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Strangulation Training Highlights New California Law for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims

Modesto, CA – February 9, 2012 – Recognizing the importance of California's new law classifying strangulation crimes, the Strangulation Training Institute, a program of the San Diego-based Family Justice Center Alliance, will provide training on Monday, February 13, 2012 at the Martin Petersen Events Center on strangulation issues to domestic violence service providers and law enforcement professionals.

"Today, more than 10% of the women killed each year in this country are strangled, and the lack of external injuries and the lack of medical training for domestic violence professionals has minimized the focus on this type of violence," stated Gael Strack, CEO of the Family Justice Center Alliance and the primary advocate for California's new strangulation law (SB 430).

Many states still do not adequately address this violence in their criminal statutes, policies or responses. When domestic violence perpetrators use strangulation to evoke fear to keep their victims silent, not only is this felonious assault, it can be an attempted homicide. Strangulation is also a form of power and control which can have a devastating psychological effect on victims in addition to the potentially fatal outcome, including suicide.

"We look forward to hosting this important training", said District Attorney Birgit Fladager. "The better equipped law enforcement and first responders are, the more successful we will be in protecting victims of crime".

(More)

“Most domestic violence offenders who strangle their partners without killing them want the victim to know they can kill them so they will live with the knowledge of their partner’s lethality day and night”, stated Casey Gwinn, President of the National Family Justice Center Alliance. “But the abuser does not always want to kill them or cause great bodily injury. Now, we can help hold these violent abusers accountable before they kill,” said Gwinn.

About the Stanislaus Family Justice Center

The Stanislaus Family Justice Center was established in 2010 as a single facility to provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence, including medical treatment, legal services, police protection, counseling and other services. On-site partners include Haven Women’s Center, Children’s Crisis Center, Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Office, Stanislaus County District Attorney, Community Services Agency and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.

About the Strangulation Training Institute

The Strangulation Training Institute is a program of the Family Justice Center Alliance (www.familyjusticecenter.com). The Strangulation Training Institute is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice to provide proactive basic and advanced strangulation training to domestic violence service providers, along with resource and support programs to increase education and current training tools to aid strangulation victims.