



Strangulation Prevention E-News - February 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO ON WHAT'S NEW FROM 2019

2019 was a very busy year. The ***Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention*** (Institute) stayed focused on our core strategic directions and worked closely with our National Partners and Advisors from the Medical, Legal and Advocacy Committees. Together, we learned more and got more done than any year before. The top themes for 2019 included: 1) bail reform and how it impacts domestic violence and sexual assault victims, 2) understanding the rage of stranglers and how to supervise them and 3) educating ourselves and others about the prevalence of internal injuries and how to quickly screen, assess, diagnose and treat TBI and other internal injuries through domestic violence/strangulation forensic exams and the use of imaging.

Overall, we saw a burst of new research, new case law, some revisions to statutes, prosecutors making good use of experts, and many calls from survivors needing help with their criminal case, starting a civil case and/or navigating the medical system because of traumatic brain injuries. We received so many cases from victims needing legal assistance, our “Justice Project” is now in full swing. Our Justice Project works on both non-fatal and fatal strangulation cases, unsolved cases and pending cases. It utilizes experts from the field to assist in evaluating a limited number of cases from a forensic and legal standpoint with the goal of helping local law enforcement and prosecutors who may not have had the opportunity to receive specialized training or are seeking to understand what really happened in certain incidents. If that doesn’t work, then we will help clients seek justice by exercising their civil legal remedies.



Speaking of training, the Institute was proud to host Class No. 20 of our

Advanced Course in San Diego, California and Class No. 7 at the USDOJ National Advocacy Center thanks to Assistant Chief Learning Officer Leslie Hagen. Today there are over 2,500 graduates of our four-day Advanced Course who have gone on to implement new laws or protocols, start task forces, and so much more. We have found the professionals who attend the Advanced Course are the change agents, specialists, experts and trainers in the field. Each class has been mutually inspirational. To find out when the next Advanced Course will be held, please visit our website and check out **upcoming trainings**. This year, we also took our 4-Day Advanced Course to Indiana and Canada and launched a 1-day special course on Gunshot Wounds with Dr. Smock and an Expert Course for graduates of the 4-day Advanced Course.



We were particularly proud of developing a close partnership with the **Red Rose Foundation** and launched the **Australian Institute for Strangulation Prevention** to help Australia expand our mutual understanding and handling of strangulation/suffocation cases. We also developed a new alliance with the **Academy of Forensic Nursing** to continue working on the certification and training of domestic violence/strangulation examinations as well as other important issues.

This month, we recorded our annual webinar on “What We Learned in 2019 about Strangulation and Suffocation”. We thought it would only take two hours and one webinar. But the goal of one webinar quickly turned into two and then three webinars with the help of Dr. Smock, Diana Faugno and Lt. Dan Rincon. We encourage you to watch all three of them. Part one of this series is saved now in our **resource library**. To register for part two and three, click **here**. Given that there was also so much information to share during our webinar, we decided to summarize the highlights and share those resources with all of our friends in an E-News.

We are also very excited about 2020. With the help from our partners, advisors, faculty and staff, we plan to record a new strangulation training video in honor of Dr. Lauren Sampson who tragically died as a result of domestic violence, continue to advocate for domestic violence/strangulation medical forensic exams and legislation, hold more focus groups with survivors, and roll out new webinars, Chapters, Guides and Toolkits. We are also thrilled to be able to host another OVW-Sponsored Masters’ Summit hopefully in August and take a closer look at the research related to imaging with additional recommendations for the field.

As we dive into 2020, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the honor and opportunity to work with all of you. Thank you for sharing our passion for helping others and being HOPEGIVEVERS.

Always with great HOPE,

UPDATES FROM OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Medical Advisory Committee

The Medical Advisory Committee has grown from three core medical advisors – Dr. Dean Hawley, Dr. George McClane and Dr. Ellen Taliaferro in 1995 to now 30 members. Physicians, Medical Examiners, Researchers, and Forensic Nurses now make up the Medical Advisory Committee assisting the Institute. Dr. Bill Smock and Dr. Bill Green serve as Co-Chairs of the Medical Advisory Committee and work with a dedicated and committed group of medical professionals who chair subcommittees to tackle key areas including: Imaging Recommendations, Research, Domestic Violence/Strangulation Medical Forensic Examinations, Pediatric Strangulation, Pregnancy, Forensic Nurses as Experts, Managing the Strangulation/Suffocation Bibliography. And new for 2020, Dr. Ralph Riviello will lead a new committee to create proper coding of strangulation and suffocation cases. To keep everyone posted on the developments of this amazing group, we plan to update our website soon with more information about the Medical Advisory Committee.



