

Purposely ignoring someone is most commonly called the silent treatment or stonewalling, often used as a form of manipulation, control, or punishment. Depending on the context, this behavior can also be referred to as shunning, social exclusion, or ghosting.

Here are the specific terms used for this behavior based on the situation:

- The Silent Treatment/Stonewalling: Intentionally ignoring someone during a conflict to avoid engaging or to punish them.
- Ghosting: Suddenly ending all communication and ignoring someone without explanation, commonly in dating or social situations.
- Shunning/Ostracism: A broader, often social, act of deliberately excluding or ignoring an individual.
- Cold Shoulder: A casual idiom for acting cold, distant, or ignoring someone.
- Passive-Aggressive Behavior: Ignoring or saying nothing as a way to express anger indirectly.