

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office



Informational Packet for Victims of Strangulation, Breathing/Blood Flow Restriction Event

Strangulation is a serious act of violence and should be reported to the police.

Victims of nonfatal strangulation are 750% more likely to be killed by their abuser.

A small amount of pressure on the neck can result in a loss of consciousness in 6.8 seconds and death can occur in as little as 62 seconds.

SAFETY AFTER STRANGULATION:

Get away IMMEDIATELY to a safe place and call for help.

Seek medical attention... IT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!!

After arriving to the hospital, tell the doctor or nurse you were strangled.

DO NOT stay alone for 48-72 hours after a strangulation to help monitor your symptoms.

The forensic nurse can help provide you with additional resources, support, and safety planning services.

If you experience worsening symptoms, contact emergency personnel immediately by calling 911.

For non-emergent questions about the BREATHE Team Program contact:

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office -
Victim Witness Unit
4997 Unami Boulevard
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
609-909-7860

The Victim Witness Unit is available to ensure domestic violence victims understand their rights and to help navigate the resources available to them.

Sarah McGaffney BSN, RN, CMSRN, FN-CSA
SART/FNE Program Coordinator
609-909-7976

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

AVANZAR

1-800-286-4184 or 609-646-6767
Text line 609-569-5437

24 hours a day 7 days a week

Atlantic County

B.R.E.A.T.H.E TEAM



Breathing/Blood flow
Restriction Event:
Advocacy, Treatment
Help and
Empowerment Team

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FORENSIC NURSE EXAMINER (FNE)?

Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNEs) are registered nurses that are specially educated to provide care to victims of domestic violence involving a strangulation or smothering. The FNE is part of the **BREATHE** Team.

THE FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAM

The FNE will conduct a comprehensive assessment consisting of a history of the event, and a physical examination. The FNE will also document and photograph any injuries and collect potential evidence.

EXAMS CAN BE PERFORMED

For any assault that has occurred within the last five days or where symptoms remain present.

Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for any victim who seeks assistance in Atlantic County, New Jersey, regardless of where they live or where the incident occurred.

TO ACTIVATE AN FNE:

- Contact or report to your local police department.
- Contact or report to the police department where the incident occurred.
- Contact Avanzar at 1-800-286-4184
- Go to one of the 4 hospitals' emergency departments listed below to have an exam performed:

AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center
Atlantic City

AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center
Galloway

AtlantiCare Emergency Department
Hammonton

Shore Medical Center
Somers Point

STRANGULATION

Strangulation is any pressure placed on a person's neck by any means during an assault. Smothering is the blocking of the nose or mouth causing the inability to properly intake air. Both may impede the normal breathing or circulation of a victim. This can occur in domestic violence or any assault incident.

SIGNS

- Red eyes
- Neck swelling
- Nausea
- vomiting
- Unsteady

SYMPTOMS

- Neck pain
- Jaw pain
- Scalp pain
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Vision changes
- Hearing changes
- Light headedness
- Headache
- Weakness or numbness to arms or legs
- Voice changes

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Since 1975, AVANZAR (formerly The Women's Center), has been fulfilling our mission of...

Empowering individuals and families by working to secure their physical safety, emotional well-being, individual freedom, and economic equality.

Following a vision to strive to be the premier social justice agency focused on equitable inclusiveness, we advance this work through our services and programs:

- Dismantling Racism
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Human Trafficking
- Displaced Homemaker Services
- Fatherhood Services
- Early Childhood Education



AVANZAR is an EO employer. Qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or protected veteran status.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

AVANZAR is always looking for interested, energetic and diverse members of the community to help us accomplish our goals. Here's what you can do:

Volunteer

Call: 609-601-9925 ext. 1029

Become an **AVANZAR** Crisis Volunteer and bring a friend!

Invite a Speaker

Call: 609-601-9925 ext. 1016

You can help disseminate information about our services and the vital issues they address by inviting a representative from **AVANZAR** to speak with your organization, group, club or school. Training programs and workshops can also be arranged.

Make Referrals

If you know someone who is in need of our services, encourage them to call. Help is always available and our services are always free and confidential.

24-hour Crisis Hotline:

800-286-4184 or 609-646-6767

Text Line: 609-569-5437

Contribute

As a non-profit organization, our success depends largely upon the financial support of our community.

- Monetary Contribution
- Stock and Charitable Trusts
- Life Insurance
- Retirement Plan Benefits

AVANZAR

SAFETY, JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT



24-Hour Crisis & Support Hotline:
800-286-4184 or 609-646-6767

Text Line: 609-569-5437

AVANZAR.ORG

Early Childhood Education

The Southern Region Technical Assistance Center (TAC)
Call: 609-601-9925 option 4

TAC is a partner in the Grow NJ Kids quality improvement system. The program provides a Specialist to help participating childcare programs reach their quality goals, enhance health and safety standards, implement early learning guidelines, and promote consumer education about quality.

Dismantling Racism

Call 609-601-9925 ext. 1016

AVANZAR is committed to equitable and inclusive treatment to our diverse staff and community. Diversity is our strength and we celebrate it by helping individuals of all ages, races, nationalities, cultures, spiritual practices, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender role. We pledge ourselves to creating and maintaining a safe environment that respects multiple traditions, heritages, and experiences. Our goal is to eliminate discrimination and oppression by becoming change agents and allies in the workplace and in the community.

