

Dynamics of Domestic Violence

Understanding the context of violence in the relationship is critical.

Are any of the following present?

- Entitlement to control
- Escalation of violence and coercive behavior over time
- Ability to achieve dominance over the victim
- Rulemaking and enforcement of rulemaking
- Monitoring the victim's behavior
- Separation and/or challenge to batterer's authority
- Isolation of the victim
- Extreme jealousy of others with the victim

Use of Power and Control Tactics:

- Physical abuse
- Strangulation (choking, hands around neck)
- Sexual abuse
- Control of finances
- Emotional abuse
- Stalking
- Using the children
- Using the pets
- Using weapons or threatening to use weapons
- Threatening to kill; access to firearms

Power and Control Wheel on reverse side

Other Considerations:

- Use of drugs or alcohol
- History of violence
- Existence of pattern of intimidation and threats
- Intent and meaning of violence to the victim (Is the victim afraid?)
- Risk assessment
- Prior conviction(s)
- Violation(s) of prior order of protection, no contact order
- Children witness the abuse
- Review of police reports and other documentation

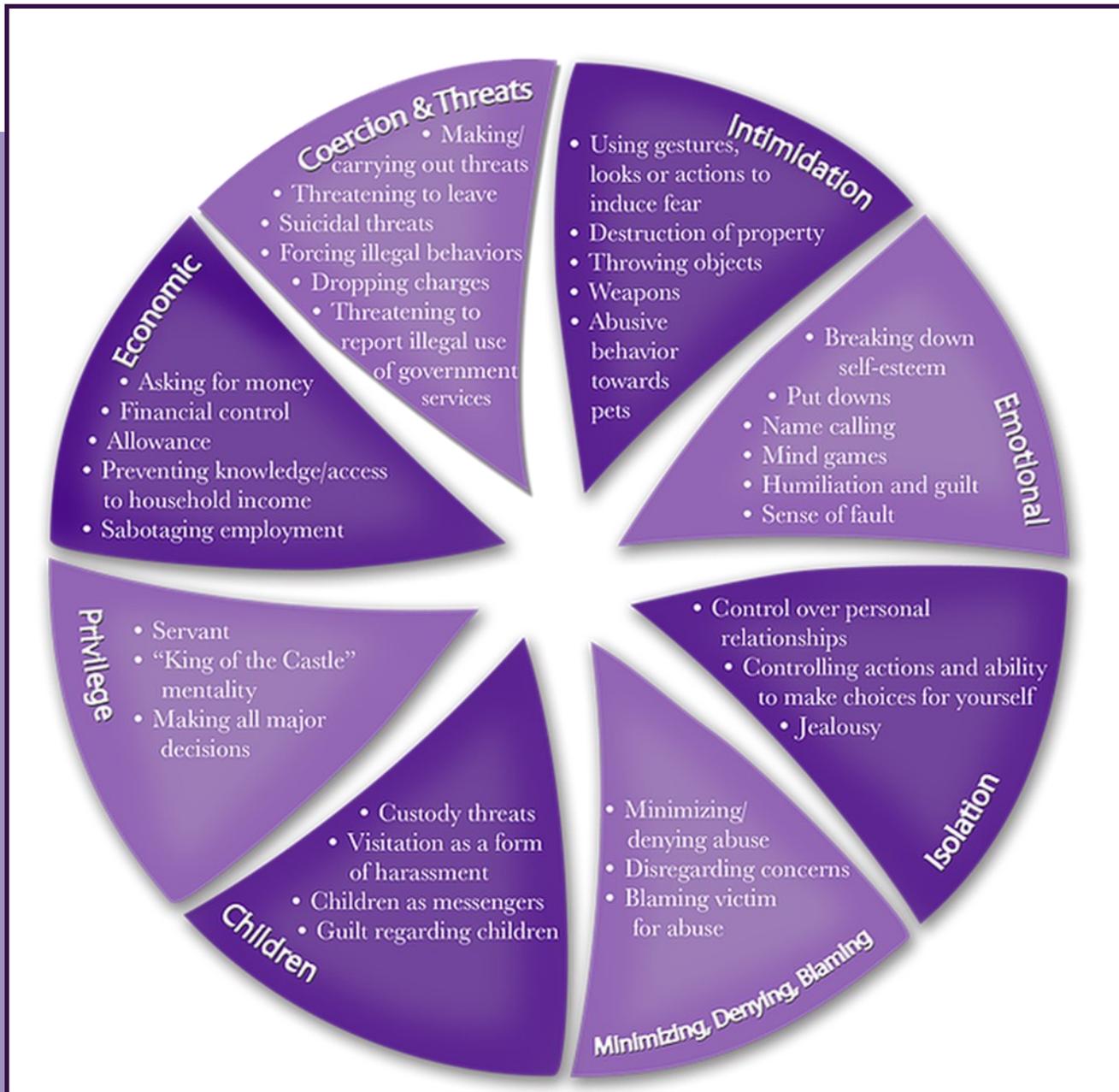
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Power and Control Wheel

Physical and sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are the most apparent forms of domestic violence and are usually the actions that allow others to become aware of the problem.



Regular uses of other abusive behaviors by the batterer, when reinforced by one or more acts of physical violence, make up a larger system of Battering/Coercive Control.