**Typically, children four years old and under don’t have the cognitive development necessary to answer the questions in this example tool. Even once the child reaches 5 years and higher, some of the questions below may not be developmentally appropriate. It is critical that the forensic nurse be able to assess patient development in relation to the appropriateness of the question examples shown here.**

Modify the questions below to meet the developmental level of the child, including:

1) Tell me about what you felt while the strangulation (use patient’s terminology) was happening;

2) Tell me about what you felt right after the strangulation (use patient’s terminology); and

3) Tell me about how you feel right now (today), documenting patient’s words/descriptions.

**METHOD/MANNER OF STRANGULATION**

* How many hands were used? One, two? Did (insert name or relation to child) put their arm around your neck? Was anything else put around your neck (assessing for use of a ligature)?
* Was (insert name or relation to child) in front of you, behind you, or on the side of you?
* How many times did this happen?
* Did your mouth get covered?
* Were you wearing a necklace around your neck when this happened? Was (insert name or relation to child) wearing any jewelry on their hands or wrists?
* Were you lifted off the ground by your neck?

**DURING THE STRANGULATION**

* How was your breathing when this was happening?
* How was your swallowing when this was happening?
* How did your head feel when this was happening?
* How did your eyes feel when this was happening?
* How did your neck feel when this was happening?
* How did your throat feel when this was happening?
* Could you/how did it sound when you talked when this was happening?
* Could you/how did you see when this was happening?
* Could you/how did you hear when this was happening?
* How did your ears feel when this was happening?
* Did you fall asleep or feel sleepy when this was happening?
* Did you go potty or pee/poop in your pants (use patient’s terminology) when this was happening?
* Is there anything else you want to tell me about?

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE STRANGULATION**

* Right after this happened, did you have a cough?
* Right after this happened, tell me how it felt when you swallowed.
* Did you have a sore throat right after this happened?
* Tell me how it felt/sounded when you talked.
* Were you able to see okay right after this happened?
* Could you hear okay right after this happened?
* Tell me how your breathing felt right after this happened. How did your head feel right after this happened?
* Did you fall asleep/faint/pass out right after this happened? (use age-appropriate terminology)?
* Right after this happened, did you vomit/throw up? If so, how many times?
* How did your neck feel right after this happened? Right after this happened, did you have a headache?
* How did your arms and legs feel right after this happened?
* If able, ask caregiver/person accompanying child about any mental status changes (restlessness, combativeness, amnesia, psychosis, etc.).

**AT THE TIME OF THE EXAM**

* Do you have a cough?
* Do you have a sore throat?
* Tell me about how it feels when you swallow. Are you having trouble swallowing, or does it hurt to swallow?
* Tell me about how it feels/sounds when you talk.
* Can you see everything okay?
* Can you hear like you always do?
* How does your breathing feel?
* Are you dizzy or lightheaded?
* How does your head feel?
* How does your neck feel?
* How do your arms and legs feel?