ONE MEDIATOR’S VIEW: Victim Spectrum -- Assessing Capacity of the Victim to Participate in Mediation

Each mediator determines his or her capacity to handle the different categories and when he or she would or would not mediate.

- **ABUSED/STRONG**
  - Does not see self as victim.
  - Aware of potential dangers.
  - Proactive in self-care.

- **ABUSED/RESISTING**
  - Able finally to separate.
  - Has an O. P.
  - Contacted shelter.
  - In counseling.

- **ABUSED/FIGHTING BACK**
  - Resorts to mutual pushing & shoving.
  - Provokes.
  - May have been able to separate.
  - Wrongfully feels safe after finally acting.

- **ABUSED/INCAPACITATED**
  - Recognizes abuse as such.
  - Frightened & intimidated.
  - Caught in cycle.
  - Unable to protect self and children.

- **ABUSED/POWERLESS**
  - Not aware the abuse IS abuse & is not acceptable.
  - Cannot act without abuser guidance.

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