



High-Risk Flagging

Strangulation & Firearms Focused Flagging



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Metro Nashville Office of
Family Safety



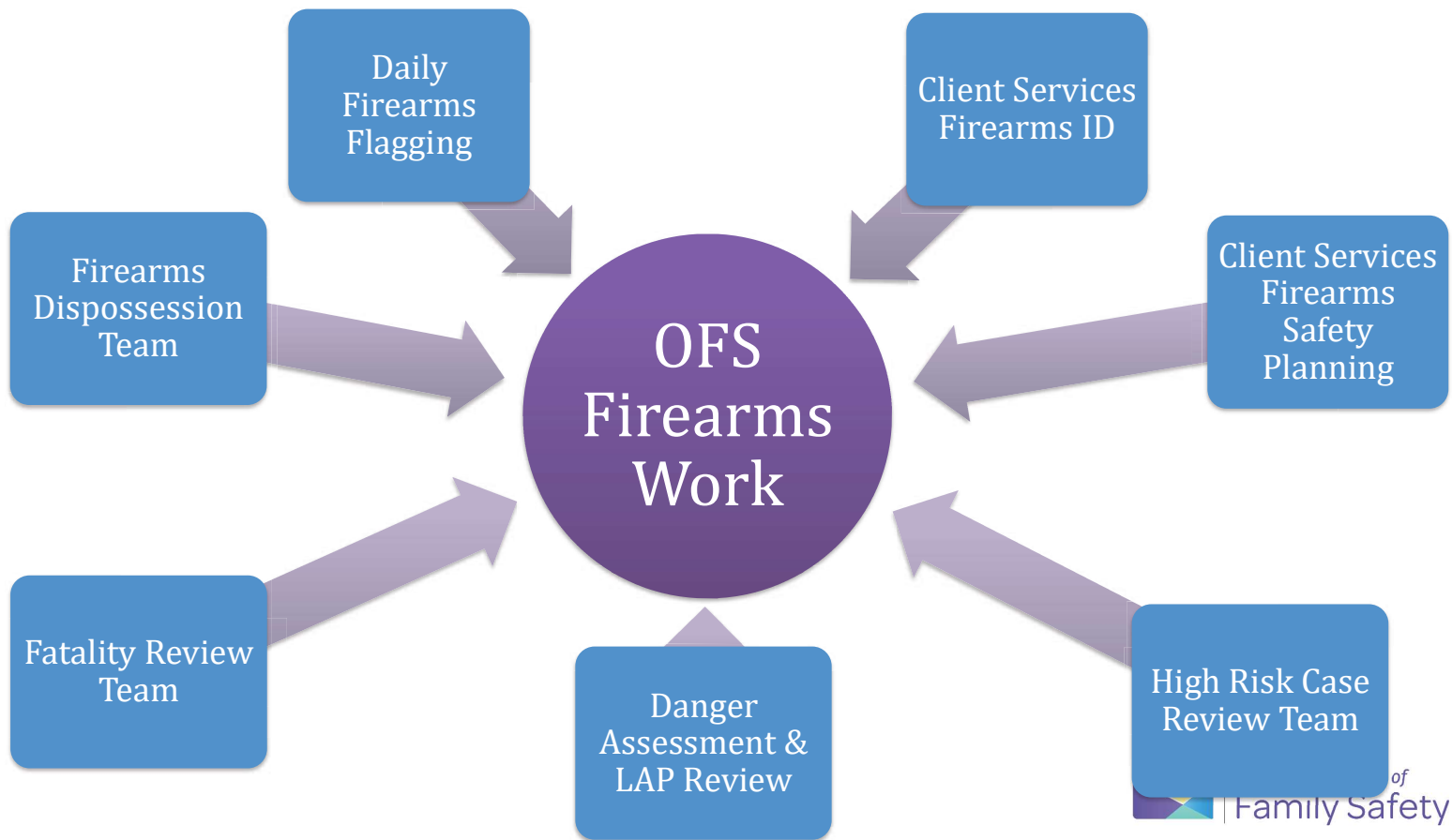
Metro Office *of* Family Safety

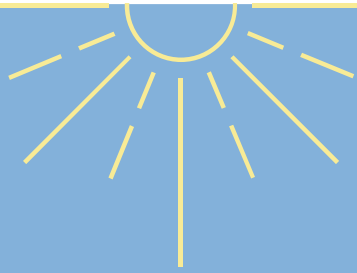
Where Hope and Healing Begin



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OFS Flagging Program

Firearms & Strangulation Flagging

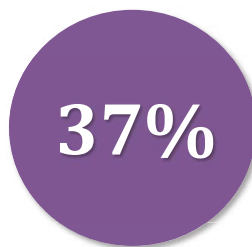


Firearms, DV, and Nashville

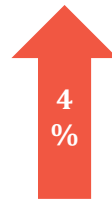
In 2021:



LAP victims reported their abuser **had** or **could easily get** a firearm



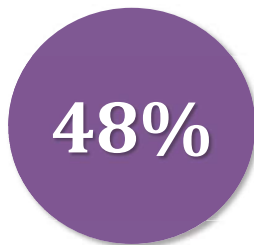
LAP victims reported that their abuser **had used** or **had threatened them with a weapon** previously



DV homicides perpetrated with a firearm

Firearms, DV, and Nashville

In 2022:



LAP victims reported their abuser **had** or **could easily get** a firearm



LAP victims reported that their abuser **had used** or **had threatened them with a weapon** previously



DV homicides perpetrated with a firearm



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OFS Clients & Firearms 2022

- **527 or 41%** said abuser had a firearm
- **368 or 24%** said the abuser threatened them with a firearm
- **967 or 63%** believed the abuser was capable of killing them

