



E-News: Honoring Jerry Fineman, Jackson County, Kansas, and Promoting Best Practices

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another edition of the Strangulation Prevention E-News. The Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention launched E-News to share important information about non- and near-fatal strangulation assaults. Each E-News focuses on one subject, highlights one organization or individual, and shares one featured resource. In these unprecedented times in the United States and globally, we urge you all to stay safe and healthy. We salute your efforts to advocate for survivors of violence – including those most robbed of hope, our strangulation victims.

Featured Resource

BEST PRACTICES REPORT CARD

*Back to school time...
because lives depend on what you know!*

We like to believe our domestic violence response is the best of the best. Maybe it is. Maybe it could be better. Take a moment to reflect on ways to improve your response. Here is a list of some of the best practices in place in various parts of the country (there are more than 10, but we picked these).

- 1 Do your dispatchers receive ongoing specialized training in handling domestic violence/strangulation cases? YES NO/UNSURE
- 2 Are all your sworn law enforcement personnel trained on investigating strangulation cases and does their training include a duty to warn victims about the potential dangers of strangulation? You can answer yes if all your cases are handled by a DV Response Team that uses a duty to warn. YES NO/UNSURE
- 3 Are your paramedics specially trained in responding to strangulation cases? YES NO/UNSURE
- 4 Are all your assigned prosecutors trained on investigating and prosecuting strangulation cases? YES NO/UNSURE
- 5 Do strangulation victims receive forensic exams, imaging, and medical evaluation in all strangulation cases? YES NO/UNSURE
- 6 Do you have a strangulation response protocol in your jurisdiction? YES NO/UNSURE
- 7 Do you have expert testimony available for your strangulation cases? YES NO/UNSURE
- 8 Do you implement risk assessments and safety planning with survivors? Do you have a good working relationship with your non-governmental advocates (whether through a Family Justice Center or otherwise)? YES NO/UNSURE
- 9 Are the other members of the criminal justice system (court/defense bar/probation) trained in understanding the significance of strangulation? YES NO/UNSURE
- 10 Do you have a mechanism for victims to provide feedback on your response (survivor groups, etc.)? YES NO/UNSURE

YOU GET 10 POINTS PER QUESTION. TOTAL SCORE:

Scoring low does not necessarily make your program bad, it just suggests there are other best practices to explore. If you would like information on best practices, please email us at institute@allianceforhope.com

Figure out your grade, like in school:

90-100 A

80-90 B

70-80 C

60-70 D

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For this E-News, we want to share an updated community self-assessment tool created in collaboration with Assistant District Attorney Jerry Fineman with the amazing graphic skills of Yesenia Aceves: The Best Practices Report Card. This new 10-question tool cleverly allows you to calculate a grade for community and think about additional things you can do to improve your community response to handling non-fatal strangulation.

Related to improving your response, we want to thank and commend the Jackson County District Attorney's Office, the Shawnee Police Department in Shawnee and the Forensic Nurse from Advent Health Shawnee Mission Hospital for applying their training to provide an excellent investigation, medical treatment and prosecution in the Case of [Kansas v Grey](#) (2021, Kansas). This case represents the collective impact of good training, teamwork and compassion for helping victims of domestic violence. Thanks to their efforts the Kansas Court of Appeals found an "overwhelming" amount of evidence despite an "uncooperative" and "recanting victim". This team understood that the victim was not "uncooperative" but "terrified" because she believed she was going to die.

Featured Leader

Our featured leader for this month is Assistant District Attorney Jerry Fineman. This month he retired from the Riverside District Attorney's Office after 33 years of service. He has dedicated his entire career to protecting victim rights with a special

focus on domestic violence. Jerry has been part of our National Advisory Committee for the last 10 years and continues to Co-Chair the Legal Committee of National Advisors at the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention. He also served as the Co-Chair of the California District Attorneys Association Domestic Violence Committee. He regularly trains and writes on domestic violence issues, including his “Tip of the Week” for front-line professionals. We love his contributions to the [2020 Manual on the Investigation and Prosecution of Strangulation Cases](#), his [Five Myths about Strangulation](#), his [Duty To Warn](#) legislation, and his inspirations on [Facebook Live](#). Thank you Jerry for your dedication and commitment to public safety and crime victims. We also welcome you to our Family at the Institute. Your work is just beginning as we continue to seek hope and justice for families whose loved ones have been murdered and the crime scene staged to make it look like a suicide. Our “Justice Project” which is now going into its 5th year needs you.



Featured Resource

We salute you and all law enforcement professionals who continue to put their lives on the line to protect others; paramedics, nurses and doctors who provide the medical attention strangled victim need and order imaging to rule out life-threatening injuries; prosecutors who pursue justice despite the challenges; advocates who share their hearts with survivors and educate others; judges who are leading the way to make good case law and the courtroom accessible to victims through electronic filings and hearings; and probation officers who continue to assesses for dangerousness and monitor high risk offenders. Your work matters.

With Great HOPE,

Gael Strack, CEO, and Casey Gwinn, President

**Check out our
[Legislation Map](#) that
was expanded to
include tribal codes,**



US territories, and international law

FEBRUARY 2022 ADVANCED COURSE ON STRANGULATION PREVENTION



TRAINING INSTITUTE on STRANGULATION PREVENTION

FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25, & MARCH 4, 2022

Upcoming Trainings

- **January 31** – OVW Webinar 1: What We Learned in 2021. [Sign up here](#)
- **February 8** – OVW Webinar 2: The Need for Imaging, Imaging Recommendations, and Implementation
- **February 4, 11, 18, 25, and March 4** – Virtual Advanced Strangulation Course. [Sign up here](#)
- **March 8-11** – Clackamas Advanced Course – Sold out
- **March 22** – OVW Webinar 3: Investigating Pediatric Strangulation Cases
- **May 25-27** – FJC Annual Conference. [Sign up here](#)

Please visit our [Upcoming Trainings Page](#) for training contact/registration information

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