

# Combating Violence and Abuse

## Glossary of Terms

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**abuse** A broad term used to refer to all forms of violence and abuse, including physical assault, sexual assault, financial exploitation, neglect, and psychological abuse. The use of the term *abuse* should not be interpreted to minimize the seriousness of the offenses, many of which are crimes under federal and state laws.

**Abuse of People with Disabilities Caregiver Power and Control Model** A theory explaining why people with disabilities are abused by care providers. Violence and abuse by care providers is an issue of power and control. Power is used by care providers to obtain control over people with disabilities.

**abuser** Also called *offender*. Refers to any person who commits acts of violence and abuse.

**active listening** Also called *assertive listening* or *empathic listening*. A specific type of listening that involves tuning in and focusing all your attention on the other person, paying close attention to the other person's message, and "actively attempting to understand before responding" (Alberti & Emmons, 2001, p. 62).

**activities of daily living (ADL)** Personal care such as bathing, toileting, dressing, and feeding.

**Adult Protection Services (APS)** Responds to reports of abuse and "works to insure the safety and well-being of elders and adults with disabilities who are or are in danger of being abused, are unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm, and have no one to assist them" (NCEA, 2005, para. 1). Services are typically provided by state or county social services.

**advocacy** "The process of doing something for or speaking on behalf of some person or cause" (Stroman, 2003, p. 46).

**Americans with Disabilities Act** Public Law 101-336. Federal civil rights legislation passed in 1990 to prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities and to guarantee them equal access to employment, public services, transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

**American Sign Language (ASL)** A complex language that uses “signs made with the hands and other movements, including facial expression and postures of the body” (NIDCD, 2000, para. 1). The fourth most common language used in the United States.

**answer** “The pleading by the defendant to respond to the plaintiff’s complaint” in a civil lawsuit (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 617).

**arraignment** “A hearing where the criminal defendant comes before the court to enter a plea” (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 617).

**asexual myth** An attitudinal barrier that is a systemic barrier. The belief that people with disabilities are not sexual beings; the belief that they are not interested in, should not engage in, or are not capable of engaging in sexual activity.

**assertive behavior** “To act on your own best interest, to stand up for yourself without too much anxiety, to express feelings comfortably, and to exercise your personal rights without denying the rights of others” (Alberti & Emmons, 2001, p. 6).

**attitudinal barriers** A type of systemic barrier. The myths (false beliefs), negative views, and stereotypes about people with disabilities that result in the denial of equal opportunity, equal protection under the law, and equal participation in all aspects of community life.

**auxiliary communication aids** Also called *augmentative and alternative communication*. Assistive devices to help people with disabilities communicate. Low-tech assistive devices include letter boards, communication charts, and books with pictures, symbols, or words. High-tech communication devices are battery-powered or electronic devices that have speaking functions.

**background check** A way to verify information provided by a potential care provider. A way to determine if a care provider has a history of criminal behavior or a history of abuse toward someone who is considered vulnerable under the law. Types of background checks include state criminal background, federal criminal background, state nursing assistant/care provider registry, sex offender registry, verification of academic credentials, verification of prior employers.

**battered woman syndrome (BWS)** A syndrome first proposed by Lenore Walker in the 1970s to explain why some women stay in abusive relationships. BWS is a pattern of signs and symptoms, including fear, self-blame, and a feeling of helplessness, that occur in women who have been abused over an extended period of time by their male partner.

**behavior management program** A formal plan to modify challenging behaviors by teaching and reinforcing wanted behaviors and inhibiting unwanted behaviors. The program is typically developed by a behavior analyst in consultation with an interdisciplinary team, family members, and the person who is the target of the program. Most programs today focus on learning the reasons for the behavior, teaching adaptive alternative behaviors, and modifying the environment.

**beyond a reasonable doubt** The burden of proof in a criminal trial. In order to issue a guilty verdict, the jury must be convinced (no reasonable doubt) that the defendant committed the crime(s) charged at a 99% or greater certainty.

