



TRAINING INSTITUTE on STRANGULATION PREVENTION

Is a program of Alliance for HOPE International

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California Penal Code Section 13701(I)

Recently, Governor Brown signed SB40 into law which will take effect January 1, 2018. SB40 was sponsored by Senator Roth from Riverside California. SB40 will require officers to give victims of strangulation a warning that strangulation may cause internal injuries and they should seek medical attention. SB40 also requires officers to document strangulation and suffocation assaults in their incident reports in order to track dangerous offenders.

The Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention recommends law enforcement agencies consider providing victims the [Strangulation Assessment Card](#) as compliance with Penal Code Section 13701(I) and using the following language for other materials:

Suggested language for SB40 – Strangulation Advisal

"I have a duty to warn you that strangulation is serious and can cause internal injuries, brain damage and/or delayed health consequences such as strokes, thyroid issues, miscarriage and/or death. Research shows that if you strangled even one time, you are 750% more likely to be killed by your partner. We strongly encourage you to seek immediate medical attention at an emergency department and ask for support from an advocate."

While California has passed a new law (which takes effect January 1, 2018) to warn victims about the seriousness of non-fatal strangulation and the need for medical evaluation, there is no need to wait. Every professional working with a victim of strangulation should give this warning. Non-fatal strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. Men who strangle women also pose a risk to officer safety and tend to be involved in mass shootings. Let's tell victims what they have a right to know and should know.

Thank you.

Gael Strack, CEO
Alliance for HOPE International