



DeafHope

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is when one person uses abusive tactics to have power and control over their partner. Domestic violence happens between people who are married, who are in an intimate relationship, who live together or have children together. Domestic violence happens to women and men of different sexual preferences, ethnic backgrounds, or financial status. Domestic violence happens in the Deaf community. Abusers use physical and sexual violence, threats, money, and emotional and psychological abuse to control their partners and get their way. Domestic violence isn't just physical violence.

The Power and Control Wheel, developed by the Domestic Violence Intervention Project in Duluth, Minnesota describes the domestic violence that many survivors experience.



Abusive people often use these tactics to control their partners:

Physical Abuse

pulls your hair
punching
pushing
doesn't allow you to eat or sleep
destroys things that are important to you
intimidates you with weapons such as guns or knives

Sexual Abuse

forces you to watch pornography
forces you to have sex - this is rape, even when you are married
uses sex to make up

Emotional Abuse

calls you names
makes you feel bad about yourself
acts extremely jealous and possessive
doesn't let you see friends
makes fun of your speech
keeps a constant check on your email and pager messages
acts like it is all in your imagination
demands to know where you are every minute

Financial Abuse

prevents you from getting a job
demands to know how you spend every penny
takes your SSI check

If your partner does any of these things to you, you do not deserve it. You are not alone. Contact DeafHope any time, night or day, for support and information on our 24-hour hotline.