- burden of proof** The duty of Adult Protection Services, prosecuting attorneys in criminal cases, or attorneys in civil cases to prove that the alleged offender or defendant committed the acts for which he or she is accused.
- care provider** Term used in this book to refer to family, friends, professionals, and others who provide paid or unpaid support and services to people with disabilities.
- case advocacy** "Actions by professionals on behalf of a client or client group to obtain needed services, resources, and entitlement, or to ensure clients' rights are upheld" (Ezell, 2001, p. 27).
- Centers for Independent Living (CILs)** A national network of consumer-directed CILs were created and funded under the federal Rehabilitation Act for the purpose of empowering people with disabilities and to promote and support independence and community inclusion. The first CIL was formed in Berkley, California, in 1972. The National Council on Independent Living is the national association of CILs. <http://www.ncil.org/>
- chemical restraint** "The use of drugs to control behavior or restrict a person's freedom of movement. In such instances the drugs are not considered a part of standard medical or psychiatric treatment for the patient" (U.S. DHHS, 2000, p. 4).
- civil justice system** The system of courts and processes created to enforce and protect private, personal, and property rights and to hold violators of personal rights accountable through the awarding of monetary damages.
- civil lawsuit** A noncriminal lawsuit involving violation of private, personal, and property rights. Cases are heard by a jury or judge. A verdict of *liable* is awarded when there is a preponderance of evidence (enough evidence) presented to conclude that the plaintiff's claims are true.
- Client Assistance Program (CAP)** A national network of agencies that provide information and help to people seeking or receiving vocational rehabilitation services under the federal Rehabilitation Act (NDRN, 2006, para. 1).
- coalition** A large organization made up of many smaller organizations to create greater power to enhance their advocacy efforts on behalf of the organizations and their constituents (e.g., clients, consumers, customers, members).
- coded disclosure** Hinting about abuse, rather than making a direct statement, to see how others will react (Ramsey-Klawnsnik, 1993).
- cognitive** Having to do with the functioning of the brain or the mind in relationship to thinking, understanding, knowing, remembering, and learning.
- consumer-directed services** Services that empower people with disabilities to make their own decisions about recruiting, hiring, managing, and terminating the people who assist them on a day-to-day basis.
- collaboration** Working together or working in partnership with other people or organizations.
- communication barriers** A type of systemic barrier. Inaccessible public and private sector services caused by the lack of readily available ways to engage in effective communication.

**community-based victim assistance programs** Community-based programs that provide many types of services to crime victims including providing emotional support to victims, making appropriate referrals for services, and ensuring that the victim's legal rights are upheld (NOVA, 2005). Examples include domestic violence shelters and sexual assault service providers.

**compensatory damages** Money awarded by a judge or jury to a plaintiff in a civil lawsuit to be paid by a liable defendant to compensate for actual loss, injury, or harm suffered.

**competence to consent** The ability of a person to legally give informed consent, free from undue influence by others and with knowledge of the important aspects of the issue, including benefits and risks, in matters pertaining to a person's life, including sexual relations, medical, and financial decisions.

**complaint** "A document filed in a criminal or civil lawsuit that describes the allegations of the plaintiff and the basis for the lawsuit" (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 619).

**contingency fee basis** An attorney is only paid if the victim in a civil lawsuit is awarded monetary damages (NCVBA, 2007).

**continuum from subtle to obvious** Continuum refers to a series of small steps between two extremes. Abuse varies in intensity and can escalate along a continuum from subtle to obvious abuse (Fitzsimons-Cova et al., 2000).

**crime** "A type of behavior that society has declared illegal and has decided to punish" (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 121).

**crime victim compensation** State programs that provide direct payment to or on behalf of victims of criminal offenses occurring in the state (including victims of federal crimes) for crime-related expenses.

**criminal complaint** "A written statement explaining the significant facts of the case" (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 410).

**criminal justice system** The system of agencies, courts, and procedures created to enforce criminal law. The four parts of the system are: law enforcement (commonly referred to as the police), prosecution, judiciary (the courts), and corrections.

**culture of abuse** The attitudes, values, beliefs, practices, and policies that are shared by a family, organization, community, or the broader society that knowingly or unknowingly tolerate, reinforce, and perpetuate violence and abuse of people with disabilities.

**defendant** In a criminal case, the offender; the person who allegedly committed the crime. In a civil lawsuit the person who is being sued.

**dehumanization myth** An attitudinal barrier that is a systemic barrier. This myth implies that people with disabilities are less than full members of human society.

