

GEORGIA



Family Violence Newsletter



Governor's Office for

Children and Families

>>> OUR MISSION

The goal of PAC's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program is to effectively assist and be a resource to prosecutors, law enforcement and victim advocates across Georgia, and to improve the effective adjudication of domestic and sexual violence cases and to reduce such crimes across our state.

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Image: <http://www.change.org/petitions/petition-to-make-strangulation-a-felony-charge-oregon>.

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Don't forget to visit our Training Web page to register for our domestic violence-related conferences and training courses.

A PUBLICATION OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL OF GEORGIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM

Strangulation

By Sharla D. Jackson, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

"He just choked me but I don't have any injuries so I would like to drop the charges." A common scenario for the Georgia Domestic Violence prosecutor, addressing it appropriately can be the difference between life and death. Strangulation allows an abusive partner to send the message to a victim that he can and will kill her.¹ When a woman is strangled, the perpetrator literally holds her life in his hands.

STRANGULATION IS NOT CHOKING

Strangulation is not choking, which is what occurs when the windpipe is blocked internally by an object such as food.

Strangulation is the act of using some type of mechanism such as the hands, elbows, arms or ligature on the neck to close off the blood vessels or airway of the neck of a victim causing asphyxia, injuries and/or death. Unconsciousness can result after as little as 10 seconds, death after 4-5 minutes.² While a common belief is that a breaking of the hyoid bone in the throat is a necessary result of strangulation, in non-fatal strangulations, this may not happen; very serious injuries can result from force as minimal as a handshake. Even more surprising is that after being strangled to unconsciousness, a victim can regain consciousness in as little as 10 seconds.³

Strangulation can cause immediate irreparable brain damage as the act of strangulation causes the breaking of capillaries and bleeding in the

brain. While the injuries may not be immediately apparent, in some cases, the injuries can cause sudden death days or weeks later.⁴ In a study of police reports from 300 strangulation cases, only half of the reported cases had any visible injuries, and one third of those injuries were too minor to photograph.⁵

While many victims report surviving repeated incidents of strangulation, many may not be aware of the serious long and short-term effects of strangulation. The immediate physical signs may include nausea, sore throat, ringing of ears, vision changes, breathing problems, the feeling of something being stuck in the throat or voice changes. There may also be neurological changes, hearing loss, eyelid droop, facial droop, memory loss, paralysis, loss of sensation, loss of bowel or bladder control and strokes. Further strangulation attempts have a cumulative effect on the victim. She faces increased brain damage and risks even more serious health complications.⁶

STRANGULATION IS A COMMON TACTIC USED BY BATTERERS TO REINFORCE POWER AND CONTROL OVER THEIR VICTIMS

Men are usually the perpetrators of strangulation due to the amount of strength needed to control a victim while she is being strangled. Many non-fatal strangulation incidents do not leave visible injuries making it an attractive method of reinforcing

power and control for domestic violence perpetrators. This behavior called “coercive control” is defined as an ongoing pattern of violence, intimidation, isolation and control between intimate partners that escalates over time.⁷

THE SENSATION OF BEING STRANGLED CAN BE SO PAINFUL AND FRIGHTENING THAT ITS USE ELICITS IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE BY ITS TARGET

I'm taking the pain and I'm biting; I bit up my lips so hard, I bit the whole lip. All this is gone, that's how bad I bit it.It like his whole finger is, like went up in there, and you can feel the imprint of his nails and I can feel the bleeding, dripping, and you can just feel it, and like, all right, this is my death warrant right here, and you cannot, you can't talk.⁸

One woman described the experience of being strangled as like “drowning.”⁹ Researchers examining the use of strangulation as coercive control interviewed 17 women in a domestic violence shelter about the strangulation experience.¹⁰ In interviews with the survivors, researchers asked them to describe their experiences in three categories: the actual strangulation, the women’s perception of men’s motivations for using strangulation, and the coercive control that accompanied strangulation in women’s relationships.

