

Union of Saints, Zero Tolerance Policy, When Abuse Turns Psychotic

1. When abuse turns psychotic

- **Definition:** This is not an official clinical diagnosis, but in psychological terms, it describes a situation where either the abuser's behavior becomes increasingly irrational, delusional, or violent, or the victim begins experiencing psychotic symptoms (paranoia, hallucinations, severe anxiety) due to prolonged trauma.
 - **Related terms:**
 - **Torture or aggravated abuse:** Deliberate infliction of extreme emotional or physical suffering.
 - **Psychological torture:** Intentional, repeated abuse causing severe mental suffering.
 - **Trauma-induced psychosis:** If the victim develops psychotic symptoms as a direct result of ongoing abuse.
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2. When others fail to stop the abuse

- **Bystander effect / enabling behavior:** People around the abuse who do nothing or indirectly support it may be considered *enablers*.
 - **Negligence:** In some cases, failing to act—especially for caregivers, teachers, or authorities—can be legally relevant.
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3. Legal Implications

The legal implications vary depending on the jurisdiction, but in general:

For the abuser:

- **Criminal charges** may include:
 - Assault, battery, or aggravated assault
 - Stalking or harassment

- Child abuse, elder abuse, or domestic violence
- Torture (in certain jurisdictions)
- Intentional infliction of emotional distress (civil tort in some states)
- **Psychotic behavior by the abuser** doesn't excuse the crime but may affect criminal responsibility if the abuser meets legal standards for insanity.

For witnesses or bystanders:

- **Mandatory reporting laws:** Certain professionals (teachers, healthcare workers, social workers) must report abuse; failure can be criminal negligence.
- **Civil liability:** In some cases, enabling abuse can lead to lawsuits for negligence or complicity.
- **Conspiracy or aiding and abetting:** Rare, but if someone actively participates or facilitates ongoing abuse, criminal liability is possible.

For victims:

- Victims may pursue:
 - **Civil lawsuits** for emotional distress, assault, or intentional infliction of harm
 - **Protective orders** to stop ongoing abuse
 - **Criminal charges against abuser** via law enforcement
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4. Key legal term that might fit

- **“Aggravated psychological abuse”** or **“torture”** (civil and criminal)
- **“Failure to intervene”** if bystanders are legally obligated
- **“Intentional infliction of emotional distress”** (civil tort)
- **“Criminal negligence”** (for authorities or mandatory reporters who ignore abuse)

Abuser actions, bystander inaction, victim consequences, and legal

Category	Description	Examples / Notes	Legal Implications
Abuser Actions	Torturous or extreme abuse escalating to psychotic or irrational behavior	- Severe emotional torment, manipulation, or humiliation- Physical assault or threats- Stalking, gaslighting, coercion	- Criminal charges: assault, battery, domestic violence, harassment- Civil suits: intentional infliction of emotional distress- Possible consideration of mental state (insanity) in criminal proceedings
Bystander / Enabler	Individuals who witness or are aware of the abuse and fail to stop it	- Friends, coworkers, neighbors, or authorities who do nothing- Caregivers or mandated reporters ignoring abuse	- Criminal liability for failing to report (if mandated by law)- Civil liability for negligence or complicity- In some cases, aiding/abetting charges
Victim Consequences	Psychological and physical harm from prolonged abuse	- Trauma-induced psychosis- Anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation- Physical injury	- Victims can seek restraining orders, protective orders- File civil lawsuits for damages- Access to social services, therapy, and law enforcement protection
Legal Framework / Terminology	Terms used in law to define or address abuse	- Aggravated psychological abuse- Torture (civil/criminal)- Intentional infliction of emotional distress (civil)- Criminal negligence / failure to intervene	- Defines avenues for prosecution and civil redress- Clarifies responsibilities of witnesses or authorities- Supports protective measures for victims