**denial** A type of personal barrier. The refusal to face the reality of a painful event or life situation. Short-term denial can be something victims use to cope with the abuse.

**Dependency-Stress Model** A theory explaining why people with disabilities are abused by care providers. In this model, care providers engage in abusive behavior because of the stress they are under due to the demands of caregiving. When the demands of

caregiving outweigh coping abilities of care providers, they lash out to temporarily relieve the stress (also referred to as *caregiver* or *care provider stress*).

**deposition** “The testimony of a witness, given under oath, outside the courtroom and taken before a court reporter” (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 620).

**disability** A generic definition of disability is “the outcome or result of a complex relationship between an individual’s health condition and personal factors, and of the external factors that represent the circumstances in which the individual lives” (WHO, 2001, p. 17). In the United States the federal government uses different definitions of disability to determine eligibility for programs and protection under federal law. States also have their own definitions to determine eligibility for programs and protections under state laws.

**discovery** A pretrial process in criminal and civil cases in which attorneys gather the facts, including interviewing witnesses, obtaining documentary evidence, and obtaining depositions under oath from victims, witnesses, and defendants.

**domestic violence** Also called *domestic abuse*. Abuse in a private home or residence typically perpetrated by a family member or someone with whom the victim has a close or intimate relationship.

**domestic violence programs** Community-based programs that provide many services to victims of domestic violence (most typically women and their children), including: “counseling and support groups; information about legal options, the criminal justice system, and social services; shelter; attorney referral; vocational counseling; safety planning; and case advocacy” (NCVC, 2008a, p. 3).

**economic barriers** Also called *financial barriers*. A type of systemic barrier. Obstacles people with disabilities experience in education and employment that limit their ability to become financially independent and secure.

**emotional abuse** Also called *psychological abuse*. Acts, physical or verbal, intended to hurt a person’s feelings, harm a person emotionally, or to humiliate, demean, intimidate, produce harm, or threaten harm.

**empathy** Understanding and identifying with the feelings, viewpoint, and experiences of another person. In assertive communication it refers to paying attention to how someone else is feeling and communicating that understanding to them.

**empowerment** A value or a principle that guides how professionals and family members support and work with people with disabilities. A process of increasing power so that individuals and groups can take action to improve their lives. An outcome of the empowerment process whereby people become empowered.

**empowerment practice** “The process of helping individuals, families, groups, and communities to increase their personal, interpersonal, socioeconomic, and political strength and develop influence toward improving their circumstances” (Barker, 2003, p. 142).

**evidence** Information used to show whether a defendant in a criminal trial is guilty or innocent, or in a civil suit liable or not liable. The four main types of evidence are testimony, actual, documentary, and demonstrative.

- facilitated (or focused) conversation method** A highly collaborative process designed to maximize input and participation of all group members, obtain a diverse array of ideas and opinions, and achieve group consensus on the issue being addressed by the group.
- fear of retaliation** A type of personal barrier that is directly caused by the abuser and others who enable the abuser. Being afraid that the abuser or someone trying to protect the abuser will purposely hurt you in order to get back at you for reporting the abuse.
- fear of the unknown** A type of personal barrier. Being afraid of what is not known to you; feeling uncertain about your future.
- financial exploitation** Also called *financial abuse*. The improper or illegal use of another person's money, property, and other assets (material goods) without their informed consent or when consent is obtained by bullying or fraud (BITS, 2005).
- fiscal agent** A person or an organization that handles financial matters for a person with a disability. A fiscal agent may take care of all payroll functions pertaining to hiring, paying, and terminating a personal assistant.
- grand jury** "A jury that is called upon to receive and review accusations [charges] and complaints in criminal matters" (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 621).
- guiding principles** The values that need to be put into action to combat violence and abuse: empowerment, advocacy, self-advocacy, self-determination, strengths perspective, and collaboration.
- handicap** A term once commonly used to refer to "a disadvantage resulting from an impairment or a disability, that limits or prevents the fulfillment of a role that is normal...for an individual" (WHO, 1980, p. 183).
- hands-off behavior** Sexual assault that does not involve the abuser physically touching another person for sexual or other pleasure.
- hands-on behavior** Sexual assault that involves the abuser physically touching another person for sexual or other pleasure.
- harassment restraining order** A type of protective order that may be granted by the court for nondomestic relationships ordering offenders to refrain from specified conduct. Nondomestic relationships are relationships with people who are not related or who are not currently or have been in the past in an intimate relationship.
- harmful genital practice** Unwanted, intrusive, and/or painful procedures in caring for a person's genitals or rectum (Ramsey-Klawnsnik, 2003).
- hate crime** "A criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin or sexual orientation" (U.S. FBI, n.d.a, para. 2).
- helpless myth** An attitudinal barrier that is a systemic barrier. The belief that all people with disabilities are helpless. The myth implies that helplessness is an automatic outcome of disability.
- hung jury** "A jury that cannot attain the necessary consensus or majority to reach a verdict" (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 621).

