

In Their Own Words

Domestic Abuse in Later Life

For Adult Protective Services and
Elder Abuse Professionals

National Clearing House
on Abuse in Later Life

NCALL

Office for Victims Of Crime

OVC

Objectives

- After these discussion sessions, participants will be better able to-
 - Analyze abuse in later life cases for power and control dynamics.
 - Identify victim resilience and survival skills.
 - Identify the challenges and barriers to services that victims face and how these affect intervention strategies.
 - Use a victim-centered approach that focuses on victim safety
 - List potential services and interventions.
 - Promote an interdisciplinary approach.

Elder Abuse

- The World Health Organization defines **elder abuse** as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.”

Domestic Abuse

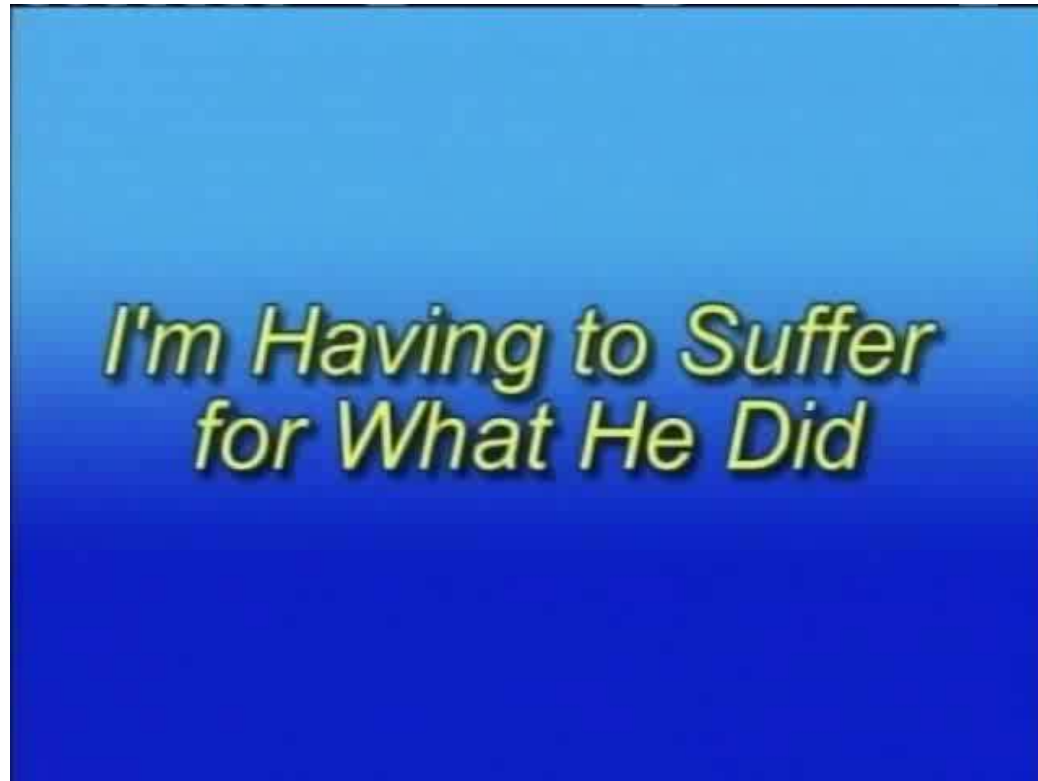
- Domestic abuse is a pattern of coercive tactics that abusers use to gain and maintain power and control over their victims. Abusers are entitled to use any method necessary to control their victims. Domestic violence and sexual abuse in later life are subsets of elder abuse

Stories from Four Survivors

- Pat “ I Can’t Believe I am Free”
- Miss Mary “I’m Having to Suffer for What He Did to Me”
- Sam “The Ties That Bind”
- Annie “When He Shot Me”

I'm Having to Suffer for What He Did to Me (Miss Mary)

- Video – 34 min 25 sec



I'm Having to Suffer for What He Did to Me (Miss Mary)

1. What is your reaction to Miss Mary's case?

What personal strengths could you offer to support Miss Mary?

I'm Having to Suffer for What He Did to Me (Miss Mary)

2. Miss Mary demonstrated enormous strength during and following her rape.

What actions did she take during this ordeal that revealed her strength?

I'm Having to Suffer for What He Did to Me (Miss Mary)

3. What myths and justifications would you anticipate hearing from others about this case?
How would you respond to these justifications?

I'm Having to Suffer for What He Did to Me (Miss Mary)

4. Cases such as Miss Mary's call for a response from law enforcement and sexual assault advocates. In addition to their response, what is your role in responding to the needs of victims such as Miss Mary?

How will you do so collaboratively?

I'm Having to Suffer for What He Did to Me (Miss Mary)

5. In many cases, victims want to remain in (or return to) their home even if that means living with an abuser and even in cases of sexual abuse. In such situations, how do you balance respect for the older adult's preferences with your responsibility to focus on safety and protection?

- For more information on domestic abuse in later life, go to the Web site of the NCALL (National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life) at www.ncall.us
- Terra Nova Films Web site offers a variety of videos on aging and elder abuse. Visit www.terranova.org
- The Office for Victims of Crime's Website has a variety of written materials and videos on elder abuse and other crimes. Visit www.ovc.gov

Other resources

- National Adult Protective Services Association – www.apsnetwork.org
- National Center on Elder Abuse – www.ncea.gov
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center – www.nsvtc.org
- National Center for Victims of Crimes – www.ncvc.org
- National District Attorneys Association – www.ndaa.org
- International Association of Chiefs of Police – www.thelacp.org
- National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators – www.navaa.org
- World Health Organization Report on Elder Abuse – www.who.int/ageing/projects/elder_abuse/en