Medical Power & Control Wheel

**ESCALATING DANGER**

- **NORMALIZING VICTIMIZATION**
  - Failing to respond to her disclosure of abuse
  - Acceptance of intimidation as normal in relationships
  - Belief that abuse is the outcome of non-compliance with patriarchy

- **IGNORING HER NEED FOR SAFETY**
  - Failing to recognize her sense of danger
  - Being unwilling to ask, "Is it safe to go home? Do you have a place to go if the abuse escalates?"

- **NOT RESPECTING HER AUTONOMY**
  - "Prescribing" divorce, sedative medicines, going to a shelter, couples counseling, or law enforcement involvement
  - Punishing her for not taking your advice

- **VIOLATING CONFIDENTIALITY**
  - Interviewing her in front of family members
  - Telling colleagues issues discussed in confidence without her consent
  - Calling the police without her consent

- **TRIVIALIZING AND MINIMIZING THE ABUSE**
  - Not taking the danger she feels seriously
  - Expecting tolerance due to 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? Why do you let him do that to you?"

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Developed by the Domestic Violence project, a hospital based advocacy program
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Adapted from the Power & Control and Equity Wheels developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
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