**impairment** "A problem in body function or structure such as significant deviation or loss" (WHO, 2001, p. 12).

**Independent Living Movement** Began in the late 1960s. Ed Roberts, a student at the University of California, Berkley, is considered the founder of the movement in the United States. Advocates for people with disabilities to live in the community and to remove the systemic barriers to independent living and inclusion in the community. The first Center for Independent Living (CIL) was formed in Berkley, California, in 1972.

**indicators** Warning signs of abuse.

**indictment** "A written accusation given by a grand jury to the court", "a criminal charge against a defendant that must be proved at trial" (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 621).

**Individual Model of Disability** This broad perspective on disability locates the problem of disability within the individual. Problems are seen as coming from the physical, sensory, or mental limitations that are caused by the impairment. Disability is viewed as an individual problem requiring the services of professionals to change, cure, or "fix" the person.

**information** "An accusation made by a prosecutor against a criminal defendant that does not involve a grand jury" (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 622).

**institutional abuse** Abuse in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, state institutions, assisted-living facilities, and group homes.

**instrumental activities of daily living (IADL)** Activities related to independent living such as grocery shopping, managing money, cleaning, cooking, and laundry.

**interdisciplinary collaboration** People who are from different professional disciplines working together as a team to create a plan for and deliver services that meet the needs of client systems (individuals, agencies, and communities) in order to achieve agreed-upon goals.

**Integrated Ecological Theory of Abuse** A theory explaining why people with disabilities are abused by care providers. The theory that focuses on the interaction between four systems: 1) characteristics of the potential victim, 2) characteristics of the potential offender, 3) characteristics of the immediate environment, and 4) characteristics of the broader society or culture (Sobsey, 1994).

**interpersonal** Refers to relationships between people.

**intimate relationships** A type of interpersonal relationship. Relationships between people of a "very personal or private nature" and involving "very close association, contact or familiarity" (Merriam-Webster On-Line, 2006–2007). Intimate relationships occur with spouses or partners, family members, close friends, and paid and nonpaid care providers.

**lack of credibility myth** An attitudinal barrier that is a systemic barrier. The belief that when people with disabilities report abuse they are not telling the truth or are exaggerating what happened.

**lack of knowledge and skills** A type of personal barrier that is directly caused by other people and the broader society. Not having the information and skills needed to prevent and stop abuse.

