

# Effective Response to Strangulation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Assessment

State: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please answer as completely as possible*

1) In your jurisdiction, what is the average monthly number of reported strangulation cases?

2) How does your jurisdiction handle crimes that involve strangulation (felony or misdemeanor)?

3) Are your officers instructed to routinely inquire about strangulation behaviors while on the scene of:

- Domestic violence: Yes No
- Sexual assault : Yes No

4) Do your responding officers receive training regarding:

- Prevalence of strangulation? Yes No
- The use of strangulation to exert power and control and cause fear and intimidation? Yes No
- Victim references to 'choking' and documenting cases as 'strangulation'? Yes No
- Potential lethality of strangulation? Yes No
- Questions to ask victims to determine if strangulation has occurred? Yes No
- Symptoms of strangulation? Yes No
- Visible and non-visible injuries from strangulation? Yes No
- Indicators that a loss of consciousness occurred? Yes No
- Possible internal injuries? Yes No

5) Are your officers trained to ask about a prior history of strangulation? Yes No

6) Do your officers routinely inquire about property damage that can occur during the act of strangulation (i.e. cracked drywall by the victims head)? Yes No

7) Documentation

- What technological resources does your department have to thoroughly investigate these crimes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do your officers routinely take photos when strangulation has occurred? Yes No
  - Do they routinely take follow-up photos? Yes No
- Does your agency partner with forensic nurses to capture evidence of strangulation? Yes No
- Do your officers encourage victims to document/log all signs and symptoms? Yes No
- Are audio recordings used (or 911 tapes) to capture voice changes that occurred due to strangulation? Yes No
- Does your department have a specialized police reporting form to help document strangulation assaults? Yes No

8) Does your agency policy mandate that medical staff be called to the scene when strangulation is reported?

9) Do your supervisors regularly audit reports to ensure information about strangulation is effectively captured and articulated? Yes No

10) Are your department members trained on identifying defensive injuries on the aggressor? Yes No

11) Does your agency collaborate with the following partners to provide department training:

Advocates? Yes No Prosecutors? Yes No  
Medical staff? Yes No Other experts? \_\_\_\_\_

12) Do your officers utilize threat/risk assessment tools with victims? Yes No With perpetrators? Yes No

- If yes, which assessment tool?
- According to your protocols, which cases require an assessment be conducted?

13) Do your officers provide victims with names/contact information for local victim service providers in cases of strangulation? Yes No

14) Are dispatch/communications members trained ask about the commission of strangulation? Yes No

- Are your dispatch/communications members trained about the severity of strangulation? Yes No