

SIGNS OF VIOLENCE

For many women, including women with disability, recognising that they are experiencing family and domestic violence can be difficult and made worse by limited support or access to information. Below are some signs that someone may need support.

Some common signs experience by the person with disability:

- Fearful of making decisions or having to check for approval
- Being withdrawn and reluctant to speak
- Repeatedly having bruises, broken bones or other injuries
- Visible signs such as bruises or handprints on their body
- Unexplained broken bones or other injuries
- Signs of internal injuries to organs such as vomiting
- Unexplained damage to disability equipment and aids
- Unexplained injuries to children, pets and service animals
- Denied access to parts of the house
- Lack of contact with family members, friends, previous social groups and employment
- Constant apologising and loss of confidence
- Suddenly unable to have daily support needs met
- Frequently hungry or visible signs of malnutrition
- Unwashed, or torn and stained clothes
- Unexplained pregnancy
- Being overly anxious around their partner or caregiver
- Being intimidated or frightened by their partner or caregiver

The victim may speak about the perpetrator:

Needing to know where they are, what they are doing and who they are with at all times

Being jealous or possessive

Getting angry very easy

Having a bad temper or moody

Controlling the money and all financial decisions

Constantly calls, texts or follows them

Dictating what they can and cannot do

Putting them down and using unkind language when speaking to or about them

