



STATE OF NEW YORK
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES
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TO: All Uniform Crime Reporting Agencies
FROM: Adam Dean, Crime Reporting Unit
DATE: September 12, 2011
SUBJECT: Reporting Alert – Strangulation

**REPORTING ALERT:
CORRECT CODING AND CLASSIFICATION OF STRANGULATION CHARGES**

On November 11, 2010, the following three offenses in Article 121 Strangulation and Related Offenses became effective:

- Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood Circulation (PL§ 121.11; A Misdemeanor) – criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation by applying pressure to the throat or neck or blocking a person’s nose or mouth.
- Strangulation 2nd (PL§ 121.12; D Felony) – criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, as described in PL§ 121.11, and causing stupor, loss of consciousness, or other physical injury or impairment.
- Strangulation 1st (PL§ 121.13; C Felony) - criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, as described in PL§ 121.11, and causing serious physical injury.

For crime reporting purposes, these Penal Laws were assigned the following UCR crime classification:

- PL121.11 – Simple Assault (UCR code 37)
- PL 121.12 – Aggravated Assault (UCR code 6)
- PL 121.13 – Aggravated Assault (UCR code 6)

From November 2010 through August 21st, 2011, New York State law enforcement agencies have submitted 6,282 arrests where the top charge was strangulation. Of these, 1,156 were PL 121.12 or 121.13 which equate to the UCR offense code of aggravated assault.

It is essential that these new laws of PL 121.12 and PL 121.13 are reported to the New York State Crime Reporting Program as aggravated assaults.

If your agency’s Records Management System (RMS) references the updated New York State Coded Law file for crime classifications, please review your version of the coded law file to ensure it includes the new strangulation laws with the correct UCR codes.

If your agency does not utilize the New York State Coded Law file for crime reporting purposes, Please make sure staff responsible for classifying and scoring UCR crime and arrest data receive copies of this memorandum and are classifying these Penal Charges correctly.

Please call the Crime Reporting Unit at 1-800-262-3257 or email to Infonysucr@dcjs.state.ny.us if you have any questions or need assistance.