Some of our Dismantling Racism activities, services, and initiatives include:

- Community Awareness Events
- New Jersey Domestic Violence Coalition for Communities of Color
- Workplace, Organizational, and Community Trainings
- Dramatic Presentation - "Things I Remember: A Conversation on Racism in the U.S."

Visit the [Dismantling Racism blog](#) on our website

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking

Working to reduce physical, psychological, and emotional trauma by offering the following free and confidential services:

24-Hour Crisis Hotline:

800-286-4184 or 609-646-6767

Text Line: 609-569-5437

- Emergency Shelter
- Counseling
- Advocacy
- Transitional Housing

24-Hour Crisis Response

- Human Trafficking Advocate Response
- Domestic Violence Response Team
- Sexual Assault Response Team
- Forensic Nurse Examiner

Prevention and Education

Call: 609-601-9925 ext. 1022

- Information and Referral Services
- Community Education and Training



Children's Services

Peace A Learned Solution (PALS)

Call: 609-601-9925 ext. 1012

- Creative Arts Therapy for children who have been impacted by domestic violence
- Counseling for the non-offending parent and family

Fatherhood Services

Call: 609-601-9925 ext. 1030 or 609-569-4501

Offering individual and group support to assist fathers in strengthening their role in the lives of their children through our Fatherhood Services Program, a 26-week series featuring:

- Conflict resolution skills
- Assistance reuniting with children
- Connecting fathers with community support
- Improved communication with co-parents

Displaced Homemaker &

Self Sufficiency Services

Call: 609-601-9925 ext. 1014

- Resume and Cover Letter Writing
- Career Counseling
- Computer Training
- Interview Coaching
- Job Search Assistance
- Life Skills Classes
- Professional Career Closet

AVANZAR

- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault - 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 1-800 286-4184 or 609-646-6787; Text: 609-569-5437
- PALS – Peace a Learned Solution: 609-601-9925 Ext. 1012
- Fatherhood Services: 609-601-9925 Ext. 1018
- Displaced Homemaker Program and Self Sufficiency Services: 609-601-9925, Ext. 1014
- Human Trafficking (Statewide Human Trafficking Services) 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 1 800- 286-4184 or 609-646-6767; Text: 609-569-5437
- Volunteer Program: 609-601-9925 Ext. 1025
- Community Education: 609-601-9925 Ext. 1016
- Statewide Social Services Information: Dial: 211; or Visit – <http://www.nj211.org>

STATE RESOURCES

- New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault – Phone: 609-631-4450 or Email: info@njcasa.org
- Crossroads Corporate Center, 3150 Brunswick Pike, Suite 300, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2420
- New Jersey Coalition for Ending Domestic Violence – 1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Sq. Road, Trenton, NJ. 08690, Phone: 609-584-8107
- New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking – 784 Morris Turnpike, Suite 111, Short Hills, 07078, Phone: 201-903-2111
- New Jersey Statewide Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline – 1-800-572-SAFE (7233)
- New Jersey Statewide Sexual Assault Hotline – 1 800-601-7200
- New Jersey Statewide Service Information – Dial 211

Services

- Advocacy
- General Case Management
- Intensive Family Support Services
- Out-Patient Mental Health
- ESL Classes
- Citizenship Classes
- After-School Tutoring
- Computer Skills/Job Training

Services Offered at Landisville Site

- After School Latch Key
- Emergency Food Pantry
- Latino Senior Assistance Program
- Case Management
- Advocacy

Services Offered to DCP&P (differs by county)

- Bilingual Case Management
- HIP- Home Intervention Program
- MFU- Maintaining Family Unity Program and Individual Counseling (Cumberland County Only)
- Parenting Education
- Translation Assistance

Locations

Administrative Office
303 Sumner Street
Landisville, NJ 08326
Phone: 856-697-2967
Fax: 856-697-0061

3900 Ventnor Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Phone: 609-345-1249

Hours of Operation

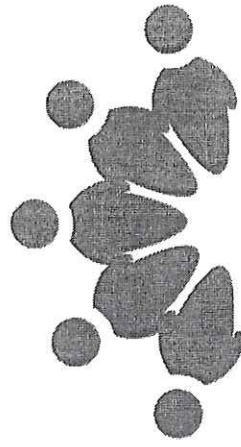
Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm
CLOSED FOR LUNCH (12:00 - 1:00pm)

Friday 8:30am - 12:00pm

Walk-ins Welcomed

For Partnerships and collaborations Please contact **Chief Executive Officer Victoria Martinez, MSW** at vmartinez@spanishcommunitycenter.org

<https://spanishcommunitycenter.org>



SPANISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Big enough to serve, small enough to care

Since 1970, the Spanish Community Center has continuously created partnerships that build upon community strengths and resources to provide quality, comprehensive, supportive services.

The Center's main goal is to create a comprehensive, coordinated and community based strategic approach to helping clients reach self-sufficiency.

Private, Not-for-profit, 501 (c)3 Organization



The Spanish Community Center is a private, not-for-profit, 501(c)3 community based organization. For over 50 years, the Center has continuously provided a multitude of quality services to its clientele. These services promote self-sufficiency and support client and family development through various educational, employment and human service programs.

OUR AGENCY'S GOAL IS TO EMPOWER CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

CALL US TODAY TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT! 856-697-2967

With compassion toward special needs, a commitment to our work, and a focus on community, the array of services offered by our dedicated staff are geared toward enhancing your *quality of life* and helping ensure that you achieve your desired outcomes in a measurable, maintainable and meaningful manner.



