## 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. However, regular use of other abusive behaviors by the batterer, when reinforced by one or more acts of physical violence, make up a larger system of abuse. Although physical assaults may occur only once or occasionally, they instill threat of future violent attacks and allow the abuser to take control of the woman's life and circumstances.

The Power & Control diagram is a particularly helpful tool in understanding the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors, which are used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over his partner. Very often, one or more violent incidents are accompanied by an array of these other types of abuse. They are less easily identified, yet firmly establish a pattern of intimidation and control in the relationship.

## VIOLENCE physical servol COERCION AND THREATS: INTIMIDATION: Making her afraid by Making and/or carryusing looks, actions, ing out threats to do and gestures. Smashing something to hurt her. things. Destroying her Threatening to leave her, property. Abusing pets. commit suicide, or report Displaying weapons. her to welfare. Making her drop charges. Making her do illegal things. MALE PRIVILEGE: **EMOTIONAL ABUSE:** Putting her down. Making her Treating her like a servant: making all the big decisions, acting like the "master of the castle," being the feel bad about herself. Calling her names. Making her think she's crazy. Playing mind one to define men's and women's **POWER** games. Humiliating her. Making her feel guilty. AND **ECONOMIC ABUSE: ISOLATION:** CONTROL Preventing her from getting Controlling what she does, or keeping a job. Making her ask for money. Giving her an who she sees and talks to, what she reads, and where allowance. Taking her money. Not letting her know about or she goes. Limiting her outside involvement. have access to family income. Using jealousy to justify actions MINIMIZING, DENYING, AND BLAMING: USING CHILDREN: Making her feel guilty Making light of the abuse about the children. Úsing the children to relay messages. Using and not taking her concerns about it seriously. Saying the abuse didn't happen. visitation to harass her. Shifting responsibility for Physical Threatening to take the abusive behavior. Saying children away. she caused it. VIOLENCE

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