



Case study four: Maria

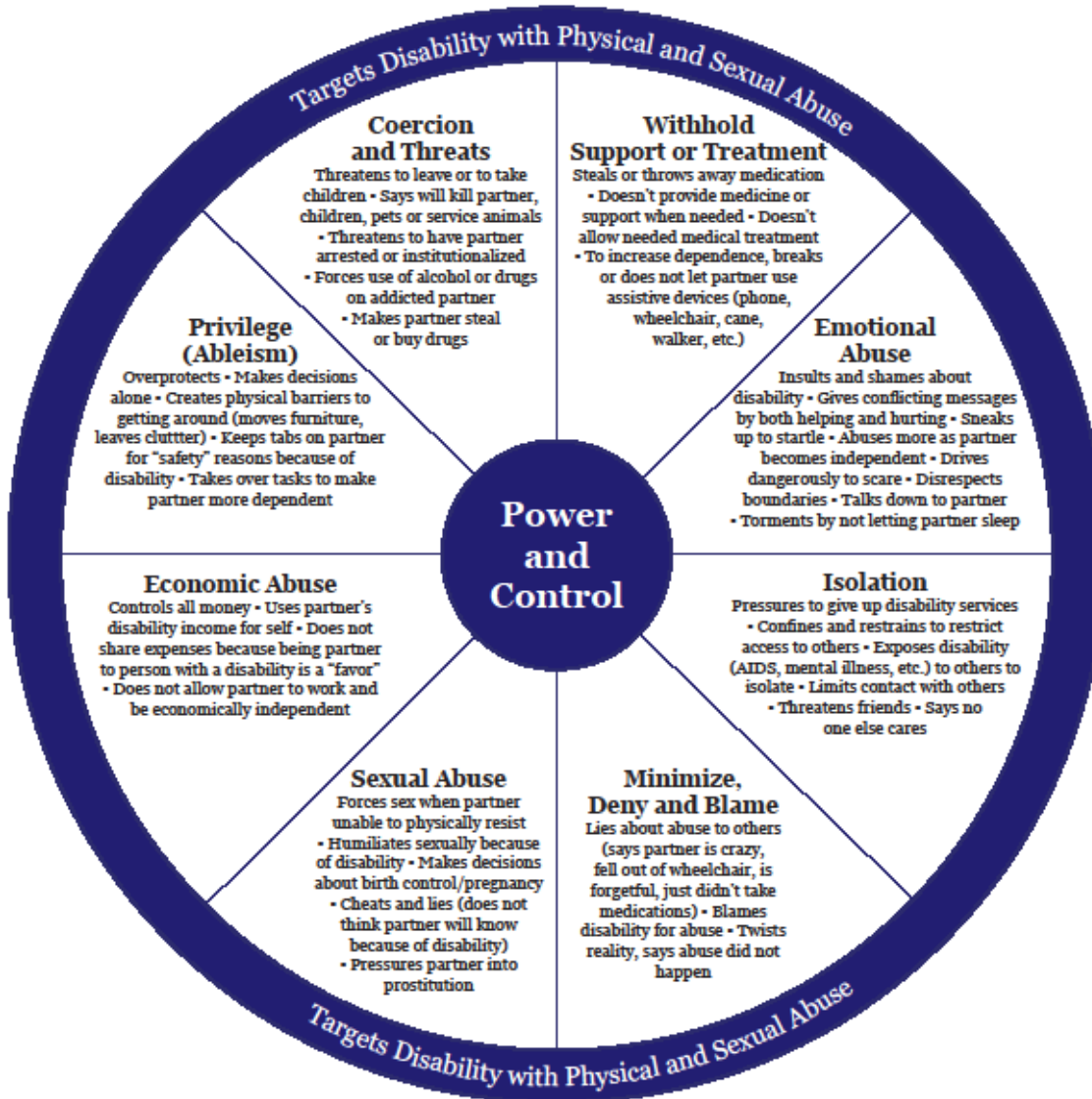
Tool 1 - Checklist: Developing safety plans with adults with care and support needs experiencing domestic abuse

Professionals advising adults with care and support needs (referred to here as 'adults') and managing safety plans should:

- > Establish how the survivor can be contacted safely and seek their permission to pass this information onto all professionals in contact with them
- > Establish the location of the perpetrator, if separated from the adult
- > Establish if the perpetrator is the adult's carer.
- > Obtain the survivor's views about the level of risk
- > Determine methods to facilitate any existing child contact arrangements safely
- > Ensure that the survivor has the means to summon help in an emergency
- > Identify where a survivor might go if they have to leave quickly and what they will take with them
- > Encourage victims to report all incidents to the police or other organisations that will record the incident and maintain accurate and detailed records
- > With their permission, refer the survivor to organisations that provide specialist support and advice
- > Refer the case and details of the safety plan to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in cases identified as high risk
- > Encourage the victim to seek professional advice about legal and financial matters and child contact
- > Inform survivors of criminal or civil law provisions which may be applicable, e.g., restraining or non-molestation orders
- > Make survivors aware of the potential pitfalls of social media use, e.g. identifying current location through status updates/geo-location systems on smartphones which automatically update to publicly display current location
- > Consider that victims with insecure immigration status, from minority ethnic communities, victims with disabilities or from socially isolated communities may fear contact with the police
- > Where appropriate and safe to do so, involve the survivors' friends, family or neighbours in the safety planning process where appropriate and safe to do so
- > With permission, involve other professionals in the plan such as support workers, GPs, drug and alcohol services, mental health workers, schools etc.
- > Encourage the survivor to keep a diary (where you have established it is safe to do so).
- > Assess whether the adult has the mental capacity to make informed choices about how to protect themselves.
- > Consider coercive control and the new law. Consider if there is evidence of this - i.e. isolation, control, intimidation, financial abuse.
- > If you are aware that the adult is accessing other support services, consider who is offering specialised support for domestic abuse.
- > Be aware of safety and confidentiality particularly around sensitive documentation for the survivor.
- > Where the perpetrator is a caregiver, discuss how the survivor could continue to maintain their independence if they were to cease contact with the perpetrator.



People with Disabilities in Partner Relationships



Created by



with in-depth input from people with disabilities.

Adapted with permission from
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