SHORE AHEC

(Area Health Education Center)

The Shore AHEC program is an affiliated program of Rowan University—School of Osteopathic Medicine and the Spanish Community Center. Our mission of the AHEC program is to improve the supply and distribution of health care professionals, with an emphasis on primary care through community/academic educational partnerships, to increase access to quality health care.

The AHEC program helps bring the resources of academic medicine to address local community health needs. The purpose of the AHEC program is to meet the needs of the communities they serve through community-academic partnerships, with a focus on exposure, education, and training of the current and future health care workforce. The AHECs employ traditional and innovative approaches to develop and train a diverse health care workforce prepared to deliver culturally appropriate, high-quality, team-based care, with an emphasis on primary care for rural and underserved communities.

For more information contact

Karina Ramirez, MSW,LSW—Director

kramirez@spanishcommunitycenter.org

Our Mission, Our Vision

The Spanish Community Center's mission and vision have been reviewed and revised as changes in the population being served as well as community resources have been observed. The Spanish Community Center holds a mission of service and advocacy for impoverished individuals and families, aiming toward breaking the cycle of poverty, keeping families united and aware of their heritage.

"Our mission is to create a coordinated and community based approach to assisting clients, effectively empowering underserved communities to achieve self-sufficiency."

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF STRANGULATION

NEUROLOGICAL

- Loss of memory
- Loss of consciousness
- Behavioral changes
- Loss of sensation
- Extremity weakness
- Difficulty speaking
- Fainting
- Urination
- Defecation
- Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Headaches

SCALP

- Petechiae
- Bald spots (*from hair being pulled*)
- Bump to the head (*from blunt force trauma or falling to the ground*)

EYES & EYELIDS

- Petechiae to eyeball
- Petechiae to eyelid
- Bloody red eyeball(s)
- Vision changes
- Droopy eyelid

EARS

- Ringing in ears
- Petechiae on earlobe(s)
- Bruising behind the ear
- Bleeding in the ear

FACE

- Petechiae (*tiny red spots-slightly red or florid*)
- Scratch marks
- Facial drooping
- Swelling

MOUTH

- Bruising
- Swollen tongue
- Swollen lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Internal Petechiae

CHEST

- Chest pain
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Bruising
- Abrasions

NECK

- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Bruising (*thumb or fingers*)
- Swelling
- Ligature Marks

VOICE & THROAT CHANGES

- Raspy or hoarse voice
- Unable to speak
- Trouble swallowing
- Painful to swallow
- Clearing the throat
- Coughing
- Nausea
- Drooling
- Sore throat
- Stridor

BREATHING CHANGES

- Difficulty breathing
- Respiratory distress
- Unable to breathe

Source: *Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence*, Chapter 16, *Intimate Partner Violence*. Oxford University Press, Inc. 2009.



www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com

Graphics by Yesenia Aceves

STRANGULATION ASSESSMENT CARD

v10.12.18

SIGNS

- Red eyes or spots (Petechiae)
- Neck swelling
- Nausea or vomiting
- Unsteady
- Loss or lapse of memory
- Urinated
- Defecated
- Possible loss of consciousness
- Ptosis – droopy eyelid
- Droopy face
- Seizure
- Tongue injury
- Lip injury
- Mental status changes
- Voice changes

SYMPTOMS

- Neck pain
- Jaw pain
- Scalp pain (from hair pulling)
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Vision changes (spots, tunnel vision, flashing lights)
- Hearing changes
- Light headedness
- Headache
- Weakness or numbness to arms or legs
- Voice changes

CHECKLIST

- S Scene & Safety.** Take in the scene. Make sure you and the victim are safe.
- T Trauma.** The victim is traumatized. Be kind. Ask: what do you remember? See? Feel? Hear? Think?
- R Reassure & Resources.** Reassure the victim that help is available and provide resources.
- A Assess.** Assess the victim for signs and symptoms of strangulation and TBI.
- N Notes.** Document your observations. Put victim statements in quotes.
- G Give.** Give the victim an advisal about delayed consequences.
- L Loss of Consciousness.** Victims may not remember. Lapse of memory? Change in location? Urination? Defecation?
- E Encourage.** Encourage medical attention or transport if life-threatening injuries exist.

TRANSPORT

If the victim is **Pregnant** or has life-threatening injuries which include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Petechial hemorrhage
- Vision changes
- Loss of consciousness
- Urinated
- Defecated

DELAYED CONSEQUENCES

Victims may look fine and say they are fine, but just underneath the skin there would be internal injury and/or delayed complications. Internal injury may take a few hours to be appreciated. The victim may develop delayed swelling, hematomas, vocal cord immobility, displaced laryngeal fractures, fractured hyoid bone, airway obstruction, stroke or even delayed death from a carotid dissection, blood clot, respiratory complications, or anoxic brain damage.

Taliatferro, E., Hawley, D., McClane, G.E. & Strack, G. (2009), Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence. *Intimate Partner Violence: A Health-Based Perspective*. Oxford University Press, Inc.

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ADVISAL TO PATIENT

- After a strangulation assault, you can experience internal injuries with a delayed onset of symptoms. These internal injuries can be serious or fatal.
- Stay with someone you trust for the first 24 hours and have them monitor your signs and symptoms.
- Seek medical attention or call 911 if you have any of the following symptoms: difficulty breathing, trouble swallowing, swelling to your neck, pain to your throat, hoarseness or voice changes, blurred vision, continuous or severe headaches, seizures, vomiting or persistent cough.
- The cost of your medical care may be covered by your state's victim compensation fund. An advocate can give you more information about this resource.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline number is **1-800-799-SAFE**.