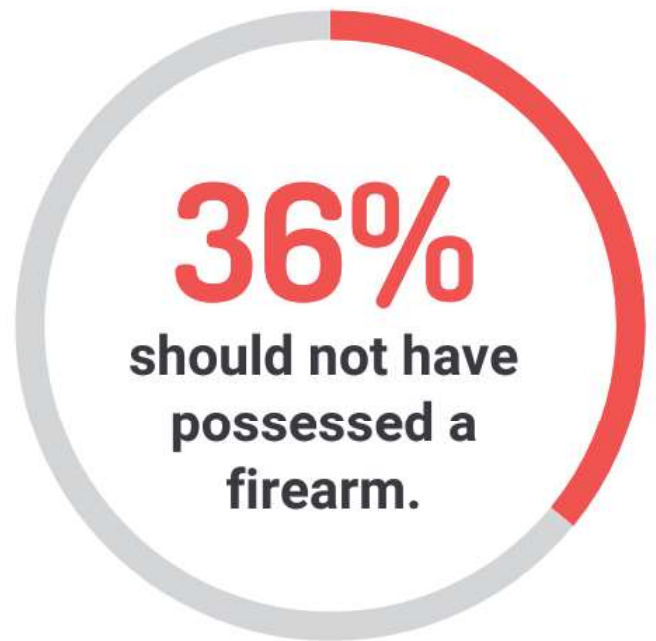


2022 High Risk Intervention Panel (HRIP)

1,221 high risk case reviews & 64 meetings in person or via phone



From 2018- 2020, 36% of Nashville's killers who committed a domestic violence murder using a firearm had previous domestic violence and/or other felony convictions **that should have prevented them from owning of possessing a firearm.**



DV Firearms Law in TN

Who **cannot** own a firearm:

- Anyone who has ever **been convicted of a felony** (in any state)
- Anyone who has ever **been convicted of a DV misdemeanor** (in any state)
- Anyone who **currently has a permanent OP against them** (from any state)
- Anyone who has been **dishonorably discharged** from the military

Legislated Firearms Dispossession Procedure:

1. Must dispossess of firearms within **48 hours of conviction or OP granting**
2. Sign affidavit that have dispossessed themselves of firearms
3. Turn affidavit in to court

Dispossession Barriers

- 1) The **respondent/defendant will lie** about their firearms possession.
- 2) There is **no way to prove** firearms possession.
- 3) There are **no required compliance hearings**.
- 4) There is **no form or court process** that accounts for the **3rd party**.
- 5) There is **no process to retrieve** prohibited firearms.

