

Response to Non-Lethal Strangulation Report Review Checklist

Are your officers aware of the state's **strangulation statute/law**, if applicable?

- Does the report **thoroughly articulate the elements of the strangulation crime** that occurred?

Does the report include all needed **information**?

- How was the strangulation case received?
- Is the time of the call recorded (including time of incident, time of dispatch, time of arrival)?
- Is the relationship of the parties identified?
- Is there a valid protection order in place?
- Are the events that took place pre and post strangulation documented?
- Has strangulation occurred in the past?
- Was information about previous incidents (strangulation, domestic/sexual violence, threats, stalking), including frequency, documented?
- Were all witnesses interviewed and documented?
- What was used to strangle the victim (one hand, two hands, forearm, other body part, ligature, etc.)?
- Were other weapons involved?
- Did the strangulation take place from the front or from behind?
- Was the victim wearing jewelry?
- Was the suspect wearing jewelry? Gloves?
- Is the suspect right or left handed, if known?
- How long did the strangulation last? How many times was the victim strangled?
- Was the victim also smothered?
- Was the victim also shaken while being strangled?
- Was the victim's head pushed into a wall, floor, or other surface? Was there property damage?
- Did the victim attempt to protect themselves?
- What was the emotional state of the victim (what did they report they were thinking and feeling)?
- Did the suspect say anything to the victim before/while/after the strangulation occurred?
- Did the victim say anything to the suspect before/while/after the strangulation occurred?
- What was the suspect's demeanor before, during and after the incident?
- Did the victim describe what the suspect's face looked like during the incident?
- Why and how did the suspect stop strangling the victim?
- Was medical attention provided?
- Is the scene(s) concisely described/diagrammed?
- Are all crimes that co-occurred with the strangulation thoroughly documented (sexual assault, kidnapping, property damage, etc.)?

Did your officers ask about and capture details regarding **non-visible injuries** that can occur from strangulation? *Officers can use a scale of 1 – 10, 10 being the most extreme pain, with victims and include this information in the report.*

- Difficulty breathing/unable to breathe, hyperventilation
- Raspy voice, hoarse voice, coughing, unable to speak
- Trouble swallowing, painful to swallow
- Neck pain
- Nausea, vomiting,
- Involuntary urination or defecation
- Dizziness, fainting/light-headed
- Headaches, head "rush", ears ringing
- Loss of consciousness (how long?)
- Change in mental status (disoriented, combative, memory loss, "spaced out")

Did your officer ask about and document **visible injuries** from the strangulation?

- Petechiae (pinpoint red spots above the area of constriction)
- Hemorrhaging, bruising
- Scratch marks, scrapes, abrasions
- Bloody nose, broken nose
- Finger nail impressions
- Swelling of the neck or face
- Pulled/missing hair, bumps on head
- Skull fracture, concussion
- Swollen tongue, swollen lips
- Is a diagram of injuries included with the report?
- Were there any existing (old) injuries?

Did your officer gather and document comprehensive information about the **suspect**?

- Was an arrest made?
- Did the suspect have any injuries? Were injuries identified on the suspect that may have been caused by the victim in self-defense?
- Could the suspect see the victim's face during the strangulation?
- What was the emotional state of the suspect (what did they report they were thinking and feeling)?
- Are there any active warrants out for the suspect?
- Have there been protection orders taken out on the suspect in the past?
- Was the proper protocol followed if the suspect was not on the scene?

Did your officer **discuss** the following with the victim?

- The need for follow-up photos.
- Receiving medical attention. Symptoms and injuries can occur days or weeks after the strangulation, including miscarriage if pregnant.
- Information about local service providers.