NOTICE TO MEDICAL PROVIDER

- The Medical Advisory Board of the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention has developed recommendations for the radiologic evaluation of the adult strangulation victim. In patients with a history of a loss of consciousness, loss of bladder or bowel control, vision changes or petechial hemorrhage, medical providers should evaluate the carotid and vertebral arteries, bony/cartilaginous and soft tissue neck structures and the brain for injuries. A list of medical references is available at www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com
- Life-threatening injuries include evidence of petechial hemorrhage, loss of consciousness, urination, defecation and/or visual changes. If your patient exhibits any of the above symptoms, medical/radiographic evaluation is strongly recommended. Radiographic testing should include: a CT angiography of carotid/vertebral arteries (most sensitive and preferred study for vessel evaluation) or CT neck with contrast, or MRA/MRI of neck and brain. Strangled patients with arterial injuries can present with strokes months or years post-strangulation.
- ED/Hospital observation should be based on severity of symptoms and reliable home monitoring.
- Consult Neurology, Neurosurgery and/or Trauma Surgery for admission.
- Consider an ENT consult for laryngeal trauma with dysphonia, odynophagia, dyspnea.
- Discharge home with detailed instructions to return to ED if neurological signs/symptoms, dyspnea, dysphonia or odynophagia develops or worsens.



StrangulationTrainingInstitute.com

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF STRANGULATION

(VISIBLE SIGNS MAY NOT BE PRESENT)

NEUROLOGICAL

- Loss of memory
- Loss of consciousness
- Behavioral changes
- Loss of sensation
- Extremity weakness
- Difficulty speaking
- Fainting
- Urination
- Defecation
- Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Headaches

SCALP

- Petechiae (*tiny red spots*)
- Bald spots (*from hair being pulled*)
- Swelling on the head (*from blunt force trauma or falling to the ground*)

EYES & EYELIDS

- Petechiae to eyeball
- Petechiae to eyelid
- Bloody red eyeball(s)
- Vision changes
- Droopy eyelid

EARS

- Ringing in ears
- Petechiae on earlobe(s)
- Bruising behind the ear
- Bleeding in the ear

FACE

- Petechiae
- Scratch marks
- Facial drooping
- Swelling

MOUTH

- Bruising
- Swollen tongue
- Swollen lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Internal Petechiae

CHEST

- Chest pain
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Bruising
- Abrasions

NECK

- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Bruising (*thumb or fingers*)
- Swelling
- Ligature or Clothing Marks

VOICE & THROAT CHANGES

- Raspy or hoarse voice
- Unable to speak
- Trouble swallowing
- Painful to swallow
- Clearing the throat
- Coughing
- Nausea
- Drooling
- Sore throat
- Stridor

BREATHING CHANGES

- Difficulty breathing
- Respiratory distress
- Unable to breathe

Illustration & Graphics by Yesenia Aceves

Source: *Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence, Chapter 16, Intimate Partner Violence. Oxford University Press, Inc. 2009.*



Monitor Your SYMPTOMS

DATE/TIME	DESCRIBE SYMPTOMS

Monitor Your SIGNS

DATE/TIME	DESCRIBE SIGNS

DATE/TIME DESCRIBE ANY OTHER SENSATIONS

SYMPTOMS of Strangulation

VOICE CHANGES Raspy and/or hoarse voice, coughing, unable to speak, complete loss of voice.

SWALLOWING CHANGES Trouble swallowing, painful swallowing, neck pain, nausea/vomiting, drooling.

BREATHING CHANGES Difficulty breathing, hyperventilation, unable to breathe.

BEHAVIORAL CHANGES Restlessness or combativeness, problems concentrating, amnesia, agitation, Post-traumatic Stress Syndrome, hallucinations.

VISION CHANGES Complete loss or black & white vision, seeing 'stars', blurry, darkness, fuzzy around the eyes.

HEARING CHANGES Complete loss of hearing, gurgling, ringing, buzzing, popping, pressure, tunnel-like hearing.

OTHER CHANGES Memory loss, unconsciousness, dizziness, headaches, involuntary urination or defecation, loss of strength, going limp.

SIGNS of Strangulation

HEAD Pinpoint red spots (petechiae) on scalp, hair pulled, bump(s), skull fracture, concussion.

FACE Red or flushed, petechiae, scratch marks.

EYES AND EYELIDS Petechiae to the left or right eyeball, bloodshot eyes.

EAR Petechiae (external and/or ear canal), bleeding from ear canal.

NOSE Bloody nose, broken nose, petechiae.

MOUTH Bruising, swollen tongue, swollen lips, cuts/abrasions.

UNDER THE CHIN Redness, scratch marks, bruise(s), abrasions.

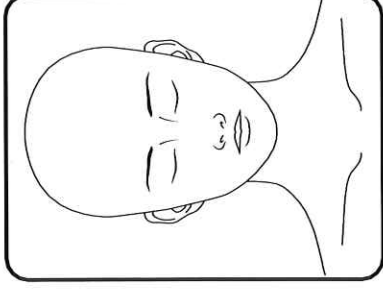
NECK Redness, scratch marks, fingernail impressions, bruise(s), abrasions, swelling, ligature marks.

CHEST AND SHOULDERS Redness, scratch marks, bruise(s), abrasions.