- learned compliance** Learned helplessness that is reinforced by compliance training.
- learned helplessness** "The belief that one's actions have no influence on future outcomes" (Sobsey, 1994, p. 164). A type of personal barrier. Learned helplessness happens when people learn that their efforts to assert themselves fail over and over again. As a result, they give up and let others have power and control over their lives. It is one of the theories used to explain why women stay in abusive relationships.
- lesser quality of life myth** An attitudinal barrier that is a systemic barrier. Implies that because individuals are "damaged" they have a lesser quality of life, are lesser human beings, and in some cases are better off dead.
- liable** The verdict in a civil case in which the defendant is determined to be responsible for personal harm and/or property damages.
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP)** A national network of agencies that provide advocacy on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, board and care homes, and assisted living environments, "who experience abuse, violation of their rights, or problems" (ABA, 2005, p. 2).
- low self-esteem** A type of personal barrier that is made worse by an abuser. Refers to a poor self-concept and negative feeling about one's own worth and abilities.
- mechanical restraint** "Use of an external device, such as straps, belts, or cuffs to restrict a person's freedom of movement" (U.S. DHHS, 2000, p. 4).
- mercy killing** Intentionally taking another person's life in order to relieve their pain and suffering (real or perceived by the perpetrator) caused by incurable disease, chronic illness, or severe disability. Mercy killings occur with and without the consent of the person being killed. The perpetrator may perceive that he or she is performing an act of compassion.
- myth of insensitivity to pain** An attitudinal barrier that is a systemic barrier. The belief that people with disabilities do not have feelings or feel pain in the same way as people without disabilities.
- neglect** The failure to fulfill one's responsibility to help, provide reasonable care, fulfill basic physical, medical, and emotional needs, or protect another person (BITS, 2005).
- nolo contendere plea** A criminal plea in which the defendant does not admit or deny the charges. The plea means "I will not contest it" (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 623).
- obvious abuse** Forms of abuse that are easy to see and in which there is little, if any, disagreement that the behavior is harmful, abusive, and wrong (if not illegal).
- offender** A person who commits acts of abuse. Offenders or abusers are often known to people with the disabilities, particularly spouses, partners, family members, and paid care providers.
- Older Americans Act** Public Law 89-73; 2006 amendments P. L. 109-365. A federal law passed in 1965 that created the Administration on Aging to oversee the development and implementation of a system of community-based services to support older adults. Each state has a network of Area Agencies on Aging that deliver services funded by the Act. In



the 1978 amendments to the Older Americans Act (P.L. 95-478) the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program was created.

**ombudsman** An advocate.

**order for protection (OFP)** Court-issued order that directs individuals (abusers or offenders) to refrain from specified conduct. A person who is a victim of domestic violence may petition the court to obtain an OFP in order to prevent the abuser from threatening or causing further harm.

**overprotection** A type of systemic barrier commonly associated with the disability service system. The failure of parents and other care providers to provide people with disabilities with the information, skills, resources, and opportunities to practice ways to protect themselves from abusive relationships and situations and to reduce or minimize their risk for violence and abuse. The overprotection of parents and other care providers increases the risk for harm.

**passive euthanasia** *Euthanasia* means death. Hastening a person's death by removing supports that sustain life, such as food and water, medical treatment (e.g., stopping medication, turning off a respirator), and not performing emergency life saving measures (e.g. CPR).

**People First language** The preferred language to use when referring to people with disabilities. People first language recognizes the person first and then the disability.

**People First Movement** An empowerment movement begun by people with intellectual disabilities that focuses on people with disabilities being seen as "people," not as "disabled people."

**personal barriers** The lack of knowledge and skills and the negative thoughts, feelings, beliefs, and fears within a person that result in disempowerment.

**personal boundaries** The invisible parameters or limitations that a person establishes to keep other people away or to prevent others from touching his or her body or personal property. Personal boundaries protect a person's physical space, emotional space, social space (interaction with others), and personal property.

**personal safety network** A specific person or people that a person trusts who can be called when a person is feeling unsafe.

**physical assault** Deliberate physical acts that cause pain, injury, or other physical suffering or harm (also referred to as *physical abuse*).

**physical barriers** A type of systemic barrier. Architectural and structural barriers that physically prevent people from taking part in all aspects of community life.

**physical restraint** "Restricting a person's movement by physical force" (U.S. DHHS, 2000, p. 4).

**plaintiff** The victim in a civil lawsuit. The state (some governmental representative) in a criminal case.

**plea** The defendant's response to the charges in a criminal (guilty, not guilty, nolo contendere) or civil (liable, not liable) case.

**plea bargain** The process of a defendant pleading guilty to a lesser charge and a prosecuting attorney dropping charges of more serious offenses.

**Power and Control Model** A theory of domestic violence typically used to explain violence perpetrated by men against their female partners. In this model, the abuser wants to dominate the victim and wants all the power in the relationship. The abuser uses violence in order to establish and maintain power and control over a victim.

**posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** A type of mental health condition that develops after a person has experienced, witnessed, or learned about a traumatic life event. The debilitating effects include re-experiencing the traumatic event, avoidance of situations associated with the traumatic event, and an ongoing intense feeling of fear.

**preliminary hearing** "A defendant's second appearance before the court; the purpose is to establish that probable cause exists" (Hames & Ekern, 2006, p. 624).

