CONTROL WHEEL

FOR ELDER ABUSE

VIOLENCE

CONTROL

THREATS AND INTIMIDATION

Threats to leave, divorce, or commit suicide. Threats to institutionalize victim.

Abusing or killing pets.

Destroying property.

Displaying or threatening with weapons.

ABUSE OF DEPENDENCY

Takes walker, wheelchair, glasses, dentures. Denies or makes you wait for food, care, medicine. Causes you to miss medical appointments. Doesn't report medical problems.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Steals money, titles, or possessions. Takes over accounts and bills. Spends without permission. Abuses power of attorney.

MISUSE OF PRIVILEGE

Treats you like a servant. Makes all major decisions.

RIDICULE OF VALUE

Denies access to religious services or leaders. Makes fun of victim's values. Ignores or ridicules religious and cultural traditions.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Humiliates, degrades, ridicules. Yells, insults, calls names. Uses silence or profanity. Makes you think you're crazy.

ISOLATION

Controls what you do, who you see, and where you go. Limits time with friends and family. Denies access to phone or mail.

MANIPULATION OF FAMILY

Magnifies disagreements.

Misleads family about extent and nature of illnesses or conditions. Excludes or denies access to family.

Forces family to keep secrets.

VIOLENCE

Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, Minnesota. Adapted for Sojourn, 1992.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Action causing physical discomfort, pain, injury, or impairment, isolation, or inappropriate use of restraints.

INDICATORS:

- Unexplained injuries, such as bruises burns, bites, missing hair, welts, dislocations, broken bones, etc.
- Broken eyeglasses
- Irregular or improper drug use
- Untreated medical problems
- Grab or rope marks on wrists
- Visits to different doctors and hospitals
- · Out of season clothing covering the body
- · Isolation of adult
- Irregular medical appointments
- Lack of food or poor condition of dentures, glasses or hearing aids
- Desertion of elder at a public place
- Unusual weight loss

VERBAL/ EMOTIONAL/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

When one person's actions or statements cause emotional anguish or fear, and wear down the other person's self-esteem, or dignity

INDICATORS:

- · Threatening, belittling, or controlling behavior
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, changes in alertness, or depression
- · Signs of agitation like rocking, sucking, or mumbling
- Other's speak on behalf of the senior
- Restricted access- no privacy, phone, visitors, etc.
- Attempts to make the elder look incapable

NEGLECT

The intentional or unintentional failure to provide for the basic needs for someone

INDICATORS:

- · Inappropriate or dirty clothing
- · Poor Hygiene
- Dehydration
- Unsafe living conditions
- Lack of social contact
- · Lack of or inconsistent medical care
- · Lack of or poor condition of dentures, hearing aids, etc.
- · Senior tells you

SEXUAL ABUSE

Unwanted sexual behavior including sexual comments, exploitive use of pornography, fondling, or sexual assault; any act against someone's will.

INDICATORS:

- · Pain, bruising or bleeding in genital or chest area
- · Sexually transmitted disease
- · Recent depression
- Recent incontinence
- Change in client's mood or behaviors
- · Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Involves the misuse of a senior's funds or property through fraud, trickery, theft or force

INDICATORS:

- Sudden changes in financial situation, irregular spending or withdrawals
- · Addition of authorized users to accounts
- · Items or cash missing
- Suspicious changes in wills, power of attorney, titles, or policies
- Unpaid bills or lack of medical care when adult can afford it
- Financial activity the older adult could not do on their own (e.g., ATM withdrawal when bedridden)
- · Checks made out to cash
- Gifts to family members, caregivers, or friends

REPORTING ABUSE

Under Maryland Law (MD Code Ann, Family Law 14-302 (a) and (d) health practitioners, police officers and human service workers who have a reason to believe that a vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation are required to notify Adult Protective Services. **A vulnerable adult is a person over the age of 18 who lacks the physical or mental capacity to provide for their daily needs. If the person is not a vulnerable adult, you can call CHANA at 410-234-0030.