

Economic Abuse

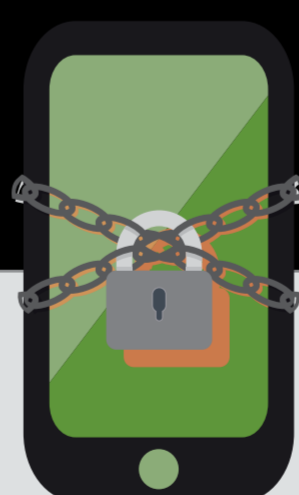
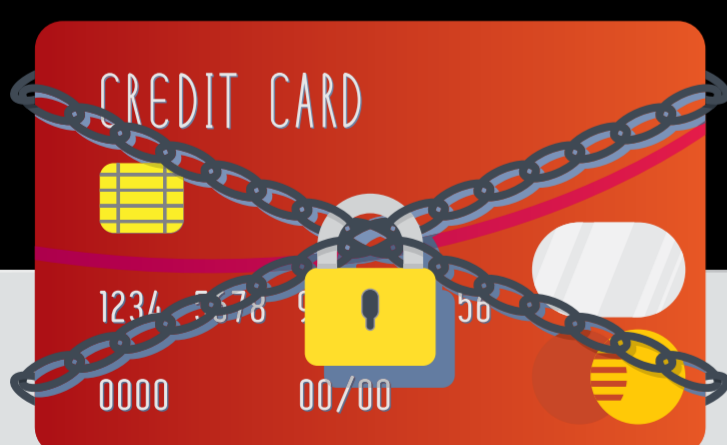
"When I did my grocery shopping, he'd see the receipt ...He wanted me to return a packet of chips because I didn't get them on sale."
(Angela)

"I said, 'Don't, please, don't do it, because we need to make the payment or we'll default on the credit card,' and he did. He went to the shops ... said they needed some cigarettes, twenty dollars, and they ran down the street laughing, and I said please don't do it, but they did. They defaulted on the credit card and smoked the entire pack of cigarettes that whole day in front of me, laughing in my face ... I said, 'I needed that money to pay it off ... What's going to happen now?' And he goes, 'You pay for it.'" (Georgia)

"I had to provide the money for him for cigarettes and alcohol, and by doing that, I affected the mortgage, the bills. I would get attacked and threatened with knives, my clothes were ripped off me. I was pinned to the corner of the kitchen with the kitchen table just to get my ATM card off me." (Georgia)

He kept trying to accuse me, 'you're only trying to get educated so you can leave me.'" (Jennifer)

Excerpts from Emma Smallwood, *Stepping Stones: Legal Barriers to Economic Equality after Family Violence*, Women's Legal Service Victoria, September 2015, p7



Examples of economic abuse

- ▲ No control over or access to money
- ▲ Being given an allowance that is closely monitored
- ▲ Criticised for the way money is spent
- ▲ Demanding access to internet banking and passwords
- ▲ Denied access to phones or vehicles
- ▲ All of the bills in one person's name
- ▲ Pressured into signing loan documents
- ▲ Purchasing mobile phone plans for use by a partner
- ▲ Damaging, destroying or selling property
- ▲ Prevented from working and earning money
- ▲ Refusing to pay their share of a mortgage or bills
- ▲ Refusing to pay child support

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