

## Positional Asphyxia Video and Regional DETAC Meeting Notes



Carlos Carrizosa

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Hi everyone,

Please review the new San Diego county video narrated by our county medical examiners in the link below regarding **positional asphyxia**. After you have watched the video, please sign-in on the roster sheet. The roster sheet will be located in the mailbox outside the sergeants office.

You have received access to a San Diego County DA File Share. The link to transfer your file(s) will expire on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 12:00 AM.

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### Video Notes from Positional Asphyxiation:

- Narrated by Dr. Gray Vilke (ER Physician)
  - Suggests officers refrain from using the term “**recovery position**” in police reports, especially after a use of force.
  - Dr. Vilke recommends officers to explain what they are doing and **avoid medical phrases** (examples below):
    - *“I sat the suspect in an upright position. I watched the suspect to monitor their breathing for about 5 minutes until paramedics arrived.”*
    - *“After placing handcuffs on the suspect as they were laying belly down on the ground, I turned the suspect onto the left side of their body until they were ready to sit up....”*
- Positional asphyxiation is summarized as **damage to tissue from inadequate breathing**. Seating a person upright or on their side allows the chest to fully expand; however, other factors in the video describe what can cause this as well.