



**Department of Human Services**

**Human Services Institute**

***Professional Development Seminars***

**"Strangulation – A Call for Informed Response in Forensic Social Work Practice"**

**Date:** November 14, 2019

**Course time:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm 3 CE's

**Location:** One Bergen County Plaza, Room 460, Hackensack, NJ 07601

**Presenter:** Jonathan J. Marsh, MA

**About the Course**

Recent public health research has concluded that strangulation does not always result in death; people survive nonfatal and near-fatal strangulation, with many suffering permanent or life-threatening injuries. Emerging findings are having a nationwide impact on the management of both stranglers and their victims in recent years, particularly in facets of social work practice and the criminal justice system. This workshop introduces the topic of strangulation from medical, behavioral, forensic, and legal perspectives. It is an advanced session intended for clinicians who encounter violent offenders or victims in their social work practice.

**About the Instructor**

**Jonathon J. Marsh**, has worked at the Women's Rights Information Center since July 2016, which is a community based nonprofit 501 (c) (3) established in 1973 in response to the needs of women caught up in a changing society. In addition, Mr. Marsh serves as a Consultant to A Partnership for Change, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending family abuse and intimate partner violence. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Psychology and Criminal Justice at Saint Thomas Aquinas College. Previously, Mr. Marsh worked for the Bergen County Division of Alternatives to Domestic Violence overseeing the largest domestic violence clinical intake unit in northern New Jersey.

**Outline**

**9:30am-10:00am:** Introduction; discussion on homicide rates, trends, historical changes, and homicidal perpetrators; correlates between (non-strangulation) homicidal offenders and their documented histories of nonfatal strangulation; discussion on near-universal male perpetrators – strangulation as a means of power & control in relationships, connection to male privilege, and a sign of predation.

**10:00am-10:30am:** Historical forensic research on strangulation – profiling of serial sexual killers and strangulation as the common thread; discussion on the glamorization of strangulation in the pornography industry; description of the lethality, psychopathy, and grandiosity ("Godliness") in stranglers; distinguishing stranglers from other violent perpetrators; discussion on nonfatal and near-fatal strangulation as high predictors for homicide – review of Jacqueline Campbell's Danger Assessment and empirical literature supporting the inclusion of strangulation; clinical social worker considerations for treating and managing violent offenders with histories of strangulation.

**10:30am-11:00am:** Medically defining strangulation & eliminating "attempted" from the terminology; description of the process of strangulation from attack until death; comparing hanging to strangulation; the impact on the brain and the body in nonfatal/ near-fatal cases; medical case reviews and postmortem studies

**11:00am-11:30am:** Description of nonfatal/near-fatal strangulation and its impact on victims; discussion on the hidden indicators of strangulation; clinical presentation of acute nonfatal/near-fatal strangulation victims from psychological perspectives; screening and engaging victims; permanent and lethal neurological and physiological consequences of untreated strangulation; clinical social worker considerations for the screening, identification, documentation, and case managing nonfatal/near-fatal strangulation victims.

**11:30am-12:00pm:** Discussion on strangulation and recent updates to criminal laws nationwide; New Jersey's updated laws concerning strangulation and its impact on law enforcement and criminal justice reform ("bail reform") in New Jersey; introduction to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention as a leader and disseminator of the emerging research on strangulation; implications for the future of socio-legal & public health responses to violent offenders and victims.

**12:00pm-12:30pm:** Clinical treatment of nonfatal/near-fatal strangulation victims; discussion on developing comprehensive treatment plans with strangulation victims that incorporate ongoing case management, safety planning, appropriate medical and neurological referrals, and trauma-informed counseling approaches; considerations for crisis responders, Sexual Assault Response Team and Domestic Violence Response Team advocates, and forensic interviewers; interview with strangulation survivor; Q&A

**Who Should Attend:**

This intermediate workshop is designed for social workers at all levels of experience and licensure (LCSW, LMSW, LISW-BSW, AAW)

**Course Objectives:**

- Describe strangulation terms that are inclusive of nonfatal and near-fatal strangulation (i.e., removing "attempted" from the language)
- Recognize strangulation as a behavior recorded in the histories of homicidal perpetrators who killed using firearms or other means beyond strangulation
- Differentiate stranglers from other violent offenders and the risks they pose to the general population
- Understand that nearly half of strangulation victims show no visible signs of injury
- Identify hidden signs and neurological indicators of strangulation with victims through interviewing careful observation of victims' clinical presentations

**The cost is \$40.00 per person. No refunds are available.**

**Make check payable to: "County of Bergen"**

**Send registration to:**

Terry Cannon  
Department of Human Services  
One Bergen County Plaza, 2nd Floor  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

**To receive a certificate (for CEs):**

Participant must pay the fee, attend entire workshop, sign in, sign out, *and* complete an evaluation. Certificates will be distributed at the conclusion of the workshop.

***If you have any questions or concerns, or need special accommodations, please call (201) 336-7425.***