ALAMANCE COUNTY



* Brittany came to Family Abuse Services (FAS) just days after being physically assaulted and nearly strangled to death by her boyfriend in front of her children. **Brittany was strangled so severely that she couldn't move and then passed out.** During the assault, Brittany still had numerous stiches inside her from a high risk surgery. The criminal charges that resulted from this incident are two counts of Assault by Strangulation, Communicating Threats, three counts of Assault Inflicting Serious Injury in Front of a Minor, and Assault on a Female. Brittany's abuser was also charged with a probation violation.

Brittany completed a Domestic Violence Protection Order (50b). FAS provided Brittany with an emergency cell phone and volunteers who accompany her to additional court dates. FAS spoke to Alamance County's legal aid attorney and asked that the agency consider waiving their acceptance date requirement. The defendant ultimately agreed to the 50b being entered for 1 year. **The advocate continued to stay in**

contact with Brittany to provide support. FAS Staff contacted the CPS Case Worker assigned to investigate and updated the worker on all the steps Brittany was taking to protect her children. Staff also contacted the Alamance County District Attorney's Office to find out which prosecutor had the criminal case. The advocate wrote a letter to the DA'S Office, which expressed Brittany's concerns over her abusers maximum sentence time of only 2 and a half years. The advocate assisted Brittany in completing a MOSIAC Threat Assessment in order to develop an enhanced safety plan. Brittany now attends our weekly Women's Support Group. *The FAS advocate and Brittany know that the situation is not over, and are continuing to work together to keep her family safe.*

*name changed to protect her identity

**Story provided by Family Abuse Services of Alamance County, Inc.

This program is made possible through North Carolina state funding and its Council for Women. Learn more by visiting the website <u>www.councilforwomen.nc.gov</u>.

