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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 22, 2018

**KCSDV Brings Strangulation Training to State After Bill Passes Into Kansas Law**

Topeka, Kan. – The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is holding a multidisciplinary [training](#) on strangulation in Topeka on April 10, 2018. The training comes to Kansas after the Kansas legislature increased strangulation in domestic relationships to a felony last legislative session.

Strangulation has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence and sexual assault: unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes.

Non-fatal strangulation is a risk factor for homicide of women, underscoring the need of non-fatal strangulation screening when assessing abused women in emergency situations. A [study](#) published in the October 2008 Journal of Emergency Medicine found non-fatal strangulation was reported in 45 percent of attempted homicides and 43 percent of homicides of women. Prior non-fatal strangulation was associated with over six times the likelihood of attempted homicide and over seven times the likelihood of homicide.

“Strangulation is about power and control,” said Joyce Grover, executive director of KCSDV. “The abuser is telling the victim, ‘I can kill you.’”

KCSDV’s training will include:

- medical aspects of strangulation
- investigating and prosecuting strangulation cases
- practical tips for all professionals handling strangulation cases
- developing and using experts in strangulation cases in court



Gael Strack, Esq.



Dr. Bill Smock

Presenters Gael Strack, former San Diego prosecutor and chief executive officer of Alliance for HOPE International (Alliance), and Dr. Bill Smock, medical director of The Institute of Clinical Forensic Medicine and Nursing and police surgeon at the Louisville Metro Police Department, are both internationally recognized experts on strangulation.

Strack was involved in much of the initial work and research on strangulation in domestic violence-related homicides and oversees a training program of Alliance developed in response to the increasing demand from communities around the world for intimate partner violence strangulation crimes training and expert consulting, planning, and support services advice.

Smock became the first physician in the U.S. to complete a post-graduate fellowship in clinical forensic medicine in 1994. He is a professor of the University of Louisville’s Department of Emergency Medicine.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas is cosponsoring the daylong training, which precedes the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Crime Victims’ Rights Conference by the Kansas Governor’s Office and Kansas Attorney General’s Office.

To register for the training by April 3, visit KCSDV’s website at <http://kcsdv.org/train>.

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The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is Kansas’ leading statewide voice for victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence. KCSDV works with 27 coalition member programs and with partners across the state of Kansas to prevent and eliminate sexual and domestic violence, including dating violence and stalking. Find more information on KCSDV’s website at <http://kcsdv.org>. Contact KCSDV by email at [coalition@kcsdv.org](mailto:coalition@kcsdv.org) and by phone at 785-232-9784. The 24-hour Kansas Crisis Hotline is 888-END-ABUSE (888-363-2287).



## **HIDDEN DANGER: ADDRESSING NON-FATAL STRANGULATION**

GUEST PRESENTERS

**Gael Strack, Esq. and Dr. Bill Smock, MD, MS, FACEP, FAAEM**

This is a multimedia presentation given by a former domestic violence prosecutor and director of the National Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention and by a police surgeon and the medical director of The Institute of Clinical Forensic Medicine and Nursing. The training will cover:

- medical aspects of strangulation in surviving and non-surviving victims
- legal aspects of investigating and prosecuting attempted strangulation cases
- practical tips for all professionals handling strangulation cases
- how to develop & use experts in non-fatal strangulation cases in court

**April 10, 2018**

**8:30-5 p.m.**

**Capitol Plaza Hotel  
and Convention Center  
1717 SW Topeka Blvd  
Topeka, Kansas**

**REGISTER BY MARCH 23: \$100.00**

**REGISTER AFTER MARCH 23: \$125.00**

**Lunch and snacks provided.**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 3**

**7.5 CNEs & 7.5 CLEs APPROVED**

**Register: [www.grants.ks.gov/cvrc](http://www.grants.ks.gov/cvrc)**

### **ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:**



**Gael B. Strack** is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Alliance for HOPE International. Programs of the Alliance include: National Family Justice Center Alliance, Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, Camp HOPE America, Justice Legal Network and VOICES Survivor Network. Gael has also co-authored a series of strangulation articles and five books with Casey Gwinn, JD, on the Family Justice Center movement.

**Dr. Bill Smock** is the Police Surgeon and directs the Clinical Forensic Medicine Program for the Louisville Metro Police Department. He is an internationally recognized forensic expert and trains nurses, physicians, law enforcement officers and attorneys in multiple fields including: officer-involved shootings, strangulation, gunshot wounds, injury mechanisms and motor vehicle trauma.



*Learn more about these presenters at: [2018 CVRC Preconference Presenters](#)*

### **QUESTIONS:**

Shelly Newman, KCSDV Statewide Training Coordinator & Trainer, [snewman@kcsdv.org](mailto:snewman@kcsdv.org)

### **CO-SPONSORS:**



# 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](http://www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com)

Graphics by Yesenia Aceves