



Mercer County Prosecutor's Office
Domestic Violence Unit
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Documentation Chart for Strangulation Cases
 Use this chart when a victim reports being "choked" or strangled.

2005

Symptoms and/or Internal Injury:

BREATHING CHANGES	VOICE CHANGES	SWALLOWING CHANGES	BEHAVIORAL CHANGES	OTHER
<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty Breathing <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperventilation <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to breathe	<input type="checkbox"/> Raspy voice <input type="checkbox"/> Hoarse voice <input type="checkbox"/> Coughing <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to speak	<input type="checkbox"/> Trouble swallowing <input type="checkbox"/> Painful to swallow <input type="checkbox"/> Neck Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Agitation <input type="checkbox"/> Amnesia <input type="checkbox"/> PTSD <input type="checkbox"/> Hallucinations <input type="checkbox"/> Combativeness	<input type="checkbox"/> Dizzy <input type="checkbox"/> Headaches <input type="checkbox"/> Fainted <input type="checkbox"/> Urination <input type="checkbox"/> Defecation

FACE	EYES & EYELIDS	NOSE	EAR	MOUTH
<input type="checkbox"/> Red or flushed <input type="checkbox"/> Pinpoint red spots (petechiae) <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks	<input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae to R and/or L eyeball <input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae to R and/or L eyelid <input type="checkbox"/> Bloody red eyeball(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bloody nose <input type="checkbox"/> Broken nose (ancillary finding) <input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae	<input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae (external and/or ear canal) <input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding from ear canal	<input type="checkbox"/> Bruising <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen tongue <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen lips <input type="checkbox"/> Cuts/abrasions (ancillary finding)

UNDER CHIN	CHEST	SHOULDERS	NECK	HEAD
<input type="checkbox"/> Redness <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks <input type="checkbox"/> Bruise(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Abrasions	<input type="checkbox"/> Redness <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks <input type="checkbox"/> Bruise(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Abrasions	<input type="checkbox"/> Redness <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks <input type="checkbox"/> Bruise(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Abrasions	<input type="checkbox"/> Redness <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks <input type="checkbox"/> Finger nail impressions <input type="checkbox"/> Bruise(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Swelling <input type="checkbox"/> Ligature mark	<input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae (on scalp) Ancillary finding: <input type="checkbox"/> Hair pulled <input type="checkbox"/> Bump <input type="checkbox"/> Skull fracture <input type="checkbox"/> Concussion

Chart borrowed from The San Diego City Attorney's Office 2001.

STRANGULATION CONTINUED ...

Method and/or Manner:

How and where was the victim strangled?

- ☐ One hand (R or L) ☐ Two hands ☐ Forearm (R or L) ☐ Knee/Foot ☐ Ligature (Describe)
☐ How long? Seconds? ☐ Also smothered? ☐ How hard was the suspect's grip?
☐ Multiple attempts: ☐ Multiple methods:

Is the suspect **RIGHT** or **LEFT** handed?

What did the suspect say while he was strangling the victim, before and/or after?

Was she shaken simultaneously while being strangled? Straddled? Held against wall?

Was her head being pounded against wall, floor or ground?

What did the victim think was going to happen?

How or why did the suspect stop strangling her?

What was the suspect's demeanor?

Describe what suspect's face looked like during strangulation?

Describe prior incidents of strangulation? Prior domestic violence? Prior threats?

VICTIM'S/WITNESS'S EXCITED UTTERANCES

- ☐ ANGRY
☐ APOLOGETIC
☐ CRYING
☐ FEARFUL
☐ HYSTERICAL
☐ CALM
☐ AFRAID
☐ IRRATIONAL
☐ NERVOUS
☐ THREATENING
☐ OTHER

**Reminder: All statements
by a defendant are
admissible.
Therefore, all relevant
statements should be
documented.**

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT FACTORS

In the course of the investigation, attempt to identify any of the following risk factors. Check the corresponding block(s), and give a detailed explanation in the narrative.

- ☐ 1. SUSPECT HAS EASY ACCESS TO WEAPONS, ESPECIALLY GUNS
☐ 2. SUSPECT HAS USED OR THREATENED TO USE WEAPON
☐ 3. PARTIES HAD A RECENT SEPARATION OR VICTIM HAS THREATENED SEPARATION
☐ 4. SUSPECT ABUSES ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUGS (ILLEGAL/LEGAL)
☐ 5. INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OR SEVERITY OF VIOLENCE
☐ 6. RAGE TOWARDS POLICE/OTHERS
☐ 7. SUSPECT IS EXTREMELY JEALOUS/ HAS SAID, "IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU, NO ONE CAN"
☐ 8. SUSPECT THREATENS TO KILL
☐ 9. VICTIM AND/OR SUSPECT CONTEMPLATED, THREATENED OR ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
☐ 10. SUSPECT VIOLENT TOWARD CHILDREN
☐ 11. SUSPECT HAS INJURED OR KILLED PETS
☐ 12. SUSPECT HAS FORCED VICTIM TO HAVE SEX WHEN VICTIM DID NOT AGREE
☐ 13. VICTIM IS CURRENTLY PREGNANT/HAS BEEN BEATEN BY SUSPECT DURING PREVIOUS PREGNANCIES
☐ 14. SUSPECT HAS MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY
☐ 15. SUSPECT HAS PRIOR DV HISTORY
☐ 16. SUSPECT UNEMPLOYED
☐ 17. VICTIM HAS A CHILD WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE SUSPECT
☐ 18. STRANGULATION
☐ 19. SUSPECT CONTROLS MOST OR ALL OF VICTIM'S DAILY ACTIVITIES
☐ 20. SUSPECT FOLLOWS, SPIES ON, OR STALKS VICTIM