

Services for Survivors

Non-fatal Strangulation and Smothering Response Team (NFSSRT)

What is NFSSRT?

The NFSSRT provides a coordinated response for someone who has had their breathing restricted by another person. This may include someone placing their hands around another person's neck or covering their mouth or nose with hands or another object.

It is important to seek medical attention as injuries may not always be visible. Lack of oxygen can affect the brain and other vital organs, result in loss of consciousness, lightheadedness, voice changes, difficulty breathing, pain when swallowing, and other physical and neurological symptoms.

Who is eligible for NFSSRT Services?

A survivor of strangulation is eligible if they meet the following criteria:

- **Are 13 years of age and older,**
- **The incident is recent or is an ongoing occurrence, and**
- **The survivor consents to a NFSSRT activation**

If a survivor fits the above criteria, they may request response by NFSSRT by:

- Presenting at the Emergency Room at RWJ University Hospital Somerset, 110 Rehill Ave, Somerville,
- Contacting law enforcement, or
- Contacting Safe+Sound Somerset's confidential 24-hour Call or Text Helpline at **866-685-1122**

A SURVIVOR HAS THE OPTION TO CHOOSE ANY, ALL, OR NONE OF THESE SERVICES.



What are the roles of the NFSRT members?

Non-Fatal Strangulation Response Team Advocates provide trauma informed support and explain services provided through Safe+Sound Somerset. With a survivor's consent a NFSRT Advocate may be present during the medical forensic exams to offer crisis intervention and emotional support, throughout the medical process.

Forensic Nurse Examiners, with consent from the survivor, are available at the hospital to provide a forensic exam, as well as to discuss the survivor's medical condition, treatment options, and a medical referral plan.

Law Enforcement is available to answer questions relating to the investigation and legal process. They are available if the survivor decides to report the incident.

How can Safe+Sound Somerset help?

We provide support for survivors and families that have been impacted by sexual, dating or domestic violence. We offer a broad range of compassionate, empowerment-based services to assist survivors on their path to regaining personal autonomy and finding safety, hope and healing.

Healing Begins Here!

**For more information about our services and how we can help, call or text our 24-hour confidential helpline
866-685-1122**



www.safe-sound.org

