Family Violence in Later Life

This diagram is based on the Power and Control/Equality wheels developed by the Domestic Violence Intervention Project, Duluth, MN.
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/SPRITUALITY
• 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