Risk & Issue Tracking

High Risk
Identification

LAPs, Danger
Assessments

HRIP Case
Review

Other Teams –
SART, VAPIT,
CPIT

System Issue
Tracking

Practitioner
Complaints &
Concerns

Partner
Agencies

Elected
Officials



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Risk & Issue Tracking

Firearms &
Strangulation
Flagging

History - OPs,
Warrants, LAPs

DAs, Probation,
Law
Enforcement

Civil Attorneys,
Advocates

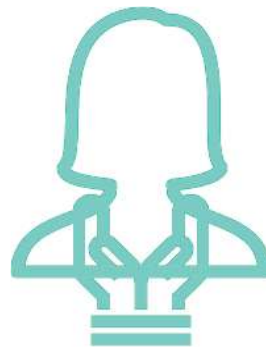
Firearms and Strangulation Flagging

Date:	Monday, December 7, 2020	9:00 4C BOND						
Docket #	Defendant	LAP HR	OP	Strangler?	Evidence	Firearm?	Evidence	
GS911098								
GS925312			200P1604			FIREARM	LAP Q4 (7/10/20); OP warning box; OP box 15	
GS835635		HR		STRANGLER	defendant case history (GS688724)	FIREARM	LAP Q1 (11/21/17)	
GS917310						FIREARM	defendant case history (SC1052061)	
GS925006		HR				FIREARM	affidavit	HRIP
GS925625								
GS925492			200P1933	STRANGLER	OP narrative	FIREARM	defendant case history (GS678429/2014-C-2127)	
GS925544			200P1893			FIREARM	OP warning box	
GS924977								
GS924905								
GS924906								
GS925102		HR		STRANGLER	affidavit; LAP Q5 (8/11/20, 8/10/20)	FIREARM	LAP Q1+Q4 (8/10/20)	HRIP
GS904915								
GS908893								
GS908894								
GS908895		HR		STRANGLER	LAP Q5 (9/6/19, 11/14/19); OP narrative (19OP3045)	FIREARM	affidavits; defendant case history (GS299274); LAP Q1+Q4 (9/6/19, 11/14/19); OP warning box; OP narrative; OP box 15 (19OP3045)	HRIP
GS908896								
GS908897								
GS908898								
GS908899								
GS924938						FIREARM	affidavit	
GS924939								
GS925165			200P1891					
GS889559		HR		STRANGLER	LAP Q5 (9/27/19)	FIREARM	LAP Q1+Q4 (9/27/19), LAP Q4 (9/7/19)	HRIP

2022 Firearms & Strangulation Flagging



6,000 (or **49%**) of
defendants and OP
respondents had access
to firearms



4,868 (or **39%**) of
criminal defendants and
OP respondents
identified as stranglers

Compliance Safeguard Program

- **Weekly Emails to Judges and Clerks**

- Incomplete or no Dispossession Form turned in after 48 hours

Non-Compliance Notification:

- *220PXX Jane vs. Doe – Declaration form mailed by clerk on 10/10/22*
 - *Respondent failed to return the form as mandated*

Compliance Safeguard Program

- **Weekly Emails to Prosecutors, ADAs, ATF, AGs**
 - Incomplete or no Dispossession Form turned in after 48 hours
 - AND Completed Forms with indications/evidence of firearms


Suspected Non-Compliance Notification:

- *22XXX Jane vs. Doe - Declaration form completed & respondent claimed no gun*
 - *Gun was indicated in OP narrative (threatened petitioner with gun)*



