

The Missouri Office Of Prosecution Services,  
The Christian County Prosecuting Attorney's Office  
&  
The Nixa Police Department  
*present*

Free  
Training!

## Precursor to Murder

*Identifying & Highlighting the Hidden Clues  
in Strangulation Cases*

*MOPS will seek to have this training POST, CLE & 210 Certified  
1 hour Interpersonal, 1 hour Technical, 1 hour Legal  
POST & 210 Certification Pending*

*Free of Charge*

**May 19, 2016**

1 PM to 4 PM  
*at*

**Nixa Police Department Training Center**

715 West Center Circle  
Nixa, MO 65714

*Free of charge to Prosecutors, Prosecution Personnel, Law Enforcement, Victim Advocacy Center Staff, Children's Division, Juvenile Office, Probation & Parole, Health Professionals & Children's Advocacy Center Staff.  
Other Similar Allied Professionals must obtain prior approval for attendance from Conference Organizers.*

To register please copy & paste this link into your browser:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=q5eaeneab&oeidk=a07ec2qoy7kf26f1d12>

Questions? Concerns? Please contact Catherine Vannier, Family Violence Resource Prosecutor  
573 644 2409 or [catherine.vannier@mops.mo.gov](mailto:catherine.vannier@mops.mo.gov)

# Precursor to Murder

## Identifying & Highlighting the Hidden Clues in Strangulation Cases\*

### *Tentative Agenda*

Handouts will be sent to all registered participants in a web link a few days prior to class.

Hour 1: **What Is It? & Why We Care**

Hour 2: **Documentation, Collaboration & Investigation**

Hour 3: **Bringing the Case to the Finish: Making it Count in Court**

### *Strangulation Facts*

- Recent studies are showing that when you look at offenders who shoot and kill law enforcement officers, up to 75% have a history of strangling an intimate partner.
- There is a significant overlap between strangulation and sexual assault and abusers who employ strangulation have more in common with serial rapists and serial murderers than the average abuser.
- When a woman is strangled by an intimate partner one time, she is now 800% more likely to be murdered by that partner.
- Only 15% of cases have visible injury when investigated by an untrained officer.
- 43% of intimate partner homicides have a history of strangulation in the 12 months prior to the murder.

### *About the Presenter*

After almost 11 years as a line prosecutor, Catherine Vannier became the first ever MOPS Family Violence Resource Prosecutor. For more than 9 years, Catherine has developed and expanded the program, continually adapting and improving her presentations based on feedback from past audiences, using examples from her own closed cases as well as other examples she has learned about from her trainings, travel and experience in the field. Catherine received the 2012 James P. Damos Award by the Missouri Victims' Assistance Network (MOVA) in recognition of her willingness to go above and beyond her designated duties in order to effect positive change for victims. Catherine serves as an appointed member of the Missouri Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children, which was created by the Missouri General Assembly in 2011.

As a member of the Task Force, Catherine chairs the Multidisciplinary Team Best Practices Workgroup. Catherine also staffs the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Best Practices Special Victims Subcommittee. As the Family Violence Resource Prosecutor, she also sits on several other groups and committees, acting as a liaison between prosecutors and our allied professionals.

*\*Catherine has adapted these materials from multiple sources. She wishes to especially thank Travis County ADA Kelsey Mckay for her sharing of materials and wisdom, as well as the Alliance for Hope for their excellent trainings and downloadable resources. .*