

Psychological Violence

Psychological violence occurs when someone uses threats and causes fear in a person to gain control.

Psychological violence includes, but is not limited to:

- Threatening to harm the person or her or his family if she or he leaves
- Threatening to harm oneself
- Threats of violence
- Threats of abandonment
- Stalking / criminal harassment
- Destruction of personal property
- Verbal aggression
- Socially isolating the person
- Not allowing access to a telephone
- Not allowing a competent person to make decisions
- Inappropriately controlling the person's activities
- Treating a person like a child or a servant
- Withholding companionship or affection
- Use of undue pressure to:
 - Sign legal documents
 - Not seek legal assistance or advice
 - Move out of the home
 - Make or change a legal will or beneficiary
 - Make or change an advance health care directive
 - Give money or other possessions to relatives or other caregivers
 - Do things the person doesn't want to do