All but one of the participants thought that they were going to die. Most, 13 of the 17 had been strangled multiple times.¹¹ “Despite other severe abuse and a high level of fear, all were shocked that their partner strangled them. Participants reported an intense sense of vulnerability when they recognized during the assault how easily their partner could kill them. Nonetheless, they seemed to think of strangulation, not as a failed murder attempt, but as a way to exert power.”¹² Strangulation changes the balance of power in a relationship because a victim learns to yield to a batterer’s demands in order to avoid additional incidents of strangulation.

STRANGULATION IS A STRONG INDICATOR OF FUTURE LETHALITY IN AN INTIMATE PARTNER RELATIONSHIP

For victims of domestic violence, surviving a strangulation is, in fact, one of the greatest indicators that she could be subsequently killed by her partner. One study showed that “the odds of becoming an attempted homicide increased by about seven-fold for women who had been strangled by their partner.”¹³ In the *Chicago Women’s Health Study*, which reviewed 57 cases in which women were killed by their male partners, found that 53% of the victims had experienced strangulation in the previous year and 18% had been killed by strangulation.¹⁴ More compelling is the fact that in the majority of these cases, children witness the strangulation.¹⁵

In Georgia, 19% of cases reviewed in The Georgia Commission on Family Violence Fatality Review Annual Reports, 2004-2012, had prior strangulation incidents. Citing data collected from the Georgia Department of Public Health, the Georgia Commission on Family Violence reported that in 2010, 866 women in Georgia were treated in emergency rooms for strangulation related to family violence.

VISIBLE INDICATORS OF STRANGULATION

A strangulation victim may present with very few signs of the strangulation immediately and may attempt to minimize the incident. However, there may be internal injuries to the neck and brain that



may result in death within several days after the incident. Some of the physical signs of strangulation may

include petechiae, ruptured capillaries that appear on the eyes, face or neck, red eyes, hoarseness and swelling. Because of the potential for serious complications, such as stroke or further brain injury, all strangulation victims should be referred for medical evaluation regardless of whether or not they are symptomatic.

INVESTIGATIONS

Careful documentation of strangulation cases at the time of arrest can ensure a successful prosecution. Police reports, 911 tapes, photographic evidence and medical records can help to document the incident. Photographing a victim several days after the incident can be helpful as the injuries may appear several days later. Consider making a recording of your victim’s voice if there is any hoarseness or changes. Finally, in many cases a victim defending herself from a strangulation attack may leave scratches or marks on her attacker while she has none. Where a victim identifies injuries she gave to her attacker in her attempts to defend herself from strangulation, photograph them and be prepared to explain them as part of your case in chief.

A prosecutor, victim advocate or police officer should carefully interview all domestic violence victims to determine if strangulation has taken place. Some of the topics include:¹⁶

1. Describe and demonstrate how she was strangled. Take photographs.
2. Whether victim was strangled with one or two hands;
3. Was an object used to strangle the victim?
4. What did the suspect say when he was strangling the victim?
5. Describe the suspect’s demeanor and facial expression.
6. How long did the suspect strangle the victim?
7. How much pressure or how hard was the grip?
8. Did the victim have difficulty breathing or hyperventilate?
9. Did she complain of pain to the throat or coughing?
10. Did she have any trouble swallowing?
11. Did she notice any voice changes or complain of a hoarse or raspy voice?

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12. Did the victim feel dizzy or faint?
13. Did the victim, urinate or defecate as a result of being strangled?
14. Did she show the injuries to anyone?
15. Did the victim seek medical treatment?

PROSECUTING STRANGULATION CASES

The first role of a prosecutor in this type of case will be to educate the judge and the jury. Like many victims of strangulation, judges may not be familiar with the issue or understand its seriousness.

Because of the high potential for future lethality and the impact of this crime on victims, these cases should be aggressively prosecuted. However, the prosecution of these cases under the current Georgia law has at times been problematic. Georgia's Aggravated Assault Statute is as follows:

O.C.G.A. § 16-5-21(a)(2)

A person commits the offense of aggravated assault when he or she assaults; (2) With a deadly weapon or any object device or instrument which, when used offensively against a person is likely to or does result in serious bodily injury.