Other Firearms Work



Handguns/Pistols:	
<p>Semi auto glock pistol</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Respondent/Defendant owns similar firearm</p> <p>Quantity: _____</p> <p>Make/Model: _____</p> <p>Caliber: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Location of Ammo: _____</p>
<p>Revolver</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Respondent/Defendant owns similar firearm</p> <p>Quantity: _____</p> <p>Make/Model: _____</p> <p>Caliber: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Location of Ammo: _____</p>
<p>CZ USA 85 Combat</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Respondent/Defendant owns similar firearm</p> <p>Quantity: _____</p> <p>Make/Model: _____</p> <p>Caliber: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Location of Ammo: _____</p>

Firearms ID Form

Firearms and Guns



Your partner is NOT allowed to own or be near firearms if:

- they have a full Order of Protection against them right now.
- they have ever been convicted of domestic violence.
- they have ever been convicted of a felony.

During Calm Moments:

- If your partner is not allowed to have guns but has them anyway, **try to report to the police or their Probation/Parole Officer.**
- Try to learn the **type of gun** your partner has and know **where it's kept.**
- If you have children living with you, try to convince your partner to **keep the guns in a safe** for the children's safety.
- Try to **turn the safety on** if you can do so safely.
- If it's safe to do so and you know how to, **disarm the gun and hide the ammunition.**
- **Mentally prepare** yourself for what to do during a violent incident involving a firearm.
- If you can do so safely, try to get a **picture of the gun** for evidence.
- Learn more about **gun use & gun safety** online.
- If police come to your house, **consider asking police to search the house and seize any firearms** they find.

During a Violent Incident:

- Try to **get away** if you can do so safely.
- Say or do whatever you can to **de-escalate** the situation or to buy yourself more time, such as, "Think about the kids", or "You don't have to do this."

This project is funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee. This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-WE-AA-0020 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Dept. of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

1

Firearms and Guns



- If your partner is pointing a gun at you, try to **move away from your children** so they're not in the line of fire.
- Be **aware of your surroundings** and make a mental note of what you can use to **shield yourself** from gunfire.

If You Are Being Shot At:

- Do everything you can to escape.
- Figure out a route to safety that includes as much **cover** (things that bullets can't go through) and **concealment** (things you can hide behind) as possible. **Sprint for 2-3 seconds** from one hiding place to the next.
- Stay **low and dodge and weave** when you are trying to hide or get away from your partner.
- Try to **distract, confuse, or slow down** your partner by doing things like turning off the lights; throwing heavy, hot, or sharp things; or using a fire extinguisher.
- **Call 911** for help as soon as you can.

If You Have Been Shot:

- Say to yourself, "I will live through this."
- Keep doing everything you can to get away.
- Call 911 as soon as you can and **ask for an ambulance and police.** If you can't call 911, try to get yourself to a safe place.
- Put **pressure** on your wound and **elevate** it above your heart if possible.
- If you are bleeding **very severely** from a wound in your arm or leg, use anything you can find (like a shoelace, necktie, scarf, belt, or shirt) and **tie it tight above the wound to help stop the bleeding.** If you don't have anything to tie a tourniquet with or your wound is in another part of your body, **use a tampon to plug the wound** and temporarily control the bleeding.

2

Firearms Safety Plan Insert



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*Upon granting Order of Protection AND/OR Upon conviction of domestic violence misdemeanor crime
for all former or current intimate partners*

☐ **Verbally inform of the law:**

- ☐ Prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm
- ☐ For OP – can't possess for duration of OP
- ☐ For DV Conviction – can never possess again
- ☐ Have 48 hours to dispossess

☐ **Ask under oath:**

- ☐ If own or possess a firearm
- ☐ State the penalty of perjury [A misdemeanor T.C.A. 39-16-702]
- ☐ State the penalty for possessing firearm [A misdemeanor T.C.A. 39-17-1307 + *federal* charges]

☐ **Verify if there is or is not a firearm:**

- ☐ For OP, see question OP #15
- ☐ For Lethality Assessment (LAP), see question LAP #4
- ☐ Review warrant and/or OP narrative for mention of firearm
- ☐ Ask Petitioner/Petitioner Attorney (OP) or Prosecutor (Criminal Conviction) if they have evidence to refute claim of no firearms

Firearms Dispossession Bench Card

Firearms & DV

MNPD must seize any firearms used during the *commission* of a DV incident. (TCA § 36-3-620(a)1)

MNPD may seize firearms in *plain view* or discovered pursuant to a *consensual search* during a DV arrest. (TCA § 36-3-620(a)2)

Check if Defendant has Handgun Carry Permit on any DV offense & flag in offense report narrative (firearm evidence).