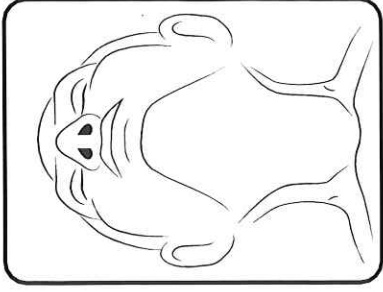
Mark Visible Injuries

Use a pen or marker to indicate any visible signs of strangulation in the diagrams below:

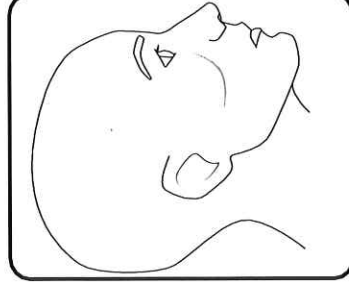
FRONT



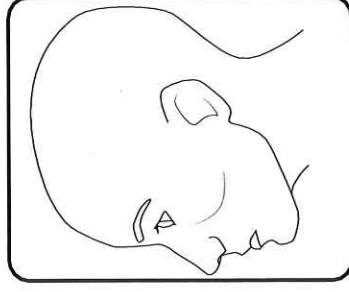
UNDER CHIN



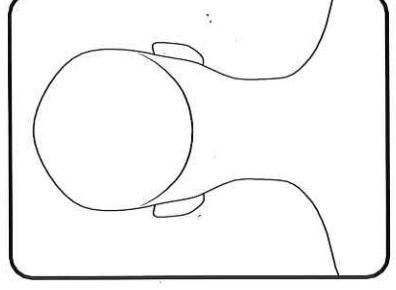
RIGHT SIDE



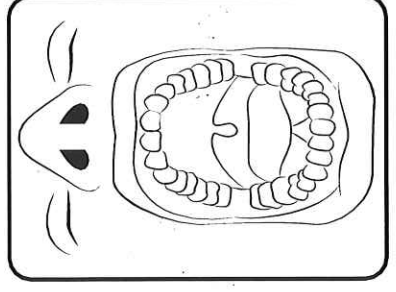
LEFT SIDE



BACK



INSIDE MOUTH



Atlantic County Forensic Nurse Examiner Program
Strangulation and Smothering Evaluation
Aftercare Instructions

Serious health complications can happen right away or may develop a few days after a strangulation or smothering event. You have reported being “choked”, “strangled” or “smothered” so we are providing you with the following important aftercare instructions:

Make sure someone stays with you for the next 24–72 hours. It is important that someone check on you every 2-4 hours for at least 2 days after the incident.

You should call 911 or report immediately to the nearest emergency department if you notice:

- Difficulty breathing
- Persistent cough or coughing up blood
- Loss of consciousness or “passing out”
- Changes in your voice, difficulty speaking, or understanding speech
- Difficulty swallowing, feelings of a lump in your throat or a muscle spasm in your neck or throat
- Swelling to your throat, neck, or tongue
- Increasing neck pain
- Left or right sided weakness, numbness or tingling
- Drooping eyelid
- Difficulty walking
- Headache not relieved by pain medication
- Dizziness, lightheadedness or changes in vision
- Pinpoint red or purple dots on your face or neck
- Burst blood vessels in your eyes
- Seizures
- Behavioral changes, memory loss, or confusion
- If you are having thoughts of harming yourself or others

If you are **pregnant**, it is important to talk to your doctor about the incident right away and to **report any of the following symptoms immediately:**

- Decreased movement of the baby
- Vaginal spotting or bleeding
- Abdominal pain
- Contractions

Keep a log of any changes in symptoms for your physician and law enforcement contact. **If symptoms worsen, report to your physician or nearest ER.** You should follow-up with your law enforcement contact regarding documentation of symptoms changes.

It is very important to follow up with your healthcare provider within 1-2 weeks for follow up medical screening. Make sure to bring your discharge instructions with you.

For counseling services, you can contact AVANZAR’s 24 hour confidential hotline at:

1-800-286-4184 • TEXT: 609-569-5437 • 1-609-646-6767

If you have questions regarding anything to do with your legal case you should contact the police department involved and/ or the Prosecutor’s Office **Victim Witness Advocacy Unit** at 609-909-7860.



Addiction Help. Always Here. Always Live.

Get immediate help from trained addiction counselors,
24 hours a day, 7 days a week,
regardless of insurance status.



ReachNJ.gov 1-844-ReachNJ

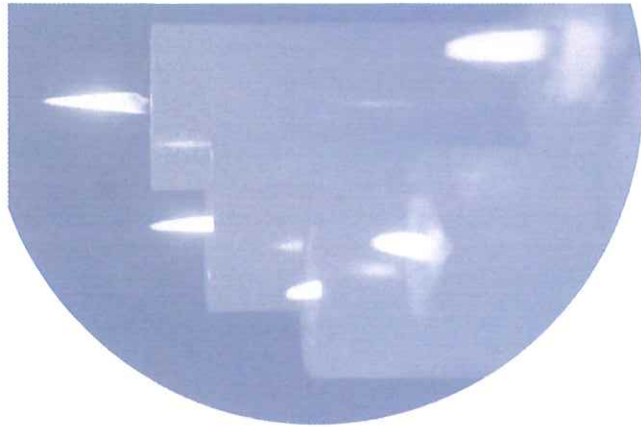
1-844-732-2465



NJ Department of Human Services



Phil Murphy, Governor | Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor | Sarah Adelman, Commissioner