Unfortunately, many of these cases are prosecuted as misdemeanors. The lack of visible injury places a prosecutor in the difficult position of proving the "apprehension of receiving serious bodily injury" element of the statute where serious injuries to a victim are easily visible or nonexistent. The lack of visible injuries may also cause a jury to be reluctant to believe that a victim actually suffered the apprehension of receiving serious bodily injury or that the defendant intended to cause it. This undermines the seriousness of the issue. Treating these cases as misdemeanors reduces victim safety, and offender accountability leading to additional strangulation incidents. Other complexities arise with proving criminal negligence or criminal intent. Mutually exclusive verdicts can be an issue if a jury is charged incorrectly by the court regarding express and implied malice in fatal strangulation cases.¹⁷ More than 30 other states have strangulation statutes, making strangulation a felony. Georgia prosecutors, along with Domestic

Violence advocates are working together to draft and to pass an amendment to the Aggravated Assault statute, in the upcoming legislative session to ensure that prosecutors in this state will also have this valuable tool in aggressively prosecuting these cases.

EXPERT WITNESSES

Using an expert witness will be helpful in proving the strangulation case. Emergency room doctors, pathologists and nurse practitioners may have a great deal of experience in treating victims presenting with symptoms of strangulation and will be helpful in explaining strangulation to a jury. Where a victim has had any diagnostic imaging completed, a radiologist will be helpful to identify and explain any internal injuries. A medical examiner may be used to testify regarding the timelines for unconsciousness and death. Finally, a Victim's Advocate can be helpful to a jury in explaining the process and impact of coercive control on a strangulation victim.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

The most important thing a prosecutor can do to help a victim of non-fatal strangulation is to impress upon her the danger of her situation. Because there may be no external injuries, your victim may not be aware of the high risk of death or serious injury that she faces. Educate her about the future health consequences of repeated strangulations and the impact on her children. Finally, collaborate with a victim advocate or local nonprofit to direct her to necessary social services.

RESOURCES

Strangulation Training Institute, a Program of the National Family Justice Center Alliance, <http://www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com/>

The "Document It! App," available from the Apple App Store, allows victims to document injuries.

ENDNOTES

1. Thomas, Manisha & Sorenson Do you Know What it Feels Like to Drown?: Strangulation as Coercive Control in Intimate Relationships, Psychology of Women Quarterly, published online 20 May 2013.

2. University of Pennsylvania Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence, Strangulation Assaults in Domestic Violence Fact Sheet, citing Strack, G. B. and McClane, G. E. (1999 May). How to Improve your Investigation and Prosecution of Strangulation Cases.
3. Strack, G. B. and McClane, G. E. (1999 May). How to Improve your Investigation and Prosecution of Strangulation Cases.
4. Strack et al.
5. Strack et al.
6. Ortner Center, citing, Frequency and Relationship of Reported Symptomology in Victims of Intimate Partner Violence; the Effect of Multiple Strangulation Attacks, Journal of Emergency Medicine, 21, 323-329.
7. Thomas et al, p. 2.
8. Thomas et al, p. 7.
9. Thomas et al, p. 7.
10. Thomas et al, p. 5.
11. Thomas et al, p. 6.
12. Thomas et al, p. 10.
13. Ortner Center, citing Block, C.R. Devitt, C. O., Fonda, D., Fugate, M., Martin, C., McFarlane, J., et al (200) The Chicago Women's Health Study: Risk of serious injury or death in intimate violence: A collaborative research project. Washington DC, U. S. Department of Justice Journal of Emergency Medicine.
14. Ortner Center, p. 2.
15. Strack et al.
16. Stack et al.
17. See *Allben v. State*, S13A0949, decided November 25, 2013. [GFV](#)

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Strangulation Statistics:

- 68% of women interviewed at a domestic violence shelter had been strangled 5.3 times in their relationships.
- 88% of women who experienced strangulation had also experienced other types of abuse.
- In almost half of 300 incidents, children witnessed the strangulation.
- 866 women were treated for strangulation in Georgia emergency rooms in 2010.

