

# CLALLAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

MARK B. NICHOLS

223 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 11  
PORT ANGELES, WA 98362  
PHONE: 360-417-2301 FAX: 360-417-2469  
TOLL FREE FROM FORKS: 360-374-5324

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2025  
Port Angeles, Washington

### **Port Angeles Man Receives 14 Month Prison Sentence for Strangulation Assault and Unlawful Imprisonment**

*Clallam County Superior Court Cause No.: 25-1-00173-05*

On September 17, 2025, Clallam County Superior Court Judge Simon Barnhart followed the State's recommendation and sentenced 20-year-old Wyatt Hale of Port Angeles to 14 months in prison for assault in the second degree by strangulation and unlawful imprisonment. The sentence followed a guilty plea to both charges.

According to the certification for probable cause filed with the court, Hale grabbed his then girlfriend by the throat and lifted her up in the air. He then proceeded to restrict her breathing, stopped her from finishing a call to 911 and would not let her leave her home.

Hale's sentence of 14 months represents the top of the standard sentencing range under Washington law for an offender convicted of these offenses who has no prior criminal history. After completion of his prison sentence Hale will be monitored by the Washington State Department of Corrections Community Custody Division and required to obtain a substance use disorder evaluation and mental health evaluation and comply with all treatment recommendations. He will also be required to participate in an anger management course and a domestic violence perpetrator class.

Hale was originally charged in two different cases with assault in the second degree by strangulation, one of which was dismissed as part of a global resolution. Under the resolution, both survivors were afforded the opportunity to make a victim impact statement at sentencing. Additionally, each survivor received a protection order that restrains Hale from having any contact with them for 10 years.

One of the survivors had a victim impact statement read in court acknowledging the vast impact that this crime has had and will have upon her life. Judge Barnhart stated that he hoped that this event did not become a defining moment for the two survivors and that they were able to find some healing.

The Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office takes the act of strangulation and domestic violence very seriously. The severity of strangulation as a form of assault is often

misunderstood without proper training and education as to its effects on survivors. Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Michele Devlin, read the legislative finding for the strangulation statute, RCW 9A.36.021, into the record at sentencing. That finding states in relevant part that “[s]trangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. The particular cruelty of this offense and its potential effects upon a victim both physically and psychologically, merit its categorization as a ranked felony offense...”

### **Office Information**

The Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office employs over 25 people, including 14 attorneys. Clallam County, which includes Forks, Port Angeles, and Sequim, has an approximate population of 78,000.

The Criminal Division is responsible for prosecuting all felonies in Clallam County and all misdemeanors in unincorporated areas of Clallam County as well as the Cities of Port Angeles and Sequim.

The Civil Division acts as the law firm representing the County and its agencies. The Civil Division advises and represents all of the County's elected officials and departments on a myriad of complex legal matters. The range of legal representation provided by this unit is expansive and covers virtually every aspect of civil practice.

The Child Support Enforcement Division is wholly funded by and represents the Division of Child Support of the State of Washington. The Support Enforcement Division carries out judicial establishment of paternity and child support, enforcements for failure to pay court-ordered child support, and modifications to existing child support orders. The Support Enforcement Division also represents the State of Washington in collection actions on parents owing a duty of support.

[For more information call](#)

Michele Devlin

Clallam County Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

(360) 417-2301

[Michele.devlin@clallamcountywa.gov](mailto:Michele.devlin@clallamcountywa.gov)

END