Entitlement and other factors in contributing to coercive control



Mostly other factors, some entitlement

Both entitlement and other factors are significant

Mostly entitlement and some influence of other factors

Mostly or purely entitlement

Rodney Vlais, October 2025

Entitlement is generally a necessary condition for the use of coercive control. It can also be a sufficient condition – entitlement in and of itself can be the primary driver. The relative role of entitlement and other factors in contributing to the use of coercive control varies from person to person, and from situation to situation.

What other factors can contribute to the use of coercive control, in combination with various degrees of entitlement?

- Coercing family members into particular actions or behaviours that directly or indirectly support the person's substance using lifestyle
- Structuring the relationship and family environment to avoid triggering the person's anxiety (e.g., social anxiety, OCD) or other mental health issues
- Attempting to prevent their partner from engaging in behaviours, responses or conversations that might lead them to feel intense shame or other disintegrative emotions stemming from a trauma background
- Structuring home and relationship spaces and routines so that they do not overwhelm the person in the case of neuordiversity

There is a continuum from a person attempting to meet their needs in a fair, respectful and equitable way without the influence of entitlement → meeting their needs influenced by entitlement in a way that impacts partners and family members but which stops short of the use of violence and coercive control → the use of coercive control to force behaviours from others

No/little entitlement	Moderate entitlement	Substantial entitlement
Considers others' needs	Focuses more on own needs	Self-focused
Negotiates	Expects others to accommodate his needs	Demands others to accommodate his needs
Self-manages	Some self managing	Makes others responsible
AOD/MH/ trauma/ neurodiverse issue still impacts others	AOD/MH/etc has major impacts on family	Perpetrates DFSV

For example, an autistic man and his allistic (neurotypical) partner might each learn about each other's different ways of processing, and make adjustments to each other. Or the man might use his male privilege to try to structure his home and family environment in ways that don't take much account of other people's needs (a complex situation, where he both uses gendered entitlement, and is also marginalised outside his family from constantly having to adapt to a neurotypical world). Or the man might go further and perpetrate coercive control to manage his partner's and family's responses.