



**Strangulation
is NEVER
ok.**

Strangulation can kill.

Report it to local law enforcement
and get medical assistance
immediately.

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-7233

FACTS ABOUT STRANGULATION

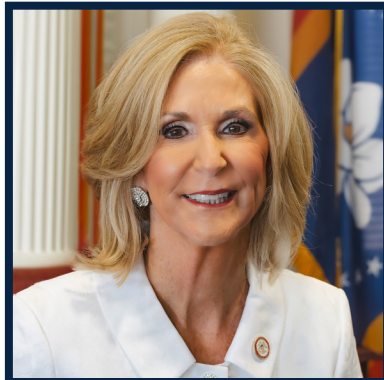
It is widely acknowledged that the occurrence of strangulation is under reported. However, strangulation has been recognized as one of the more serious and lethal forms of domestic violence. Statistics show that:

- Strangulation can result in loss of consciousness within about 10 seconds and death within 4 - 5 minutes.
- 1 in 4 women experience intimate partner violence (IPV).
- 68% of women who suffer IPV will suffer near-fatal strangulation.
- Women are 13 times more likely than men to experience this type of assault.
- Strangulation often leaves no marks or any other external evidence on the skin.

For more information, contact:
**Office of the Attorney General
Bureau of Victim Assistance**
P.O. Box 220
Jackson, MS 39205
(601)359-6766 | (800)-829-6766
AttorneyGeneralLynnFitch.com



Lynn Fitch
ATTORNEY GENERAL



STRANGULATION:

THE SILENT KILLER

Strangulation is a crime. Know
what to look for and how to help.

What is strangulation?

Under Mississippi law, to “strangle” means to restrict the flow of oxygen or blood by intentionally applying pressure on the neck, throat or chest of another person by any means or to intentionally block the nose or mouth of another person by any means.

Under Mississippi State law, strangulation or attempted strangulation is the felony of aggravated domestic violence if committed against:

- A current or former spouse of the defendant or a child of that person,
- A person living as a spouse or who formerly lived as a spouse with the defendant or a child of that person,
- A parent, grandparent, child, grandchild or someone similarly situated to the defendant,
- A person who has a current or former dating relationship with the defendant, or
- A person with whom the defendant has had a biological or legally adopted child.

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-3-7(4)


Strangulation is a tactic often used by abusers in domestic relationships and is a **SILENT KILLER**.

Manual strangulation:

The perpetrator uses a part of his or her body to apply pressure to the victim’s neck, throat, or chest.

Ligature strangulation:

An object such as a cord or rope is used to block air flow.



Both methods are extremely dangerous and can lead to permanent health problems or death. When force is applied to the throat or neck, the airway, carotid arteries and jugular veins are blocked off, leaving the victim at risk of death or brain damage.



Dangerous effects of strangulation

Even when strangulation lasts for only a few seconds, the health repercussions can be devastating. A victim is unable to breathe, may see “stars,” and eventually loses consciousness as blood and oxygen supplies to the brain are impeded. The cartilage and bones in the throat can break or collapse instantly under the pressure. The victim is at a high risk of dying within hours or days if these structures are damaged.

Dangerous effects of strangulation include:

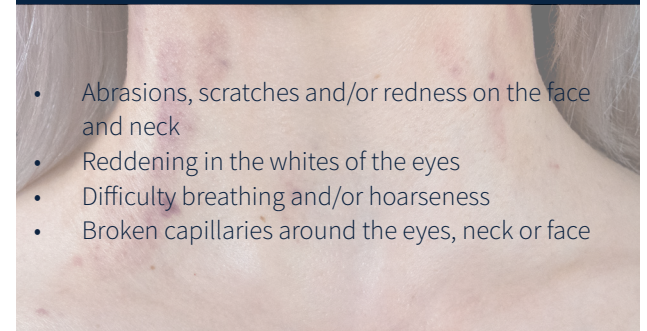
- Brain damage
- Severe pain in the neck and shoulder area
- Seizures, psychosis and amnesia
- Hoarseness, voice changes or the inability to speak
- Sore throat and/or difficulty swallowing
- Miscarriage
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Involuntary urination or defecation
- Restlessness, agitation or aggression
- Dizziness, headache, vomiting
- Loss of consciousness
- Death

NOTE: Strangulation does not always result in visible injuries!

How to recognize strangulation:

A person who has been strangled may indicate that they have been “choked.” While strangulation and choking are often used interchangeably, they are completely different things. Choking refers to the accidental blockage of the windpipe caused by an object, such as food. Strangulation is the restriction of the flow of blood or oxygen through an intentional act.

Injuries and/or bruising may not be visible for days, if at all. It is not uncommon for strangulation injuries to be internal and detectable only through a medical examination. The absence of external injuries does not reduce the lethality. However, you may notice:



- Abrasions, scratches and/or redness on the face and neck
- Reddening in the whites of the eyes
- Difficulty breathing and/or hoarseness
- Broken capillaries around the eyes, neck or face



If you notice visible signs or recognize any of the symptoms in someone you believe has been strangled, encourage them to seek medical attention immediately.



Remember, a victim of strangulation may not be thinking clearly and may require help in seeking treatment. Be their voice during this time of crisis. Immediate medical attention can save a life.