Statistics from the Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence, Strangulation Assaults in Domestic Violence Fact Sheet and The Georgia Commission on Family Violence, 2010 Fatality Review.

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CaseLaw Update

By Sharla D. Jackson, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor,
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

Mandt v. Lovell

293 Ga. 807 (2013), decided October 21, 2013

Defendant mother appealed the judgment of the Georgia Court of Appeals, affirming a trial court judgment terminating the permanent protection order (PPO) issued against plaintiff father. The Supreme Court addressed the question under what circumstances could a court terminate a PPO pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-13-4?

The mother was granted a PPO against the father on November 18, 2008, following the issuance of a temporary family violence protection order. Two years later, the father sought to terminate the PPO. The father alleged changed circumstances, including that a different court had granted him unsupervised visitation with the child and that neither he nor the mother had custody of the child. After a hearing, the trial court entered a written order terminating some aspects of the PPO, while leaving others in place, including a requirement that the father stay away from the mother. The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's termination of the PPO, finding that a judgment that governed continuing or recurring courses of conduct may be subject to modification even though the power of doing so was not expressly provided. The Court agreed, finding that O.C.G.A. § 19-13-4(c) contemplated that the duration of family violence protective orders may be modified based on changing conditions and circumstances. The Court set forth the considerations a court should contemplate when considering the termination of a PPO.

The Court, held that a trial court should look to the totality of the circumstances in weighing the following factors that must be proven by a preponderance of the evidence for the termination of a permanent protective order: 1. That a material change in circumstances has occurred such that the resumption of family violence is not likely and justice would be served by termination of the order; 2. The present nature of the parties' relationship, including

proximity of shared residences and any shared parental responsibilities; 3. The restrained party's history of compliance with the protective order and history of violence generally both before and after its issuance; 4. The restrained party's efforts to undergo family violence therapy or similar counseling and rehabilitation; 5. The age and health of the restrained party; 6. Any undue hardships suffered as a result of the order; and 7. The existence and nature of any objections the victim has to termination of the protective order.

Kipp v. The State

S13A125, 2013 Ga. LEXIS 897, decided November 4, 2013

The rule against mutually exclusive verdicts applies only where the convictions result from the same act involving the same victim at the same time. Where the victim sustains several injuries, convictions for both intentional and negligent crimes are not mutually exclusive.

Porter v. State

A13S0911, 2013 Ga.App. LEXIS 852, decided October 30, 2013

Following a jury trial, Quintez Porter was convicted of family violence battery, cruelty to a child in the third degree, aggravated stalking, and terroristic threats. The defendant appealed his conviction.

At trial, A. K. testified that Porter, the father of her two children, had been violent with her "[i]n the past," but she could not remember any specific incidents, despite the prosecutor's refreshing her recollection with police reports. A. K. testified that she "[could not] remember" why she went to the hospital on October 22, 2010, but recalled "feeling dizzy." She also "[could not] remember" having contact with Porter that day, and she denied that they had an argument. When the prosecutor showed A. K. the photographs of her face taken by an investigator at the hospital, A. K. testified that she did not see any injuries on her face in the photographs,

but offered that "whenever [she] cr[ie]d, her] face blotches up like that." She also did not recall making the two 911 calls in July 2011, even after they were played for the jury.

The defendant argued that the trial court erred by admitting the investigator's testimony about A. K.'s statement to him because it constituted improper bolstering, quoting case law providing that "unless a witness's veracity has affirmatively been placed in issue, the witness's prior *consistent* statement is pure hearsay evidence, which cannot be admitted merely to corroborate the witness, or to bolster the witness's credibility in the eyes of the jury

The court affirmed the trial court's ruling admitting the statement, finding that the victim's pretrial statement to the investigator was properly admitted as a prior inconsistent statement where the victim took the stand and was subject to cross-examination. The Court affirmed the conviction.