Charge Defendant with A Misdemeanor (TCA § 39-17-1307) firearm possession with prior DV misdemeanor conviction (felony possession if felony history) or OP Firearms Violation (Offense Code 520) with active OP.

Ask Victim:

- LAP questions #1 & #4 to determine firearms access
- Permission to search for the defendant's firearms
- If they would like to come to the Family Safety Center (FSC) for resources and help planning for their safety

Express Concern for Victim's Safety:

- Firearms access increases likelihood of murder 5x
- Firearms threats/assault increases likelihood by 20x

Firearms Pocket Card



Other Strangulation Work



OFS Strangulation Brochure

Memory Loss ?

If you blacked out or lost consciousness, it is common to experience memory loss. This means that you may not even remember that you were choked or strangled.

You might regain consciousness and not know how you got to where you are, or you might remember bits and pieces of the assault. For example, you might remember being in the kitchen but then suddenly wake up in your bed.

This is a normal and common side effect. **Not remembering an assault does not mean it didn't happen.** If you experience moments of memory loss and you notice any signs or effects of strangulation, **go to an ER or call 911 immediately.**

Discharge Instructions

Make sure someone stays with you for the next 24-72 hours.

You may or may not develop complications after you leave today. Please **call 911 or go to an ER immediately** if you experience any new effects of strangulation.

You may notice some pain or bruising in your neck or head area. Place a bag of ice on the sore area for 20 minutes, 4 times per day, for the first 2 days. Take photos of any new bruises or injuries that show up.

After you see your doctor, keep a log of any symptoms or injuries that develop. **Make a follow-up appointment with your doctor or healthcare provider in 1-2 weeks.**



Metro Office of Family Safety

If you are worried about your safety or are sometimes afraid of your partner or loved one, there is help available. To speak to an advocate, reach out to either of our offices. All of your information will be kept **confidential** and **all services are free.**

Family Safety Center
walk-ins and appointments
610 Murfreesboro Pike
Nashville, TN 37210
(615) 880-1100
M - F, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Order of Protection assistance 24/7

Jean Crowe Advocacy Center
courthouse location
100 James Robertson Pkwy., Suite 114
Nashville, TN 37201
(615) 862-4767
M - F, 7:45 am - 4:00 pm

We can help file Orders of Protection, create a safety plan, assess your level of risk, connect you with resources such as shelter and counseling, and provide a safe place for you to wait for your court hearing.

Your experience with abuse is unique to you, and your path to safety and healing will be as well. We will listen to you, believe you, and explain the resources that are available. **You choose whether to involve law enforcement or not.**

If you are in Nashville, you can also call the YWCA's 24-hour hotline:
1-800-334-4628

If you are outside of Nashville, you can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at:
1-800-799-7233



Information about strangulation (choking)

No one deserves to be hurt.

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You are not alone.

1 in 4 women will experience violence from their partner or loved one at some point in their life.*

Of those, **1 in 10** will experience choking or strangulation by their partner or loved one.*

Strangulation is a severe and dangerous form of abuse.

- You could lose consciousness and black out within **5-10 seconds**
- You could lose control of your bladder and involuntarily urinate after **15 seconds**
- You could lose control of your bowels and involuntarily defecate after **30 seconds**
- You could lose your life within **1-3 minutes**

Strangulation isn't the only way to cause this level of harm. **Any kind of obstruction to your breathing is dangerous.** This can include pinning you against the wall by your neck, sitting on your chest, putting you in a headlock or chokehold, holding you underwater, or covering your mouth and nose.