We help put the pieces back together



our mission

The New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) reimburses certain victims of crime for some of the expenses they suffer as a result of a crime. The VCCO is mindful of the special needs of victims and their right to be treated with fairness, compassion and respect.

eligible crimes

This is a list of the types of crimes that may qualify. Certain conditions may apply. For more information, please contact the VCCO:

- Assault
- Arson
- Bias crime
- Burglary*
- Disorderly conduct offenses
- Domestic violence
- Human trafficking
- Indecent acts with children
- Kidnapping
- Lewd, indecent or obscene acts
- Manslaughter
- Motor vehicle offenses
- Murder
- Robbery
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- Threats to do bodily harm

*Must be in structure during burglary.

caring
support
dignity
help
respect

effective.8.1.20



NEW JERSEY
VICTIMS OF CRIME
COMPENSATION OFFICE

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
50 Park Place • 5th Floor • Newark, NJ 07102



conditions

- The crime must have occurred in New Jersey or to a New Jersey resident
- The victim must have reported the crime to police
- The victim should cooperate with the investigation and prosecution of the crime, if reasonable
- The claim must be filed within 5 years of the date of the crime in most cases

effective.8.1.20

apply online at...

www.njvictims.org

Toll Free 877-658-2221

If I qualify, what can the VCCO pay?

- Expenses that may be eligible for reimbursement include:
- Hospital, physician and medical expenses
 - Mental health counseling expenses up to \$20,000
 - Loss of earnings up to \$600 per week
 - Temporary disability, not to exceed 24 months
 - Permanent disability, maximum 60 months
 - Loss of earning for dependants or family members
 - Bereavement, maximum two weeks
 - Loss of wages due to court attendance
 - Loss of financial support up to \$600 per week, maximum 48 months
 - Funeral expenses maximum \$7,500
 - Attorney fees:
 - Victims' rights attorney fees up to \$275 per hour, maximum \$10,000
 - Representation with the VCCO claim up to 15% of award at \$275 per hour
 - Relocation expenses up to \$3,000
 - Crime scene clean up to \$4,000
 - Child care/day care/domestic help services up to \$6,500

The VCCO is a payer of last resort

- Victims must first utilize and exhaust other resources including State benefits and insurance.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Crime Victims' Compensation?

The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) reimburses victims of a crime for some of the expenses they incur as a result of a crime.

Do all crime victims get paid?

Not always. The law sets forth the types of crimes that can be covered by the VCCO. Further, if victims participated in the crime or contributed to their injuries, they may be denied compensation.

Who is eligible to file?

- Victims may file their own applications.
- Family members, and dependents of victims or the estate of the victims
- A person who paid for some of the services for the victim
- The guardian, guardian ad litem, estate representative, authorized agent of the victim or the victim's dependents

Can the VCCO reimburse me directly for expenses?

Yes. Victims or claimants can be reimbursed for some expenses.

Can I still file a claim if the suspect has not been arrested or if the accused is acquitted at trial?

Yes. Compensation may be made whether or not a person is prosecuted or found guilty.

Can the VCCO pay providers directly?

Yes. Once a claim is approved, payment can be made directly to providers.

I have received additional bills that were not considered in my initial award. Can I still submit them?

Yes. Crime related bills can be considered for additional reimbursement after the initial payment award has been made.

How do I apply?

Complete the online VCCO claim form at www.njvictims.org. Include police reports and any documentation showing financial loss or need if possible. Once an application is received, a claims specialist will contact you.

Applications are also available from any of the 21 County Prosecutors' Offices through their Victim Witness Coordinators.

For more information or for a claim application, please contact us by phone, mail, fax, or visit our web site.

NJ Office of the Attorney General
Victims of Crime Compensation Office
50 Park Place, 5th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Walk-in Clients: Please visit our web site, or call our toll free number for details.

Toll Free: 877-658-2221

Phone: 973-648-2107

Fax: 973-648-3937

Web site: www.njvictims.org



NJ OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
VICTIMS OF CRIME COMPENSATION OFFICE
www.njvictims.org • Toll Free 877-658-2221

We help put the pieces back together

New Jersey Judiciary

Temporary Restraining Order Process



See “CN 12968 - What is Domestic Violence?” if you need help knowing if you qualify for a domestic violence restraining order.

How Does Someone Apply for a Restraining Order at the Local Police Department?

The police officer will interview the person applying and complete a domestic violence civil complaint for a restraining order. The person applying is known as the plaintiff in the case. The defendant is the person who is alleged to have committed the act of domestic violence. The police officer will contact a municipal court judge for a telephone hearing, which is recorded. The judge will question the plaintiff about the current and prior domestic violence events. The plaintiff should let the judge know if the defendant has access to any firearms. The judge will enter a decision to either grant or deny the request for a restraining order. This hearing is held without the defendant.

What Happens After the Municipal Court Judge Issues a Decision?

If the judge **grants** the application, the judge will sign a temporary restraining order (TRO). The plaintiff will receive a copy of the order and date for a final restraining order (FRO) hearing, which will take place in 10 days. The defendant will be served with the TRO and the FRO hearing date by the local police department. The plaintiff and defendant must appear on the scheduled day of the final hearing.

If the judge **denies** application for a restraining order, a request can be made for an immediate review of the TRO denial with a Superior Court judge. The Superior Court judge will conduct a hearing on the TRO complaint by telephone and decide to grant or deny the TRO request. If the judge denies the request for the TRO, an appeal of the denial can be filed in the Appellate Division.

