coercion and Threats-

Threatening to hurt the person. Withholding basic support and rights.

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