

Legal expert says erotic strangulation 'on the edge of homicide'

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Anna Florence Reed's German boyfriend has been arrested. Photo / Facebook
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A UK woman who made international headlines after she was found dead in a five-star hotel room was believed to have died in a sex game that went horribly wrong.

Now a prominent legal expert is calling for the violent sex act to be banned, saying it's domestic violence and likening it to a game of chicken on the road.

Anna Florence Reed, 22, was discovered lifeless in the bathroom last week, hours after an alleged altercation with her German lover that was said to involve erotic asphyxiation.



Anna Florence Reed and her German boyfriend appeared to be 'in love'. Photo / Facebook

While retired United States Superior Court Judge Eugene Hyman has no connection to the case, he has spoken out about how such a dangerous act cannot be consented to, labelling strangulation as "foreplay for death".

The expert in domestic violence and non-fatal strangulation cases said the risk of femicide, or the intentional killing of a female because of her gender, increased by 600 to 700 per cent once a woman had been non-fatally strangled once.

He described strangulation as being "on the edge of homicide".

"How can you consent to what is the equivalent of playing Russian roulette?" he said during a conference at Bond University on the Gold Coast.

"When there's an increase of 600 per cent (risk) when the person has been non-fatally strangled before, in my opinion the choking sex game thing ... can't be legal.



Miss Reed - whose late grandfather is equine legend Guy Reed - had been heard arguing with her German boyfriend shortly before her death on Tuesday. Photo / Facebook

"It is impossible in my opinion to have a person consent. You can't consent to something that is that dangerous any more than you can consent to Russian roulette, any more than you can consent to playing 'chicken' on a roadway where two cars are going towards each other at 100km/h to see which one is going to chicken out. You can't do it legally."

Auto-erotic asphyxiation involves couples using strangling or suffocation to heighten sexual arousal.