
Non-Fatal Strangulation: A Lethal Form of Interpersonal Violence

“Choking”, or strangulation, is an act of violence frequently used to control and overpower a victim, and has recently been recognized as a particularly lethal form of interpersonal violence. This seminar will explore the physiological effects of strangulation, signs and symptoms, and medical evaluation of these patients. Written and photo documentation will be discussed, as well as the importance of collaboration between health care and law enforcement to improve patient safety. A prosecutor will discuss how to improve the investigation and prosecution of strangulation cases for law enforcement professionals.

This seminar is focused on the team approach to addressing strangulation, and will provide valuable knowledge for nurses, physicians, emergency medical services, social workers, advocates, law enforcement and prosecutors.

Presentations can be tailored to the needs of the audience.

1-hour presentation

- The awareness of non-fatal strangulation as a serious form of violence.
- Identification and documentation of injuries

2- 4 hour presentation

- Current research on strangulation
- Physiological effects of strangulation injuries
- Signs and symptoms of strangulation
- Identification and documentation of injuries
- Medical evaluation of patients with strangulation injuries
- Courtroom testimony

5-6 hour presentation includes

- Current research on strangulation as a lethal form of violence
- Physiological effects of strangulation injuries
- Signs and symptoms of strangulation
- Identification and documentation of injuries
- Medical evaluation of patients with strangulation injuries
- Team approach to investigating and prosecuting strangulation cases
- Case scenarios: The importance of documentation from initial report to the courtroom

Speakers

Ruth Downing MSN RN CNP SANE-A

Ruth is currently a family nurse practitioner in an Urgent Care setting. She has been a registered nurse for over 30 years, and a forensic nurse since 1999. Ruth has been active in county, state, and national efforts addressing violence in our communities. She founded Forensic Healthcare Consulting in 2007, and has provided education and consulting services for health care, law enforcement and legal professionals nationally, and for national leaders in Peru.

Ruth initiated and directed a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program for seven years. She is an active member of the Ohio Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, serving as President in 2008. She is also a member of the Advisory Team for the Strangulation Training Institute at the Family Justice Center Alliance in San Diego, the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council, and the Ohio Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review Board. She is a member of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, for which she coordinates the health care response to trafficking survivors.

Anne M. Murray JD

Anne M. Murray is Director of the Domestic Violence & Stalking Unit at the Office of the Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer. A graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, she worked as a victim advocate in the Domestic Violence Unit while awaiting the results of the Bar, and became the first prosecutor to specialize in domestic violence cases for the Office. She has specialized in Domestic Violence prosecution since 1996.

The Columbus City Attorney's Domestic Violence & Stalking Unit consists of four specialized Domestic Violence prosecutors, and twenty victim advocates, liaisons, and support staff. This initiative is part of a concerted effort to focus attention on the issue of domestic violence and stalking: both to achieve the successful prosecution of offenders and to ensure the safety of survivors.

John Radabaugh

Detective Sergeant John Radabaugh is instructor for the Delaware Police Department, Delaware, OH. He serves on the Ohio Attorney General's Office Sexual Assault Response Training Team, attended a Train the Trainer program with the National Strangulation Training Institute for the Family Justice Center Alliance in San Diego CA, and has provided trainings on Non-Fatal Strangulation to multidisciplinary audiences in Ohio. John is a Board Member of HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties and Chair of the Delaware County Sexual Assault Response Team. He has provided instruction on various aspects of child sexual assault investigations to law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, and members of the judiciary in Lima, Peru.

Karin Ho

Karin has 28 years' experience in victim services providing direct services to crime survivors. She has 11 years in the sexual assault field in community based programs, and 18 years as a victim advocate providing services to crime survivors of all crimes throughout the post-conviction process. Karin has been a survivor since 1982 and received strangulation training in August 2012 at the National Strangulation Training Institute in San Diego