Force and Threats: Making threats to hurt her or not give her something she needs. Threatening to leave or kill her. Making her break the law. Punishing her to get her to do something.


Isolation: Telling her what she can do, who she can talk to, what she can read, and where she can go. Making her stay home. Not letting her use the phone or TV. Stopping her from doing what she wants to do.

Minimizing, Denying and Blaming: Saying that abuse is not that big a deal. Saying the abuse is her fault. Blaming her disability for the abuse.

Economic Abuse: Stopping her from getting or keeping a job. Making her ask for money. Giving her only small amounts of money. Taking her money. Not letting her know about or use money.

Relationship/Staff Roles: Treating her like a servant or a child. Making all the decisions. Acting like the boss. Deciding the roles in the relationship. Not giving her any privacy. Taking away, not fixing, or breaking equipment. Giving too much, too little, or no medication.

Using Children: Telling her she is a bad mother. Talking bad about her in front of the kids. Using the children to give her messages. Threatening to take her kids away.

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This diagram is based on the Power and Control wheel developed by the Domestic Violence Intervention Project, Duluth, MN, and the Abuse of People with Developmental Disabilities by a Caregiver wheel developed by the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Madison, WI.

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