



Identifying, Investigating, and Prosecuting Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Strangulation Cases

Date: February 13, 2012 Time: 8:30 AM – Noon
Petersen Events Center: 720 12th Street, Modesto

Strangulation has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence and sexual assault: unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes. When domestic violence perpetrators choke (strangle) their victims, not only is this felonious assault, but it may be an attempted homicide. Strangulation is an ultimate form of power and control where the batterer can demonstrate control over the victim's next breath: it may have devastating psychological effects or a potentially fatal outcome.

Sober and conscious victims of strangulation will first feel terror and severe pain. If strangulation persists, unconsciousness will follow. Before lapsing into unconsciousness, strangulation victims may resist violently, which could lead to producing injuries on their own neck, in an effort to claw off the assailant, and may also cause injury to the face or hands of their assailant. These defensive injuries may not if the victim is physically or chemically restrained before the assault.

Course Description

Specialized experts in the identification, investigation, and documentation of strangulation in intimate partner violence cases, Gael Strack, J.D. and Casey Gwinn, J.D. of the Family Justice Center Alliance, and Dr. Green, will cover the following:

- Findings from a study of 300 misdemeanor strangulation cases
- Resources and handouts from the Strangulation Training Institute
- Understanding the lethality of strangulation
- Identifying the signs and symptoms of strangulation cases
- Anatomy and medical aspects in surviving and non-surviving victims
- Investigating and documenting a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Strangulation case for prosecution
- Legal aspects of strangulation cases with surviving victims
- Use of experts in court

"For many years, we didn't realize what strangulation was. We would see it over and over in police reports. We would hear victims say over and over 'choking, choking, choking' 'he grabbed me' 'he choked me'. It didn't mean anything to us, and we certainly didn't understand how lethal it was. But, as we started to deal with it, put the medical experts on the stand and started hearing the actual accounting of what was going on, and then had research to back it up, we found out that choking wasn't down here, choking was right here. A homicide was right here. And suddenly, choking is strangulation, and now we realize if you're at strangulation, you're at death. You're right on the edge of murder." Casey Gwinn, J.D. & President, Family Justice Center Alliance

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Strangulation Training
Institute

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**NO COST TO ATTEND!
REGISTER NOW:**

To register for this
training, contact:

Lori Denego at
lori.denego@standa.org

CLE ACCREDITATION:
We are working on both
CLU and POST
accreditation. MCLE
credits will be provided

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Judges
- Law Enforcement
Officers
- Prosecutors
- Advocates
- Civil Legal
Attorneys
- Medical Providers

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

About this Training
contact Lori Denego at
lori.denego@standa.org
or 209-525-5505

About the Family Justice
Center Alliance
Strangulation Training
Institute:
www.familyjusticecenter.com