

Forms of Abuse

Woman abuse is physical, sexual, psychological, financial or emotional abuse, or the threat thereof, of a woman, by someone with whom she has an intimate relationship. Intimate partners include a husband, common-law partner, boyfriend, same sex partner or an ex-husband, partner or boyfriend.

Forms of Abuse¹ Include:

Physical Abuse

"... on Mother's Day of that year he broke my back, showing my son how it was done."

Sexual Abuse

"... every sex act was rape, he used to make me sleep with him by telling me to get my son up to watch if I didn't get into bed. So every time we had sex it was rape, I wasn't doing anything because I wanted to."

Economic Abuse

"I was only allowed, say, \$70 [per month] for the three children, for their clothing, and that type of thing, and very little for groceries; \$40 a month had to do me, period, for everything I needed for a month for myself....we're talking about a professional who earns over \$50,000 a year..."

Emotional/Psychological Abuse

"I couldn't be any more afraid of him, he never hit me but he would get really angry. ... he would come right up in my face, and ... I'd be bent over like he was right in my face. ... I had no memory anymore, I was a Registered Nurse, but I couldn't work, I could barely cope. I couldn't clean the house, I couldn't do anything ... I just know that I felt like I wanted to die. I just wanted to be dead because it was too painful to live..."

"There were times that he would discipline the children, and his way of doing that was he would threaten to kill them and he would demonstrate on the pets as to how he would do that."

Woman Abuse and the PEI Justice System Research Team

of the
Muriel McQueen
Fergusson Centre
for
Family Violence
Research

www.isn.net/~tha/womanabuseresearch/

The quotes in this document are from PEI women interviewed in 1999 during herStory of woman abuse and the PEI justice system, a project of the Woman Abuse and the PEI Justice System Research Team of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research.

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Other forms of emotional or psychological abuse include:

Stalking and Harassment

"We were in jail, because if we went outside [he was there]... the kids would be walking to school, and he would pull off the road pretending he was going to hit them and they'd come home screaming, terrified. He'd follow me if I went to a store, he'd follow me and there was nothing the police could do....he'd park outside of the Transition House and sit there and watch...The police said he was in a public place and breaking no law as long as he doesn't go onto the property or make contact."

Violence Toward Pets

"There were times that he would discipline the children, and his way of doing that was he would threaten to kill them and he would demonstrate on the pets as to how he would do that."

Isolation

"I wasn't allowed to have money, and I wasn't allowed to be on the phone, and I wasn't allowed to have friends, and I wasn't allowed to have transportation....Even when I went to get the groceries, he'd give me the money, but I had to give him the receipt and the change."

Violence Toward Children

"When he saw that he did not have the power or the hold over my thoughts or actions and beliefs that he once did, he started turning away from being rude and obnoxious to me, to turning it to the children. When he came home and if I did not comply to something that he wished or wanted or demanded, he'd start screaming, yelling, raising his hands to the children, starting to terrify them at the ages of 4 and 5."

1. For more detailed information about each of these forms of abuse please review fact sheets in this series on Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Economic Abuse, Emotional/Psychological Abuse, Isolation, The Link Between Abuse of Animals and Family Violence and The Link Between Spousal Abuse and Child Abuse.