How Does Someone Apply for a Restraining Order in the Superior Court?

A domestic violence staff member in the family division will interview the plaintiff and ask specific questions about the incident that has brought them to the court and about past incidents of domestic violence. After the interview, there will be a hearing with a domestic violence hearing officer or judge. This hearing is held without the defendant. The plaintiff should let the judge know if the defendant has access to any firearms.

If the judge **grants** the application, the judge will sign a temporary restraining order (TRO). The plaintiff will receive a copy of the order and date for a final restraining order (FRO) hearing, which will take place in 10 days. The defendant will be served with the TRO and the FRO hearing date by the local police department. The plaintiff and defendant must appear on the scheduled day of the final hearing.

If a domestic violence hearing officer conducts the hearing and does not recommend the TRO, the plaintiff can request to have the matter heard before a Superior Court judge that same day. If the judge denies the request for the TRO, an appeal of the denial can be filed in the Appellate Division.

Can a TRO be Changed?

The TRO application can be changed prior to the final restraining order hearing. If the plaintiff wants to change the application for the following reasons, they can complete the required forms and no new hearing is required:

- Add more information about the incident that led the plaintiff to file a complaint for a restraining order.
- The defendant violated the restraining order and/or committed additional acts of domestic violence and the plaintiff wants to add the new acts to the complaint.
- Add more information about prior history of domestic violence between the plaintiff and the defendant that was not on the original complaint.
- Add the names of the children that the plaintiff and the defendant have in common that were not included on the original domestic violence complaint that was filed in this matter.

If the plaintiff wants to change the application and/or the TRO for other reasons than listed above, such as to seek additional relief for visitation or financial support, call the family division office in the county where the restraining order was issued for additional instructions.

What Does the Defendant Do Once Served with a TRO?

Once a TRO is granted by a Superior Court or Municipal court judge, a final restraining order hearing is scheduled. The hearing date will be on the order. The defendant **must** attend the court hearing. The defendant has the right to bring an attorney; the court cannot provide an attorney. Failure to appear at the hearing could result in the court entering an FRO against the defendant.

The defendant should be aware that any violation of any of the conditions listed in the TRO could be either a civil or criminal contempt and could result in an arrest, prosecution, and possible incarceration. It is important that the defendant abide by the conditions of the order.

If the defendant wants to appeal the TRO, an Application for Appeal and Order can be filed in the county where the TRO was entered by the court. [Application for Appeal and Order \(njcourts.gov\)](https://www.njcourts.gov)

See the brochure “Final Restraining Order Process” (CN 12970) for more information.

**County Phone Numbers
Temporary Restraining Orders**

Atlantic	609-402-0100 x47580
Bergen	201-221-0700 x25185
Burlington	609-288-9500 x38834
Cape May	609-402-0100 x47710
Camden	856-650-9011 x59088
Cumberland	856-878-5050 x15640
Essex	973-776-9300 x57210
Gloucester	856-878-5050 x15520
Hudson	201-748-4400 x60830 201-748-4400 x60810
Hunterdon	908-824-9750 x13850
Mercer	609-571-4200 x74402
Middlesex	732-645-4300 x88560
Monmouth	732-358-8700 x87211 732-358-8700 x87160
Morris	862-397-5700 x75250
Ocean	732-504-0700 x64608
Passaic	973-653-2910 x24624
Salem	856-878-5050 x15881
Somerset	908-332-7700 x13840
Sussex	862-397-5700 x75184
Union	English: 908-787-1650 x21710 Spanish: 908-787-1650 x21720
Warren	908-332-7700 x13940

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS AND WITNESSES THROUGH THE

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF

- Case Status Notification
- Counseling Referrals
- HIV testing of defendants in sexual assault cases
- Crisis Counseling
- Social Service Referrals
- Child Care Assistance
- Criminal Justice Orientation
- Emergency Assistance
- Assistance with the Victims of Crime Compensation Office
- Victim-Impact Statement assistance
- Court Accompaniment
- Victim Witness waiting area

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR CASE?

Please contact the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, Office of Victim Witness Advocacy if you have questions about your case at (609) 909-7860.

SERVICE AGENCIES AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

Counseling

AtlantiCare Behavioral Health
609-646-9159 or 888-569-1000
www.atlanticare.org

AVANZAR

1-800-286-4184 (24 hour toll-free hotline)
https://avanzarnow.org

Center for Family Services

877-922-2377
www.centerffs.org

The Alcoeve Center for Grieving

Children and Families
609-484-1133
www.thealcove.org

Jewish Family Service

The Specialty Center for Youth Interventions
609-822-1108
www.jfsatlantic.org

Crisis Intervention

Psychiatric Intervention Program
609-344-1118 (24 hour line)

Adult Intervention Services

1-866-750-6612

NJ Children's System of Care,

PerformCare

1-877-652-7624

Economic Assistance

Victims of Crime Compensation Office

1-800-242-0208

www.nj.gov/oag/njvictims

Legal Assistance

South Jersey Legal Services
(609) 348-4200

DIRECTIONS TO THE COURTHOUSE

CRIMINAL COURTS COMPLEX

4997 Unami Boulevard
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Parking is free.

DIRECTIONS FROM ATLANTIC CITY

Take the Atlantic City Expressway West to Exit 12. After the toll booth, turn left at traffic light on Wrangleboro Road. Immediately merge into right lane. Continue in right lane and follow signs for Route 40/322 West. After the traffic light at the Hamilton Mall, take the jug handle to Route 40 West.