*Adapted from Alliance for Hope International

Effects of Strangulation

Use this checklist to keep track of any side effects you have.

- small red/purple dots on your face, scalp, eyes, ears, or nose (this is called *petechiae*)
- bumps on your head, skull fracture, or concussion
- scratch marks, fingernail marks, linear (ligature) marks, or bruising on your face, neck, chest, shoulders, or under your chin (sometimes these can be self-inflicted)
- bloodshot eyes
- bleeding from your ears or nose
- bruising, cuts, or abrasions in or on your mouth or lips
- swollen lips or swollen tongue
- a cough that won't go away
- coughing up blood
- losing consciousness or passing out
- changes in your voice
- difficulty speaking, swallowing, or breathing
- a lump in your throat
- muscle spasms in your neck or throat
- swelling in your neck, throat, or tongue
- increasing neck pain
- weakness on one side of your body
- numbness or tingling
- drooping eyelid
- difficulty understanding speech
- difficulty walking
- a headache that doesn't go away with pain medication
- dizziness or lightheadedness
- changes in your vision
- burst blood vessels in your eye
- seizures
- memory loss or confusion
- vomiting

50% Visible injuries only show up in HALF of all cases, and you can have deadly complications days or even weeks afterward. It is important that you see your doctor even if you feel fine.

Use this diagram to mark and keep track of any visible signs or symptoms that show up.

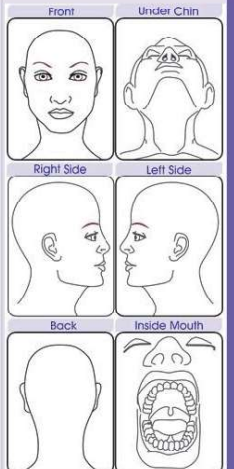


Illustration by Trauma Action



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Strangulation

Major Signs of Strangulation (visible injury 50% of the time)

- hoarse, raspy voice
- trouble breathing
- memory loss or confusion
- involuntary urination (after 15 secs) or defecation (30 secs)
- ligature marks, bruising, or scratches on neck and/or chest
- petechiae on face, scalp, eyes, ears, or nose
- bloodshot eyes
- burst blood vessels in eyes
- seizures

Document signs for evidence!

Strangulation Police Pocket Card

Ask Victim:

- During assault, was there any time you couldn't breathe?
- What do you remember about it?
- How long did you struggle to breathe?
- Did you ever lose consciousness or pass out?
- Did you involuntarily urinate or defecate?
- Were you being hurt in any other way while this was happening? (e.g. sexual assault?)
- Are you pregnant or is there any chance you could be?
- Has this ever happened before? How often?

Express Concern for Victim's Safety

- Strangulation increases lethality by 7.5x
- Death/Complications can occur days/weeks after event
- "Abuser is practicing to kill you or trying to kill you"

Call paramedics to treat victim or take victim to hospital.

Fill out DV Supplement! LAP Q5 = Strangler



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OFS Strangulation Video

You could lose
your life within:
1-3 MINUTES



Strangulation Awareness Day

**SAFE
HANDS
DON'T
HURT**

Has anyone ever made it
so you can't breathe?

Has anyone ever put pressure
on your neck or chest?



Strangulation can
cause permanent
damage and
death days, weeks
and months later.



50% of
strangulations
have no visible
injury.



2,445 People
reported being
strangled by an
intimate partner in
2022.

