

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Matt Brown is a recently retired State and Federal law enforcement officer. He has been an Autism Information Specialist with ASM for over 20 years and has an Autistic son.

He has been a subject matter expert and instructor at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy since 2005 and has provided support to Autistic individuals in the criminal justice system.

Cathy Dionne is the Executive Director for the Autism Society and is a parent of a 30-year-old nonspeaking autistic adult. She has been working in the field of autism for 28 years.



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First Responders & Criminal Justice Professionals



ASM provides this training free of charge to any interested law enforcement agency. To request a training email Cathy at asm@asmonline.org

FMI visit our website:



If you are experiencing an ongoing crisis situation, contact the crisis hotline at: 888-568-1112 or Suicide & Crisis lifeline at 988

Last Updated 8/2024

WWW.ASMONLINE.ORG
1-800-273-5200
72B MAIN ST. WINTHROP

WHAT TO EXPECT

This 2-hr. training includes a PowerPoint presentation with videos. An individual with Autism may also come to share their personal experience.

Some things you'll learn include...

- **Overview of Autism:** history, prevalence, and common characteristics on the Autism Spectrum.
- **Detailed discussion** on the characteristics that create unsafe situations for law enforcement and first responders: sensory issues, processing delays, insistence on routine, and social/communication challenges.
- **In-depth analysis** of common crisis situations: elopement, "suspicious behavior" calls, school incidents, and other law enforcement interactions.
- **Strategies** for preventing, recognizing, and safely responding to meltdowns, as well as arrest techniques and officer safety issues.
- **Identify issues** concerning persons with Autism as vulnerable victims.
- **Concerns** of Fire safety and EMS workers.
- **Solutions** for creating community partnerships to improve outcomes, including voluntary registration programs for providing vital information to first responders.

KNOW THE FACTS

Fact: Autism Spectrum Disorders affect an estimated **1 in 36** people and is the fastest-growing developmental disability

Fact: Leading causes of unnatural death for persons with Autism include drowning and positional asphyxia from being restrained face down.

Fact: Half of the autism population wanders, with 90% of wandering deaths involving drowning (71%) or being struck by a vehicle (18%).

Fact: Behaviors common in persons with Autism, such as lack of eye contact, processing delays, invasion of personal space, and stimming, can be misinterpreted by law enforcement as suspicious or threatening.

Fact: The Maine Department of Public Safety teams with local and county agencies to share first responder questionnaire forms through their dispatch system. These forms help find missing people and promote a positive experience between first responders and disabled people.

www.maine.gov/dps/bec

Fact: In 2004, the Autism Society of Maine developed this training program approved by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. As a result, hundreds of police officers, firefighters, EMTs, dispatchers, and other first responders have been trained; including all cadets at the Maine Police Academy and all officers completing CIT training in Maine.

REACH OUT AND SCHEDULE YOUR TRAINING TODAY!

STATISTICS

20%

By age 21, approximately 20% of youth with Autism had been stopped and questioned by police, and nearly 5% had been arrested

30-50%

30-50% of people killed by law enforcement are people with Autism or other disabilities.

59-61%

Approximately 59-61% of young children and school-age children with Autism are living in low-income households (below 200% federal poverty line),

40%

Spoken language can be a significant barrier to communication for individuals with Autism as 40% are non-speaking.

↑15%

The prevalence of Autism is expected to increase by 15% over the next 10 years.

Age 28

Racial injustice is seen as Black individuals with a disability are more likely to be arrested by age 28 than their peers.

AUTISM JUSTICE CENTER

To prevent Autistic individuals from becoming a statistic; the Autism Society of America developed the Autism Justice Center to address the complex and challenging interactions between individuals and law enforcement.



They are committed to advocating for and supporting individuals with Autism who encounter legal issues, as well as educating and collaborating with justice system professionals.

<https://autismsociety.org/autism-justice-center/>