We also congratulate the **New Orleans Family Justice Center** and the **Rose Andom Family Justice Center** for opening up Health Clinics for assault victims. They join the growing list of Family Justice Centers focused on providing medical and forensic services to victims of domestic violence and strangulation. Thank you!



Legal Advisory Committee

The Legal Committee has also grown from just Casey Gwinn and Gael Strack in 1995 to now 30 members. The Legal Committee is made up of attorneys (prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys and civil attorneys), and law enforcement and probation officers. Riverside County Assistant District Attorney Jerry Fineman and Scottsdale Police Lt. Dan Rincon serve as Co-Chairs and also work with a dedicated and committed group of legal professionals to tackle key areas including: enhancing victim safety after arrest through bail, trial and sentencing, developing updated and improved documentation forms, making good use of training videos for roll call, expanding the use of experts, and updating toolkits for various disciplines.

Advocacy Advisory Committee

This year, the Institute plans to formally launch the Advocacy Committee with the help of Michelle Morgan, the FJC Director of One Safe Place in Tarrant

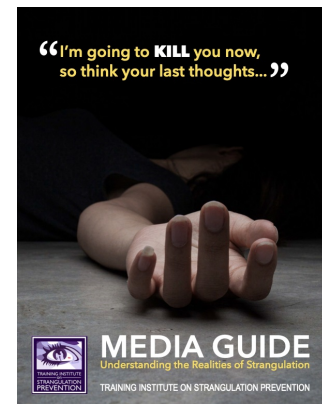
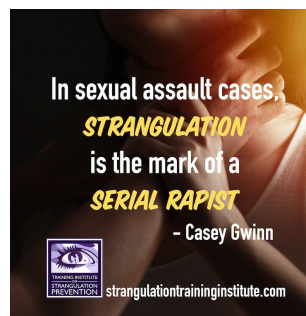
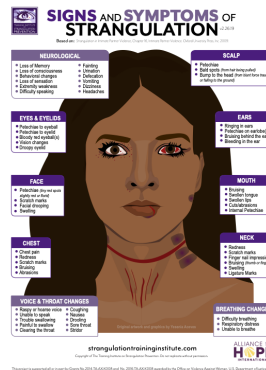
County, Texas. We will be recruiting more professionals and survivors to support the growing need for more advocacy for the strangled victim in all systems: criminal, civil, family, juvenile, and medical. In the past, our advocates have participated within the National Advisory Board but the time has come for a separate group and an even stronger voice. We anticipate the committee will focus on conducting more focus groups, developing a safety plan to include strangulation, suffocation and TBI, discuss medical and court advocacy, and how to integrate ACEs and the Science of HOPE into our programs and organizations.



NEW RESOURCES IN 2019

Resources from the Institute

- Pregnancy Fact Sheet
- Signs and Symptoms
- Signos y Sintomas de Estrangulamiento
- Strangulation/Suffocation Discharge Instructions
- Updated Imaging Recommendations
- Updated Strangulation Infographic
- Physiological Consequences
- Media Guide
- Top Strangulation Articles to Read
- Updated Strangulation Chart
- Strangulation Awareness Memes



2019 Webinars from the Institute

- Forfeiture by Wrongdoing
- Recommendations for the Medical Radiographic Evaluation of the Pregnant Adult Patient
- Understanding the Rage and Lethality of Men Who Strangle
- Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program Webinar
- Texas Council on Family Violence Webinar
- What We Learned in 2018

Resources from the Field

- Australia Imaging Recommendations
- New York Department of Health Alert
- San Diego Medical Alert
- San Diego Posters
- Invisible Injuries: Head Booklet
- Just Breathe
- Care Education Card
- “My Partner Choked Me” Pocket Guide
- Model IACP Policy on Domestic Violence

“My Partner Choked Me”

Non-Fatal Strangulation:

A pocket guide to best practices when working with survivors of strangulation

www.nyc.gov/endgbv

NYC

Mayor's Office to
End Domestic and
Gender-Based Violence



TOP ARTICLES OF 2019

Legal and Medical Articles

- Study: Brain injury common in domestic violence
- Value of 3T Craniocervical MR imaging following non-fatal strangulation
- CTA of the neck in strangulation victims: incidence of positive findings at a level one trauma center over a 7-year period
- Tracheal perforation from non-fatal strangulation
- Evaluation of Nonfatal Strangulation in Alert Adults
- Intimate Partner Violence and Pet Abuse: Responding Law Enforcement Officers' Observations and Victim Reports from the Scene
- The Health Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implications for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facilities
- Nonfatal Strangulation in a Sample of Domestically Violent Stalkers: The Importance of Recognizing Coercively Controlling Behaviors
- Improving Law Enforcement's Response to Non-Fatal Strangulation
- Battered and Brain Injured: Assessing knowledge of Traumatic Brain Injury Among Intimate Partner Violence Service Providers
- Robbed of Hope: Is the Suicide of a Battered Woman Murder?
- Innovative Program Increases Legal Services to Domestic Violence Survivors Legal Incubators
- Unilateral Anoxic Brain Injury Secondary to Strangulation Identified on Conventional and Arterial Spin-Labeled Perfusion Imaging