State v. Dague

A13A0190, 2013 Ga.App. LEXIS 934, decided November 18, 2013

The State challenged the granting of a new trial, which was based on a finding that the Confrontation Clause was violated. The defendant claimed ineffective assistance of counsel arguing that that defense counsel failed to object to the admission of a child victim's testimony, leading to his conviction on child molestation charges. Defense counsel conceded that the defense had deliberately waived confronting the victim at the trial for strategic reasons. The appellate court reversed the judgment, agreeing that the defendant was not entitled to a new trial.

"[T]o comport with the Confrontation Clause, O.C.G.A. § 24-3-16 requires that the child whose statements are at issue not merely be "available to testify" but actually testify at trial, *unless the defendant forfeits or waives such testimony*, and requir[es] pretrial notice of the [s]tate's intent to use child hearsay statements to allow the defendant to exercise that right."

The defendant chose, as a matter of trial strategy, not to confront the victim in front of the jury. He therefore abandoned his constitutional right to confront the victim.

Sorg v. State

A13A1595, 2013 Ga.App. LEXIS 991, decided November 8, 2013

The Court found the evidence sufficient for the conviction of a defendant on 20 counts of sexual exploitation of children under O.C.G.A. § 16-12-100(b)(8). The evidence showed that the defendant knowingly possessed or controlled pornographic images of children as the child pornography images found in the cache folder on defendant's computer had all been intentionally accessed on the date the officer observed defendant with the computer. The officer observed the images on defendant's computer and watched as defendant attempted to close and minimize the pornographic images of children; and the images were not generated in a passive way in pop-up windows.

Ellis v. The State

A13A0911, 2013 Ga.App. LEXIS 871, decided November 6, 2013

A jury for the Georgia trial court found defendant, a respiratory therapist guilty of aggravated sexual battery, five counts of sexual battery, and six counts of sexual assault against a patient in a hospital. The defendant was charged under O. C. G. A. § 16-6-5.1(b), for engaging in sexual contact while the victims were patients in the hospital and while he had supervisory authority over the victims. The trial court denied defendant's motion for a new trial. Defendant appealed.

The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's judgment finding that the defendant, who assessed and directed the actions of the victims while he performed their treatments, had supervisory authority over those victims. This was sufficient to sustain his convictions under O.C.G.A. § 16-6-5.1(b)(4).

Cheeks v. State

A13A1527, 2013 Ga.App. LEXIS 910, decided November 13, 2013

Defendant Dontavius Cheeks was convicted of rape and false

imprisonment. The trial court denied the defendant's motion for new trial and the defendant appealed the denial of his motion. At trial, the State argued during its opening statement that the defendant refused to talk to investigating officers. Then, the State called the defendant's mother as a witness and questioned her about the defendant's failure to turn himself in. Finally, during closing arguments, the State repeatedly referenced the defendant's refusal to speak with police and the defendant's evasion of arrest because of his guilt.

The Court of Appeals reversed the defendant's conviction holding that the State's comments on the defendant's right to remain silent were so egregious and pervasive that in light of the evidence presented there was a reasonable probability that an improper inference of guilt raised by defendant's failure to come forward influenced the jury's decision to convict the defendant.

Brown v. State

A13A1465, 2013 Ga.App. LEXIS 889, decided November 8, 2013

The Court held that the State's expert witness testimony about the cycle of violence, used to explain the victim's continued relationship with the defendant, was admissible to counter the defendant's attack on the victim's credibility.

Blanton v. State

A13A1200, 2013 Ga.App. LEXIS 898, decided November 12, 2013

The defendant appealed the denial of a special demurrer to the indictment on child molestation charges arguing that the State failed to show that it was unable to identify specific dates, or reasonably narrow the ranges of dates, during which he allegedly committed the offenses. The language at issue stated that "between the 1st day of May, 2008, and the 30th day of April, 2010, the exact date of the offense being unknown to the Grand Jury, but known to the accused[.]" During the hearing, the State called the investigator to establish that the evidence did not allow the State to narrow down the incidents to a specific date. The Court affirmed the lower court's ruling. While an indictment that fails to allege a specific date on which the crime was committed is

not perfect in form and is subject to a timely demurrer, where the State can show through evidence that it is unable to allege a specific date on which the offense occurred, the State is allowed to allege that the crime occurred between two particular dates.

