



SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING BULLETIN

TO: ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

FROM: Edgardo Garcia
Chief of Police

**SUBJECT: SANTA CLARA COUNTY IPV
STRANGULATION PILOT PROGRAM**

DATE: July 13, 2020

BULLETIN #2020-014

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE STRANGULATION PILOT PROGRAM

Over the last decade, new research and training on injuries from intimate partner violence (IPV) strangulation, the effects of strangulation, and the linkages between strangulation and the risks of homicide have changed the way strangulation cases are investigated and prosecuted.

In IPV strangulation cases, where no disclosure of sexual assault is made and the injuries are largely internal to the head and neck, forensic medical examinations are not being conducted. Victims are not getting the urgent medical attention needed, and crucial evidence of strangulation is not collected and cannot be presented in court.

The Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Team has developed new strangulation exam guidelines and training to improve healthcare response and support for use in any medical exam involving strangulation. Victim services agencies like the YWCA, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence, Community Solutions, MAITRI and AACI, as well as the DA's Office's Victim Services Unit have trained their teams and worked with victims in order to obtain appropriate services. Lethality assessments conducted by police at the scene of domestic violence crimes, now ask victims about their history of strangulation.

The Department recognizes the seriousness of IPV strangulation incidents and will be participating in a pilot program to assist victims in obtaining a forensic medical examination at VMC. Beginning July 14, 2020, all Western Division Officers will adhere to the procedures below for IPV strangulation incidents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edgardo Garcia", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edgardo Garcia
Chief of Police

EG:PC:MB

ATTACHMENT: IPV Strangulation Pilot Program Procedure

Procedure for obtaining a strangulation medical forensic examination

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