

## EXAMPLE STRANGULATION DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Because you have reported being “choked” or strangled, we are providing you with the following instructions:

Make sure someone stays with you for the next 24–72 hours after this event.

**Health complications can appear immediately or may develop a few days after a strangulation event. Please call 911 or report immediately to the nearest emergency department if you notice any of the following:**

- Problems breathing, difficulty breathing while lying down, shortness of breath, persistent cough, or coughing up blood
- Loss of consciousness or “passing out”
- Changes in your voice or difficulty speaking
- Difficulty swallowing, a lump in your throat, or muscle spasms in your throat or neck
- Swelling to your throat, neck, or tongue
- Increasing neck pain
- Left- or right-sided weakness, numbness, or tingling
- Drooping eyelid
- Difficulty speaking or understanding speech
- Difficulty walking
- Headache not relieved by pain medication
- Dizziness, lightheadedness or changes in your vision
- Pinpoint red or purple dots on your face or neck, or burst blood vessels in your eye
- Seizures
- Behavioral changes, memory loss, or confusion
- Thoughts of harming yourself or others

**If you are pregnant**, report the strangulation and any of the following symptoms to your doctor immediately:

- Decreased movement of the baby
- Vaginal spotting or bleeding
- Abdominal pain
- Contractions

You may notice some bruising or mild discomfort. Apply ice to the sore areas for 20 minutes at a time, 4 times per day, for the first 2 days. If you notice new bruising or injury, follow up for additional photo-documentation.

After your initial evaluation, keep a list of any changes in symptoms to share with your healthcare provider and your law enforcement contact.

- It is important to have a follow-up medical screening in 1–2 weeks with your healthcare provider.
- A follow-up forensic examination is needed within 72 hours.

Please follow up with the crisis/advocacy center at \_\_\_\_\_ to clarify your options and discuss safety planning. If you have questions or concerns regarding your legal case, please contact the police department, officer involved, prosecutor, or victim advocate by calling \_\_\_\_\_.

Forensic Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_