Long v. State

A13A0998, 2013 Ga.App. LEXIS 951, decided November 20, 2013

The defendant appealed his convictions of false imprisonment, aggravated assault, terroristic threats, and simple battery for the assault of the victim, his girlfriend.

The Court of Appeals upheld the admission of similar acts stating that, "In cases of domestic violence, prior incidents of abuse against family members or sexual partners are more generally permitted because there is a logical connection between violent acts against two different persons with whom the accused had a similar emotional or intimate attachment. Such acts can demonstrate the accused's attitude or mindset (i.e., his bent of mind) as to how sexual partners should be treated. Prior acts can also show an accused's course of conduct in reacting to disappointment or anger in such a relationship, evidencing a pattern. Such evidence may be particularly important in domestic violence cases where the incidents often occur at home, in private, and may involve only the conflicting testimony of the two parties involved."

Allaben v. State

S13A0949 2013 Ga. LEXIS 1017 decided November 25, 2013

The Supreme Court reversed the conviction and remanded the case of the defendant on the strangulation murder of his wife. The indictment charged the defendant with malice murder, felony murder, based on aggravated assault, and aggravated assault with intent to murder. The Court held that the jury's conviction of the defendant on malice murder and reckless conduct created a mutually exclusive verdict because it meant that the defendant acted with both criminal intent and criminal negligence at the same time as to the same victim causing the same injury.

Brown v. State

A13A1595, 2013 Ga.App. LEXIS 918, decided November 14, 2013

The State offered evidence of the defendant's history of domestic violence against the child victim's mother as a way of explaining the child's delay in reporting the child molestation.

The court upheld the defendant's conviction stating that evidence of a defendant's history of violence towards a victim, a victim's family, or even a witness, is admissible to explain a delay by the victim, her family, or another witness in reporting a crime even if it incidentally places the defendant's character in issue. The testimony may be admitted when it is relevant and where the defendant alleges that the witness had fabricated the allegations. **GFV**

Recognizing the magnitude and impact of Domestic Violence in the State, the Governor's Office for Children and Families awarded a grant to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia. The grant provides much needed funding to train law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and victim advocates to more effectively respond to and prosecute crimes of domestic and sexual violence. The training is designed to improve the effective adjudication of domestic and sexual violence cases and effectuate the reduction of such crimes across our state.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resources for Prosecutors

24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.33.HAVEN (1.800.334.2836)
V/TTY

Other sites:

<http://www.nij.gov/journals/264/SANE.htm>

<http://www.aequitasresource.org/library.cfm>

http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecutor_Reference_Medical_Evidence.pdf

http://www.aequitasresource.org/Benefits_of_Specialized_Prosecution_Units_in_Domestic_and_Sexual_Violence_Cases_Issue_8.pdf

http://www.aequitasresource.org/Benefits_of_a_Coordinated_Community_Response_to_Sexual_Violence_Issue_7.pdf

http://www.aequitasresource.org/Absence_of_Anogenital_Injury_in_the_Adolescent_Adult_Female_Sexual_Assault_Patient_Issue_13.pdf

http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecuting_Cases_of_Sexual_Abuse_in_Confinement.pdf

http://www.wcasa.org/file_open.php?id=3

<http://law.lclark.edu/live/files/6470-a-criminal-justice-guide-legal-remedies-for-adult>

http://www.aequitasresource.org/Rape_and_Sexual_Assault_Analyses_and_Laws.pdf

<http://www.legalmomentum.org/our-work/njep/mat-for-jd-edu/the-challenges-of-adult-victim-sexual-assault-cases-materials-for-new-judges/title-page-and-main-menu/newjudgesmainmenu.html>

<http://legalmomentum.org/resources/intimate-partner-sexual-abuse-adjudicating-hidden-dimension-domestic-violence-cases> **GFV**

Websites:

Governor's Office of Children and Families: <https://children.georgia.gov/crisis-assistance>

Georgia Care Connection: <http://www.georgiacareconnection.com>

Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault: <http://gnesa.org>

Battered Women's Justice Project: <http://www.bwjp.org>

Georgia Commission on Family Violence: <http://www.gcfv.org>. Provides Georgia domestic violence statistics, domestic violence protocols.