At the fourth traffic light on Route 40, make a left onto 32nd Avenue. At stop sign, turn left onto Atlantic Avenue. Follow to stop sign and turn right onto Babcock Road. Follow road to Wabun Blvd and make a right. The courthouse is at the end of Wabun Blvd.

DIRECTIONS FROM PHILADELPHIA

Take the Atlantic City Expressway East to Exit 17, which is immediately on your right after the Egg Harbor Toll Plaza. Make a right off the ramp onto Route 50 South. Follow Route 50 to the intersection with Route 40 East (Main Street) in Mays Landing. Make a left onto Route 40 East.

Follow Route 40 to light at 32nd Avenue and make a right onto 32nd Avenue. At stop sign, turn left onto Atlantic Avenue. Follow road to Babcock Avenue and make a right. Proceed on Wabun Avenue. The courthouse is at the end of Wabun

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S VICTIM-WITNESS ASSISTANCE GUIDE

**WILLIAM E. REYNOLDS
ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROSECUTOR

The most important part of the criminal justice system is the victim of, or witness, to a crime.

Often victims and witnesses are overwhelmed by the trauma they have undergone and frequently this ordeal is aggravated by a complicated and confusing criminal justice process.

Recognizing that victims of crime have suffered physically, financially, and emotionally, the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy provides services that include counseling referrals, Victims of Crime Compensation Office assistance, case information and court accompaniment.

The goal of the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy is to ensure victims and witnesses are treated with compassion, dignity, and respect, and to minimize any inconveniences of the criminal justice system.

Victims and witnesses of crime are absolutely essential to the administration of justice. Their participation in the criminal justice system is critical. They are the means by which the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office can successfully bring criminal defendants to justice.

William E. Reynolds
ATLANTIC COUNTY
PROSECUTOR

NEW JERSEY CRIME VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS

- To be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system.
- To be informed about the criminal justice process.
- To be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse by any person including the defendant or any other person acting in support of or on behalf of the defendant, due to the involvement of the victim or witness in the criminal justice process.
- To have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized.
- To make at least one telephone call provided the call is reasonable in length and location.
- To medical assistance reasonably related to the incident.
- To be notified in a timely manner, if practicable, if presence in court is not needed or if any scheduled court proceeding has been adjourned or cancelled.
- To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services.
- To be compensated for loss sustained by the victim whenever possible.
- To be provided a secure, but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings.
- To be advised of case progress and final disposition and to confer with the prosecutor's representative so that the victim may be kept adequately informed.
- To the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence.
- To submit a written statement, within a reasonable amount of time, about the impact of the crime to a representative of the prosecuting agency which shall be considered prior to the prosecutor's final decision concerning whether formal criminal charges will be filed, whether the prosecutor will consent to a request by the defendant to enter into a pre-trial program, and whether the prosecutor will make or agree to a negotiated plea.
- To make, prior to sentencing, an in-person statement directly to the sentencing court.
- To have the opportunity to consult with the prosecuting authority prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations, and to have the prosecutor advise the court of the consultation and

• To be present at any judicial proceeding involving a crime or any juvenile proceeding involving a criminal offense except as otherwise provided by Article I, paragraph 22 of the New Jersey Constitution.

• To be notified of any release or escape of the defendant.

• To appear in any court before which a proceeding implicating the rights of the victim is being held, with standing to file a motion or present argument on a motion filed to enforce any right conferred herein or by Article I, paragraph 22 of the New Jersey Constitution, and to receive an adjudicative decision by the court on any such motion.

• A victim's survivor may, at the time of making the in-person statement to the sentencing court authorized by subsection. n. section 3 of P.L. 1985, c.249 (C.52:4B-36), display directly to the sentencing court a photograph of the victim taken before the homicide including, but not limited to, a still photograph, a computer generated presentation, or a video presentation of the victim. The time, length and content of such presentation shall be within the sound discretion of the sentencing judge.

• A victim's survivor may, during any judicial proceeding involving the defendant, wear a button not exceeding four inches in diameter that contains a picture of the victim, if the court determines that the wearing of such button will not deprive the defendant of his right to a fair trial under the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I of the New Jersey Constitution. Other spectators at such judicial proceedings may also wear similar buttons if the court so determines. If the victim's survivor seeks to wear the button at trial, the victim's survivor shall give notice to the defendant and to the court no less than 30 days prior to the final trial date.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The New Jersey State Constitution includes

IF YOU ARE HARASSED, INTIMIDATED OR THREAT- ENED BECAUSE YOU ARE A VICTIM OR A WITNESS:

Immediately contact the local police by calling 911. Explain to the police that you are the victim of a crime and how you have been harassed, threatened or intimidated and by whom.

Call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at (609)909-7800 and ask to speak to the assistant prosecutor or detective assigned to your case. If neither is available, ask to be transferred to the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy or hang up and call (609)909-7860.

Your personal safety is important to the Atlantic County Prosecutor and his staff. If the situation is serious and you believe it to be life threatening, consider staying with a friend until you feel secure. Also, you may want to consider varying your daily routine to make it less predictable.

Call your local police and ask to speak to the crime prevention officer for more information about personal safety.

To find out if a defendant in your case is in custody at the Atlantic County Jail, please call the computer operated VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday) system at 1-877-846-3465 (877-VINE-4-NJ). This toll-free number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You must be able to provide the defendant's name during the call. You may also access information about the VINE system and the custody status of a de-

The Criminal Case Process