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
WE ARE HERE TO HELP.**

610 Murfreesboro Pike
Nashville, TN 37210



Family
Safety
Center

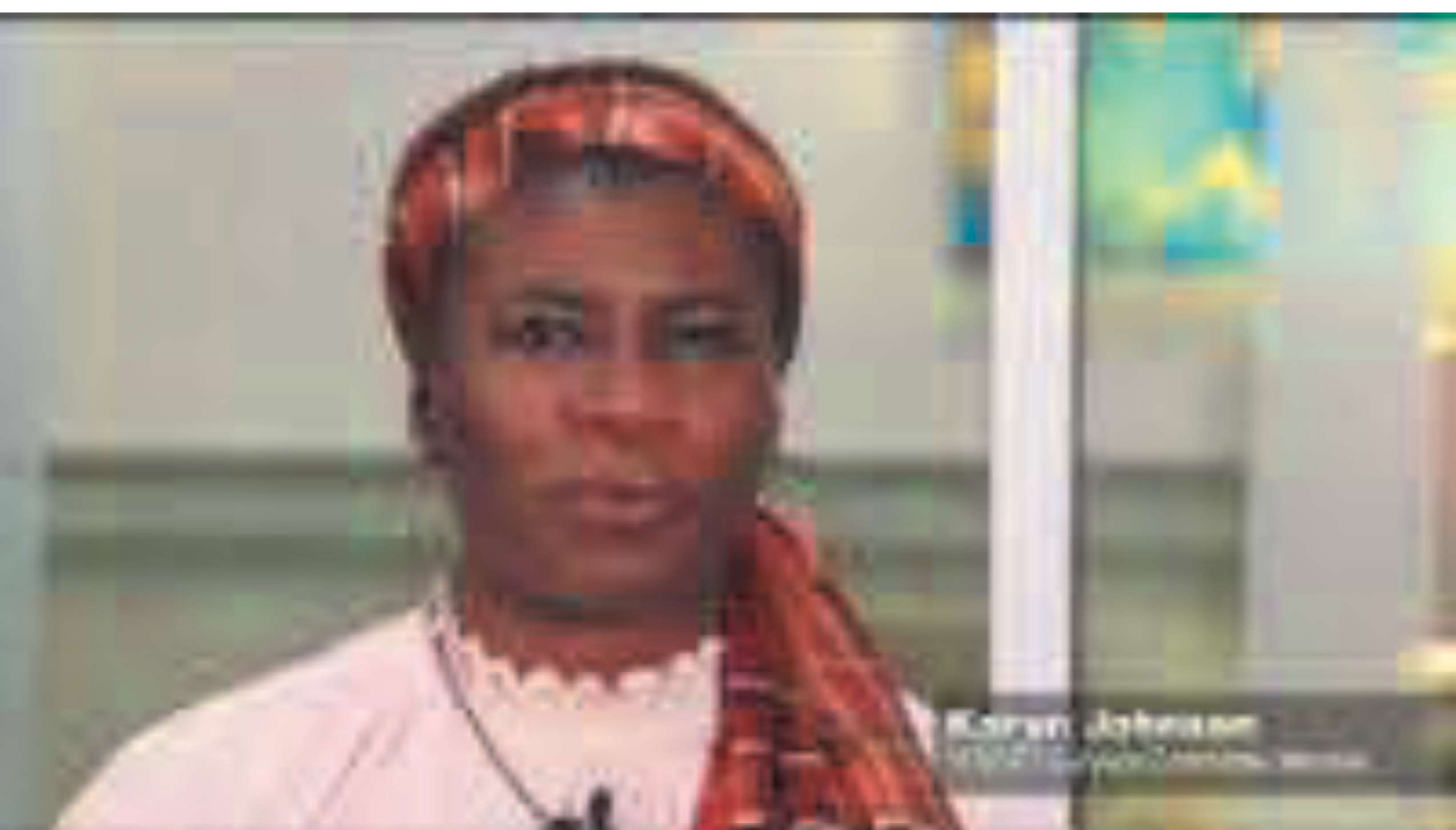
Phone: 615-880-1100
Email: ofs.nashville.gov

Where Hope and Healing Begin

- Strangulation Proclamation
- Strangulation Awareness Event & Demonstration
- Strangulation Legislation
- Strangulation PSA



Metro Office of
Family Safety



Kaitlyn Johnson

MSW, LICSW, Director of Community Services



Thank You!

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