**preponderance of evidence** The amount of proof required in civil cases to find the defendant is liable. The amount of proof needed in Adult Protection System cases to confirm that an abuser committed the acts of abuse for which they are accused.

**prevention** Reducing or minimizing the risk for violence and abuse. Also refers to stopping abuse from happening again once a person has been abused. Also referred to as *risk reduction*.

**privacy awareness** An important component of abuse prevention and personal safety. Understanding the difference between personal information versus public information; private places versus public places; and that your body is private and you have the right to control when, where, and how you are touched.

**probable cause** "When an officer has a reasonable basis for the belief that a person should be searched or arrested" (Hames, & Ekern, 2006, p. 394).

**probation** A defendant who is found guilty is released to the community with conditions instead of being incarcerated (sent to jail or prison) (Hames, & Ekren, 2006, p. 133).

**professional** In this book it refers to anyone who gets paid to provide services to people with disabilities or to victims of violence and abuse.

**protection and advocacy (P & A)** An agency that provides legal representation and other advocacy services, under all federal and state laws, to all people with disabilities (NDRN, 2006, para. 1). Each state has a P & A. P & As are authorized and funded by several federal laws, including the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, Rehabilitation Act, and Protection and Advocacy for People with Mental Illness (PAMI) Act.

**psychological abuse** Also referred to as *emotional abuse*. Acts, physical or verbal, intended to hurt a person's feelings, harm a person emotionally, or to humiliate, demean, intimidate, produce harm, or threaten harm.

**punitive damages** Money awarded by a judge or jury to a plaintiff in a civil lawsuit to be paid by a liable defendant to punish the defendant and deter others from engaging in actions similar to the defendants. Typically awarded for conduct that is perceived as intentional or especially malicious (mean, cruel).

- rape kit** An examination that is typically done by a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) or a sexual assault forensic examiner (SAFE) in a hospital setting to collect forensic (crime-solving) evidence that can help in the successful prosecution of a criminal sexual assault case against the offender.
- restitution** Money to compensate for loss or injury of a victim or to compensate persons who have become responsible for the care and support of a victim as a result of a crime.
- restraint** "Methods of restricting a person's freedom of movement" (U.S. DHHS, 2000, p. 4).
- retainer fee** Money paid to obtain a lawyer that is put in a special account to cover costs related to the case.
- Ring of Safety** "A set of skills that give [people] the ability to repel unwanted advances or to report advances immediately [when they happen]" (Hingsburger, 1994, p. 73).
- safe** Free from danger or risk from violence and abuse.
- safe secret** A secret that when kept causes no physical, financial, or psychological harm or potential for harm to the person or people asked to keep the secret.
- safety** The condition of being safe or actually being safe.
- safety planning** A plan of action to take in situations involving abuse, threats of abuse, or feelings of danger.
- seclusion** "Involuntarily confining a person alone in a room from which the person is physically prevented from leaving" (U.S. DHHS, 2000, p. 4).
- secret word** Also referred to as a *secret code*. A secret word that a person can use in front of an abuser to tell someone that they trust to call the police.
- self-advocacy** "A process in which an individual or group of people speak or act on their own behalf to obtain needed services, resources, and entitlements or to ensure that their rights are upheld" (Ezell, 2001, p. 27).
- Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)** A national coalition of all state and local self-advocacy organizations for people with intellectual disabilities (<http://www.sabeusa.org/>).
- self-blame** A type of personal barrier that is made worse by an abuser. Refers to blaming one's self for the abuse.
- self-determination** "The ability to control your own life, reach goals and participate fully in your environment" (The Center on Self-Determination, n.d.).
- self-esteem** A person's own sense of worth.
- Self-Help Movement** The empowerment movement for recipients or consumers of mental health services that began in the 1980s. The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) was formed and the National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse was created as a result of the movement.
- sense of responsibility to others** A type of personal barrier. Victims willingly or through intimidation put up with the abuse for the greater good of their family or others.

**service system barriers** A type of systemic barrier. Limitations in the service delivery system that prevent people with disabilities from obtaining the protection, services, and supports they need to prevent and stop abuse.

**sexual assault** Forcing or bullying another person to engage in or observe sexual acts (also referred to as *sexual abuse*).

**Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE)** A member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) who responds after a sexual assault and collects forensic data.

