

Psychological assault

Simple assault may be a verbal act, but is most commonly accompanied by a physical gesture.

Simple Assaults include non-aggravated assaults, menacing and aggravated menacing and intimidation.

In contrast to aggravated assault, a simple assault does not involve the use of a weapon and does not result in serious bodily harm to the victim. The lesser severity of simple assault makes the reporting of it to law enforcement less likely and gives law enforcement more discretion in how to handle the incident. An assault may be both a crime and a [tort](#), for which the party assaulted may sue for damages; the victim's freedom, as to move or remain at peace, must have been impinged on. Modern criminal statutes recognize certain degrees of assault (e.g., with intent to kill, to do great bodily harm, to rape) as aggravated assaults and felonies, though simple assault remains, as at [common law](#), a misdemeanor. But the difference between a hate crime and a simple assault is the impact it can have on communities. Even the suggestion of a hate crime can set off riots in a city neighborhood or put an edge to race relations on a college campus for months. "These are such destructive crimes. They tear at a person's heart, and if there is a group aspect, it's even deeper," says Michael McQuillan, a community activist and adviser on racial and ethnic affairs in the office of the Brooklyn Borough president.

Psychological/emotional or verbal abuse — Belittling. Psychological abuse is difficult to define as a crime. Assaults, batteries, and vandalism give rise to separate hate crimes and civil rights offenses when motivated by bias.

The theory of "respondeat superior" is very simple. An employer is liable for the acts of its servants which occur within the scope of employment. This theory is based upon the premise that what one does through his servant acting within the scope of his employment and for his benefit, is the same in legal effect as though done by the employer himself. The problem with the theory of "respondeat superior" is that the question often arises as to whether or not the employee is acting "within the scope of his employment". The second theory for purpose of imposing liability upon an employer is that the employer "knew or should have known" of the employee's negligent conduct.

On June 24, 1998, the Wisconsin Supreme Court established a new tort of "negligent supervision" in the case of [Miller v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.](#), No. 96-2529 (Wis. June 24, 1998). On the same day, the Supreme Court also issued its decision in [Doyle v. Engelke](#), No. 96-0680 (Wis. June 24, 1998). The Wisconsin Supreme Court determined that an employer has a duty of care with regard to the hiring, training and supervising of its employees.

According to California law, harassing means a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at the specific person which seriously alarms, annoys, torments, or terrorizes the person and which serves no legitimate purpose. Credible threat, according to this new law, means a verbal or written threat, or a threat implied by a pattern of conduct made with the intent and the apparent ability to carry out the threat, so as to cause the person who is the target of the threat to

reasonably fear for his or her safety or the safety of his or her family. Course of conduct is defined in the new law as meaning a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose.

The use of the penal code can be a good start in developing a working definition of psychological violence.

On the other hand, the obvious problem with using the penal code is its narrow and restrictive definition of psychological violence. Mental degradation, for example, can over time be experienced as painful and traumatic as a physical threat of violence. Not addressing this fact in counseling gives the message that any behavior is acceptable as long as it is not illegal.

Another continuum of psychological violence would describe the acts solely on a frequency basis, the idea being that the more frequent the abuse the more likely it will cause psychological trauma. This method would depend heavily on a way of quantifying specific acts of psychological violence.

Clients found it difficult to quantify psychological violent behaviors. This may result from two reasons. First, some forms of psychological violence occur too often to actually quantify. Second, some terms may be too easily interpreted and therefore lack specificity. For example, take the category of mental degradation. What words constitute mental cruelty? Some victims have told me that it wasn't what was said, but how they said it. Generally, rarely is defined as happening once or twice. Occasionally is defined as happening more than once or twice or periodically throughout the length of the relationship. Frequently is defined as happening on a regular basis. Although these terms are subject to great variability, depending on the clients subjective experience, however, asking does give the clinician an overall sense of the types and frequency of psychological violence.

Another continuum may be one of inclusiveness where at one end is the most narrow definition of psychological violence (the legal definition), at the other the end is the most inclusive definition (Tolman, 1989; Shepard and Campbell, 1992) and in the middle a definition that captures both the narrow definition and specific pieces of the most inclusive definition (Amnesty International).

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is physical, sexual, psychological abuse or threats of abuse against a person by any other person with whom the victim is, or has been, in a domestic relationship. Children suffer from domestic abuse if they witness or are put at risk of witnessing the abuse of a person with whom they have a domestic relationship. Domestic abuse may be single act or a number of acts forming a pattern of behaviour, even though some or all of these acts when viewed in isolation may appear to be minor or trivial.

It is not your fault that you are being abused. Nobody deserves to be assaulted, least of all by persons who are supposed to be part of a caring relationship. People often blame themselves because that is what they are told by the abuser, but that is just their way of justifying what they are doing to you. You should always remember that being assaulted is wrong.

Psychological trauma, including abuse, false memory.....

What Is Psychological Abuse?

Summary: The behaviour and attitude of any person that negligently or purposely endangers or impairs the behavioural, intellectual, emotional or physical functioning of a victim is regarded as psychological abuse.

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Psychological abuse often co-exists with other forms of abuse and causes long-term harm.

These actions are considered psychological abuse:

Rejection and isolation

Constantly criticising them, scolding them unreasonably, teasing or treating them coldly. Depriving them of a normal social life such as locking them up at home. Their self-esteem is lowered; their physical and emotional development is ignored.

Threats

Threatening them with words or severe punishment, making them afraid or feel uneasy. Their security is constantly threatened.

Deception

Giving them incorrect ideas and concepts that deprive them of proper learning opportunity. As a result, they may develop an inclination to solve problems through violence, promiscuity or drug abuse.

What are the symptoms of psychological abuse?

People who have been psychologically abused may be physically or mentally underdeveloped. They may behave abnormally; for example, biting others, bed-wetting, avoiding others, feeling insecure or being emotionally unstable and very dependent on other people.

Some may have serious behavioural problems such as telling lies, stealing, devaluing themselves, and being argumentative. Others may isolate themselves, feel depressed or have suicidal tendency.

Children who have been psychologically abused may be easily led astray, leading to a lot of social problems. The consequences of child psychological abuse are therefore very serious and should not be overlooked.

Psychological and Emotional Abuse

Psychological and emotional abuse is defined as the infliction of mental suffering on an older person. This can include: threats, humiliation, verbal assaults, and isolation.

Indicators of Psychological and Emotional Abuse

Examples of psychological and emotional abuse include:

- Agitation or anger
- Withdrawal
- Depression
- Confusion
- Behavior associated with dementia, such as rocking, biting, and sucking