

Navigating Exploitation Through the Vulnerabilities They Preyed Upon

Union of Saints

Exploitation often begins when someone identifies a vulnerability and chooses to use it for personal or business gain. They may prey upon grief, illness, disability, financial hardship, loneliness, fear, trust, inexperience, or a person's need for safety and support. These vulnerabilities may be used to gain money, property, access, control, power, or an unfair advantage.

Silence and refusal to respond are often part of the manipulation. A person or business may ignore calls, emails, complaints, requests for records, or reports of harm because the silence gives them time and control. This may leave the injured person confused, waiting for answers, unable to protect their property, or unsure of what action to take next.

Some people use silence to avoid responsibility after committing theft, vandalism, trespassing, property damage, fraud, or another harmful act. They may refuse to acknowledge what occurred, withhold important information, delay communication, or disappear after receiving money, property, access, or services. Their silence may be intentional and used to exhaust the victim, interfere with documentation, avoid repayment, or protect their personal or business interests.

Manipulation may also involve false promises, missing information, pressure, intimidation, gaslighting, retaliation, financial control, or the misuse of authority. The exploiter may study a person's circumstances and use their needs, limitations, or trust to gain access. They may act helpful at first and later use the information they learned to control the situation.

Navigating exploitation requires documenting what happened, when it happened, who was involved, what was taken or damaged, what promises were made, and every attempt to communicate. Emails, text messages, photographs, receipts, contracts, witness statements, call logs, and unanswered requests may help show the full pattern. Repeated silence can become part of the record when it follows a complaint, demand, report of harm, or request for accountability.

Vulnerability is part of the human experience. Choosing to prey upon another person's vulnerability is exploitation. Those who use silence, deception, access, or power for personal or business gain should be held accountable for the harm they cause.

SILENCE CAN BE A FORM OF MANIPULATION



Ignored calls. Unanswered emails. Unreturned mail.