MEDICAL POWER & CONTROL WHEEL

ESCALATING DANGER

VIOLATING CONFIDENTIALITY:

Interviewing her in front of family members. Telling colleagues issues discussed in confidence without her consent. Calling the police without her consent.

NORMALIZING VICTIMIZATION:

Failing to respond to her disclosure of abuse. Acceptance of intimidation as normal in relationships. Belief that abuse is the outcome of noncompliance with patriarchy.

IGNORING THE NEED FOR SAFETY:

Failing to recognize her sense of danger. Being unwilling to ask, "Is it safe to go home?" or "Do you have a place to go if the abuse escalates?"

Medical Power & Control

NOT RESPECTING HER AUTONOMY:

Produced and distributed by:

"Prescribing" divorce, sedative medications, going to a shelter, couples counseling, or the involvement of law enforcement. Punishing her for not taking your advice.

TRIVIALIZING AND MINIMIZING THE ABUSE:

Not taking the danger she feels seriously. Expecting tolerance because of the number of years in the relationship.

BLAMING THE VICTIM:

Asking what she did to provoke the abuse. Focusing on her as the problem and asking, "Why don't you just leave?," "Why do you put up with it?," or "Why do you let him do that to you?"

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