

****Below is an example of a card laminated front and back available to law enforcement officers in Alaska to be used as an interview tool during investigations.**

Strangulation Questions

1. How was the victim strangled (one or two hands, right or left hand, forearm or object)? If ligature, what was it and where did suspect obtain it?
2. How many times during the incident was the victim strangled? Describe in detail each incident.
3. Was the victim also shaken?
4. Was the victim's head pounded against anything?
5. Did the suspect say anything while strangling the victim?
6. What did the victim think was going to happen? (For example, "I thought he was finally going to kill me.")
7. What did the victim say to the suspect? (For example, "Stop it! Let go! I can't breathe.")
8. How long did the strangulation last?
9. On a scale of 1-10 how much pressure did the suspect apply and how much did it hurt?
10. How or why did it stop (arrival of police, intervention of witness or victim passed out)?
11. How did the victim feel (faint, dizzy, difficulty hearing or lose consciousness)?
12. Did the victim have: a raspy voice, difficulty breathing, complaints of pain to throat or neck, coughing or trouble swallowing?
13. Did the victim vomit, urinate or defecate as a result of being strangled?
14. Did the victim attempt to defend herself? (Describe)
15. What was the suspect's demeanor?
16. Does the victim have any injuries (petechiae, bruising, lacerations, abrasions, etc.)?
17. Did the suspect force the victim to have sex?

Remember

1. Document any prior incidences of strangulation.
2. Contact EMS and encourage victim to seek medical attention.
3. Obtain medical release.
4. Photograph and document all visible injuries (however minor) and/or areas in which victim/suspect complains of pain.
5. Locate and seize object used and determine if brought to the scene by the suspect.
6. If the victim is wearing make-up, take photos with make-up on and then photos after having victim remove make-up.
7. Take follow-up photographs of the victim's injuries.

Source: Gail B. Strack, J.D. and George McClane, M.D.

Lethality Questions

If victim answers yes to any of the following questions, you should elicit as much information from the victim as possible including dates, witnesses and a detailed account of the event(s). Threats made by suspect should be placed in “quotes.”

During the course of your relationship has your partner: (Partner refers to any of the “household” relationships defined in AS 18.66.990).

1. Become increasingly violent, brutal or dangerous to you?
2. Caused injuries to you that required medical attention?
3. Strangled (“choked”) or suffocated you?
4. Threatened to kill you or any of your family members?
5. Threatened or attempted to commit suicide?
6. Forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
7. Threatened you with a weapon (gun, knife, object, etc.)?
8. Assaulted you while you were pregnant?
9. Harmed or threatened to harm any of your children?
10. Violated a DVPO (Restraining or Protective Order)?
11. Threatened you when you sought or attempted to seek help from the police or the courts?
12. Threatened you or forced you not to cooperate with police, the prosecution or the courts?
13. Made any threats toward police?

14. Does your Partner own a gun or have access to a gun?
15. Do you think your partner may seriously injure or kill you? If yes, why and if no, why not?
16. Is your partner violently jealous about you? Does your partner say, “If I can’t have you, no one can?”
17. Does your partner control most of your daily activities?
18. Does your partner tell you whom you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can spend or when you can take the car?
19. Does your partner follow or spy on you (stalking)?
20. Does your partner ever use drugs? Is your partner drunk every day or almost every day?
21. Have you separated or tried to separate from your partner in the past year?
22. Do you feel isolated from sources of help (family, friends, car, phone, etc.)?

Source: Jacquelyn Campbell Ph.D., R.N.