Dear Friends: Members from our medical and legal committee are currently analyzing some recent research articles published in 2019 concerning imaging and will be providing their comments in an upcoming E-News. Overall, we believe the articles continue to support the imaging recommendations such as the article “Evaluation of Nonfatal Strangulation in Alert Adults”. Two additional articles also found significant findings and injuries using imaging (MR and CTA) in cases where victims were strangled justifying imaging, however, our team does not concur with their overall conclusions. Imaging can save lives even if there is no external injury or identifiable signs or symptoms after a strangulation assault. Our

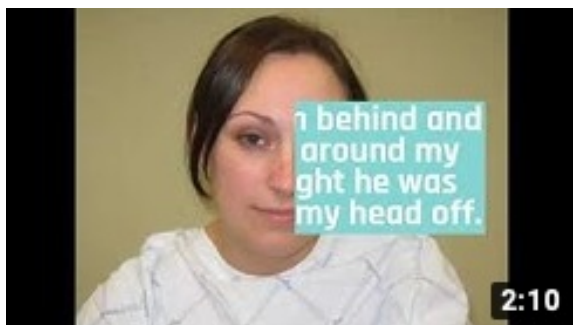
case reports confirm numerous vascular injuries found by CTA even with no signs or symptoms evident. The risk to the strangled patient, who is discharged without a CTA, is the possibility of an undetected vascular injury which can result in their development of a stroke or death.

--The Institute Leadership Team

News Articles

- **2 Officers Seriously Injured in Neck Restraining Training Session**
- **The Aurora Shooter had a History of Domestic Violence and Assault. He Never Should have had a Gun**
- **Strangulation is a Deadly Tactic. Believe Victims**
- **'She's My Ironman,' Son Says of Triathlete Mother Killed by Ex-Boyfriend**
- **"The Most Dangerous Offenders": FW Training Highlights Warning Signs of Strangulation**
- **We Prosecute Murder Without the Victim's Help. Why Not Domestic Violence?**
- **"Women choked by a partner are at high risk of later violence. 1,000 Salt Lake City- area emergency responders have been trained to better protect them"**
- **This is the 'Last Warning Shot' of an abuser before things could turn deadly Strangulation of Women is Common, Chilling—and Often a Grim Harbinger**
- **Women Violently Choked by Partners Are Later Killed-- But Doctors Miss the Signs**
- **Sources: Screaming, Choking Heard on 911 Call Ahead of Deadly Officer-Involved Shooting**
- **Henderson Man Charged Under New 'Strangulation' Law**
- **'Calling Card of a Killer:' Strangulation is Spousal Abuse Tipoff**
- **Beyond Survival: Traumatic Brain Injury is the Aspect of Domestic Violence We Need to Discuss**

TOP VIDEOS FROM 2019



**PLEASE ORDER A CTA OF THE
NECK FOR THE STRANGLED
VICTIM**



**STRANGULATION ROLL CALL
VIDEO**

LAW AND CASE LAW FROM 2018/2019

New Laws from 2019

- U.S. Military- U.C.M.J.H.R. 5515 National Defense Authorization Act
- Kentucky Senate Bill 70
- Hawaii S.B. NO. 1037
- Maine Criminal Code- 208 Aggravated Assault
- California – Minors Can Now Consent to Domestic Violence/Strangulation Exam
- Ordinance: City of Burleson, Texas, “Effective Response to Strangulation”

Favorite Case Law from 2018 & 2019

- *Cody v. Commonwealth of Virginia*
- *State of Montana v. Porter*
- *State of Louisiana v. Diaz*
- *Winborn v. State of Indiana*
- *State of Iowa v. Toby Richards*
- *Glenn Maxwell v. State*
- *Vanderwood v California (2019 WL 1482459)*

2019 STATISTICS AND UPCOMING TRAININGS

- **15,000 PEOPLE
TRAINED IN 2019**
- **93,985 WEBSITE
HITS IN 2019**

***CLICK HERE TO VIEW
OUR UPCOMING
TRAININGS AND
EVENTS***

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The Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention

Alliance for HOPE International

Toll Free: (888) 511-3522

Local: (619) 236-9551

www.allianceforhope.com

www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com

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