**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)** A member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) who works with the victim immediately after a sexual assault.

**sexual assault programs** Provide support and services to victims of sexual assault regardless of whether or not the victim chooses to report the assault.

**Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)** A team that consists of a police officer, advocate, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner who respond at crime scenes, hospitals, and police stations to serve the immediate needs of victims.

**sexually promiscuous** Term used to refer to a person who has an overactive desire to engage in sexual activity.

**sexually unattractive myth** An attitudinal barrier that is a systemic barrier. Implies that individuals with a disability are sexually unattractive and therefore are immune or protected from sexual assault.

**Social Model of Disability** This model for understanding disability focuses on the role of society (the environment) in creating and maintaining disability.

**stakeholder** A person or group who has a stake or interest or involvement in an issue.

**strengths perspective** A way of working with and supporting people with disabilities that aims to help people with disabilities discover and enhance their strengths in order to achieve their goals.

**subtle abuse** Behavior that is difficult to see or identify as abuse. There may be disagreement or uncertainty that the behavior is abusive.

**survivor's pride** Refers to the growth and dignity (self-respect or pride) that can come from overcoming obstacles.

**system advocacy** Sometimes referred to as *class* or *cause advocacy*. Actions taken to effect changes in policies and practices affecting all persons in a certain group or class.

**system-based assistance programs** Programs run out of local police or prosecutor's offices that provide advocacy services within the criminal justice system.

**systemic barriers** Organizational and societal obstacles that perpetuate (carry on) violence and abuse of people with disabilities and make it difficult to end abusive relationships and situations.

**teamwork** Working cooperatively with a group or team to achieve an agreed-upon outcome or goal.

**Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)** A telephone service that allows people with hearing or speech disabilities to place and receive telephone calls.

- tort** “A term used in civil cases used to refer to the ‘wrongful act’” (NCVBA, 2007, p. 9).
- understanding the system** Knowing the laws, rights, agencies, programs, and services that protect and support victims and promote justice.
- unsafe feelings** Also called a *sixth sense, gut feeling, or intuition*. The physical or bodily feelings that a person has when they think that they might be in danger or their safety might be at risk.
- unsafe secret** A secret in which the person or people being asked to keep the secret are being or are at risk for being physically, financially, or psychologically harmed.
- values** Refers to the ideals or principles that are very important to a person such as freedom, independence, equality, family. A person’s way of thinking and acting is influenced by their values.
- verdict** The decision of a jury in a criminal or civil case. In criminal cases the verdict can be guilty or not guilty (sometimes referred to as an acquittal). In civil cases the verdict can be liable or not liable.
- victim** A person who is victimized (e.g., abused, assaulted, exploited) by another person. A person is a victim because of the abusive actions of the abuser (offender).
- victims’ bill of rights** Stipulates the legal rights of crime victims. Each state has a set of legal rights that are often called a “victims’ bill of rights.”
- victim services** The array of federal, state, and local services to help victims obtain justice and heal from their victimization.
- Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA)** (PL 98-473) A federal law that authorizes funding for a broad array of services and resources to aid victims and ensure that their rights are not violated. VOCA funds are administered by the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice.
- vulnerable adult** “A person who is being mistreated or is in danger of mistreatment and who, due to age and/or disability, is unable to protect himself or herself” (NCEA, 2005, para. 3). Each state has its own legal definition of who is considered a vulnerable adult.
- vulnerable adult advocacy and protection services** The system of services designed to protect and advocate on behalf of vulnerable adults. Services within the system include 1) adult protection services, 2) long-term care ombudsman program, and 3) protection and advocacy for individuals with disabilities.
- Walker Cycle Theory of Violence** This theory is used to explain the phases of abusive episodes perpetrated against women by their partners. There are three distinct phases: 1) the tension building phase, 2) the abusive episode, and 3) the honeymoon or loving-contrition (apology, regret) phase (Walker, 2000).
- Web of Power and Control** Illustrates how the power and control of an abuser, along with systemic and personal barriers, make it difficult for a victim to break free from violence and abuse.
- whistle blowing** An employee publicly reporting illegal activity going on inside an organization. A paid care provider reporting the abusive actions of a co-worker, supervisor, or administrator at their place of employment.

