

**The Missouri Office Of Prosecution Services  
&  
Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center**  
*present*



## Precursor to Murder

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

*This training is POST, 210 & CLE certified. POST certification is  
1.5 hours Legal, 1.5 hours Interpersonal, 1 hour Technical.*

*Free of Charge*

**August 9, 2022**

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

at

**MOCIC**

2255 W. Sunset  
Springfield, MO

Space is limited!  
Please reserve your spot as soon as possible.  
Registration will close when full or 1 week prior to the training, whichever comes first.

Handouts will be sent to all registered participants in a web link at least 48 hours prior to class. No hard copy handouts will be provided.

*Free of charge to Prosecutors, Prosecution Personnel, Law Enforcement, Victim Advocacy Center Staff, Children's Division, Juvenile Office, Probation & Parole, Health Professionals, Adult Protective Services, Department of Mental Health & 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, or find the link at [prosecutors.mo.gov/training\\*](http://prosecutors.mo.gov/training*):

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=q5eaeneab&oeidk=a07ej4fp35eaad4f134>

\*PLEASE NOTE Persons needing special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should notify MOPS at [catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov](mailto:catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov) or (573) 644-2409 on or before July 26, 2022.

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

# Precursor to Murder

## Identifying & Highlighting the Hidden Clues in Strangulation Cases

### Agenda

Handouts will be sent to all registered participants in a web link a few days prior to class. No hard copy handouts will be provided.

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

Part 2: **The Interview & Investigation, & Documentation of the Faintest of Visible Injuries**

Part 3: **The Signs & Symptoms of Strangulation & 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 Presenters*

**Catherine Vannier** After almost 11 years as a line prosecutor, Catherine became the first ever MOPS Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor. For more than 15 years, Catherine has developed and expanded the program, continually adapting and improving her presentations based on feedback from past audiences. Catherine serves as an appointed member of the Missouri Supreme Court's Task Force on Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking. Catherine also staffs the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Best Practices Special Victims Sub-Committee. As the Special Victims Violence Resource Prosecutor, she also sits on several other groups and committees, acting as a liaison between prosecutors and our allied professionals.

**Brooke Batesel:** Brooke Batesel has been a Registered Nurse for 11 years. She has a background in Critical Care nursing and is a board certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE-A). She is a member of the Springfield Domestic Violence Task Force, a member of both the Greene County Sexual Assault Response Team and the Missouri Sexual Assault Response Team, as well as a part of a forensic nursing workgroup at the Missouri Hospital Association. She is responsible for many community outreach prevention and education opportunities including local High Schools, Universities, as well as public and private organizations, including the Springfield City Council Sexual Assault Task Force. Brooke is an active member of the International Association of Forensic Nurses. She helped to develop and teach the only bi-annual Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner training course offered in southwest Missouri. Brooke currently serves as the TeleSANE coordinator and Assistant Forensic Program Coordinator at CoxHealth in Springfield, Missouri. Brooke is a 2021 graduate of the National Family Justice Center Alliance's Strangulation Training Institute.

*\*Catherine & Brooke have adapted these materials from multiple sources. They especially wish to thank Kathy Howard who originally taught this course with Catherine, They also wish to thank Bill Smock and Kelsey McKay for their sharing of materials and wisdom, as well as the Alliance for Hope for their excellent trainings and downloadable resources.*