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.

**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- Large sums of money withdrawn from bank accounts (without his/her knowledge).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):

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