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <http://gcadv.org>

Forensic Healthcare Online: <http://www.forensichealth.com>. Provides links to studies on intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

AEquitas: <http://www.forensichealth.com>. AEquitas publishes the STRATEGIES newsletter and monographs on complex topic areas, emerging issues, and promising practices related to the prosecution of violence against women cases.

Prosecutor's Resource on Violence Against Women – www.Aequitasresource.org

The Women's legal defense and Education fund – www.Legalmomentum.org

End Violence Against Women International – www.evawintl.org

National Sexual Violence Resource Center – www.nsvrc.org

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UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

JANUARY 27, 2014

Family Violence - Forsyth

Georgia Public Safety Training Center
1000 Indian Springs Drive
Forsyth, Georgia 31029
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

FEBRUARY 14, 2014

Family Violence - Dawsonville

Dawson County Courthouse
Jury Assembly Room
25 Justice Way, Suite 2303
Dawsonville, Georgia 30354
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

FEBRUARY 28, 2014

Family Violence - Jefferson

Jackson EMC
850 Commerce Road
Jefferson, Georgia 30549
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MARCH 14, 2014

Family Violence - LaFayette

Bank of LaFayette Community Room
104 North Main Street
LaFayette, Georgia 30728
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

MARCH 28, 2014

Family Violence - Clarke County

Western Judicial Circuit
Clarke County
Location Coming Soon

Prosecuting Attorneys' Council Welcomes Sharla D. Jackson

The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia is pleased to welcome Sharla D. Jackson to our family! Ms. Jackson joined our staff at PAC as the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor in October.

Sharla Jackson attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish, Jackson attended the University of Miami School of Law where she received her Juris Doctorate.

Jackson began her career at the City Solicitor's Office in Atlanta where she prosecuted cases ranging from City Ordinance Violations to Domestic Violence. She was already a seasoned prosecutor when she joined the Fulton

County District Attorney's Office in 1998, where she served the citizens of Fulton County for 15 years. While trying a variety of cases, including Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and homicides. Sharla achieved a 95% conviction rate.

Having most recently served as a Community Prosecutor, she prosecuted hardcore repeat offenders, resulting in a trend of crime reduction in Midtown and Downtown Atlanta. As a Community Prosecutor, Sharla honed her community outreach skills while creating fruitful partnerships with citizens, law enforcement and the business community.

As Vice Chair of the Georgia Retail Association's Loss Prevention Council

and a member of the Georgia Retail Association's Legislative Team, Ms. Jackson actively participated in the process of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Reform. Sharla also co-drafted the Georgia Smash and Grab Act, which was signed into law in June of 2010.

If you have any comment, suggestions, or articles, you may contact Ms. Jackson by phone at (404) 969-4001, or by e-mail at sdjackson@pacga.org.



Don't forget to visit our Training Web page to register for our domestic violence-related conferences and training courses.

GEORGIA

Family Violence Newsletter

Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Program
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Governor's Office for
Children and Families

>>> GEORGIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE PROGRAM



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Domestic Violence and Sexual
Assault Resource Prosecutor
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>>> DID YOU KNOW?

In Georgia, "Family Violence" also known as Domestic Violence is defined as: "the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between past or present spouses, persons who are parents of the same child, parents and children, stepparents and stepchildren, foster parents and foster children, or other persons living or formerly living in the same household: (1) Any felony; or (2) Commission of offenses of battery, simple battery, simple assault, assault, stalking, criminal damage to property, unlawful restraint, or criminal trespass. The term "family violence" shall not be deemed to include reasonable discipline administered by a parent to a child in the form of corporal punishment, restraint, or detention."

-Statistics from 2012 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report courtesy Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (www.gcadv.org) and Georgia Commission on Family Violence (www.gcfv.org)