



A time to reflect on family violence

November 17 is White Ribbon Day, a day to reflect on the challenges faced, mainly (but not exclusively) by women who are victims of domestic violence.

One woman in Australia dies every week at the hands of her current or ex- partner. But domestic abuse takes many forms. It is not just physical abuse.

So I wanted to share Stacey's story.

When I first met stay-at-home-mum, Stacey*, she was quiet, teary and apologetic. When I took a history of her relationship with her husband, she recounted a tale of feeling isolated from her friends and family, being forced to have sex with her husband out of fear of retribution if she didn't, blaming herself for the breakdown in her marriage and fears about

how their children were being manipulated to accept her husband's narrative around their separation. She had saved \$10 a week from her "allowance" so she could pay for her appointment with me in cash.

When I told Stacey that she was in an abusive relationship she was stunned. "But he has never hit me" she explained.

Sadly while many people recognise domestic abuse as physical and verbal abuse there is little understanding around coercive control which, in my opinion, is the most insidious form of family violence and which is exactly what Stacey was a victim of.

If you feel you might be in an abusive relationship, it's important to take back control. Ring 1800 RESPECT, get some legal advice, get support from your family and friends and look forward to a safer future.

*Name has been changed.



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10 minute phone
consultation, call Managing
Director, Fiona Reid.**

Fiona Reid is the Managing Director of Reid Family Lawyers, a boutique specialist family law firm with offices in Brookvale and Surry Hills. She is supported by a team of expert family lawyers. The firm has a wealth of experience in all facets of family law including complex property matters, parenting matters, child support and spousal maintenance issues, relocation, de facto and same sex issues, surrogacy and adoption.



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