

ACTUAL ABUSE TOOL

Purpose: The Actual Abuse Tool is a “first decision point that asks whether there has been a reliable report of abuse or violence. This tool provides a list of the major forms of abuse and violence along with examples of physical abuse, psychological abuse, neglect, and exploitation” (Bass, et al., 2001, p.31).

Instructions: The victim or a reliable party report, or you directly observe the following acts of domestic violence, abuse, neglect, or exploitation (this list is not exhaustive but contains some examples). A single check indicates the perceived presence of domestic violence or elder abuse.

	(Check)
Examples of Physical Abuse	
• Hit, pushed, shoved, scratched, or restrained.	
• Threatened with a knife.	
• Sexually assaulted, harmed, or hurt.	
• Physically harmed in some other way (specify):	
Examples of Psychological Abuse	
• Yelled at, called names, insulted.	
• Threatened with physical injury.	
• Locked in a room.	
• Stalked or followed around.	
• Psychologically abused in some other way (specify):	
Examples of Neglect by Others or Self	
• Denied adequate care and supervision (especially in cases of physically or mentally impaired persons).	
• Not treated for physical health problems.	
• Isolated from others.	
• Inappropriately dressed for weather or environmental conditions.	
• Lacking adequate shelter.	
• Neglected in some other way (specify):	
Examples of Exploitation	
• Money, property, or other assets used, taken, sold or transferred without consent.	
• Signature forged on checks or other financial and legal documents.	
• Large sums of money withdrawn from bank accounts (without his/her knowledge).	
• Exploited in some other way (specify):	

Bass, D. M., Anetzberger, G. J., Ejaz, F. K., & Nagpaul, K. (2001). Screening tools and referral protocol for stopping abuse against older Ohioans: A guide for service providers. *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 13(2), 23-38.

Reprinted by permission: The Haworth Press, Binghamton, New York