

Autism and the School Resource Officer

Presented by: Bart Barta, Retired Law Enforcement Commander

Hosted by: UF Health/Jacksonville CARD, UF Health FDLRS – MDC

About the Presenter

Autism and the School Resource Officer training course is instructed by Bart Barta. Bart is the proud father of Daniel, a teenager with autism. Bart understands many of the challenges faced by individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Bart is a retired law enforcement commander with more than 31 years of experience. Bart is also a nationally recognized instructor who has trained more than 7,000 first responders how to successfully interact with people on the autism spectrum, he has also authored several articles about autism safety. Furthermore, Bart is recognized as a subject matter expert by The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and in 2017 was selected to contribute to the development of autism curriculum for officers in the state of Florida. For more than 10 years, Bart served as an instructor for the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Program for Florida's Eleventh Circuit Court's Mental Health Project. Bart is a former SWAT and Crisis Management Team (Hostage Negotiations) Commander. Bart is the former Commander of the Coral Gables Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division. Bart now serves as the president of Autism Safety 101, Inc.

Training Description

Target Audience: This is a closed training for officers and security personnel who work in the school district.

This course will provide school resource officers and school security personnel with a basic understanding of ASD and how students with autism behave, communicate, and react in various situations. More importantly it will address the unique challenges faced by students with autism. This training will provide tips and strategies to help reduce anxiety and facilitate best outcomes. Instruction will be provided on the challenge of interviewing students with autism who might be a victim, witness, or suspect. It will also address serious issues such as self-injurious behavior and the dangers of wandering and elopement in an educational setting.

Training Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Understand what autism is and how students are affected by it.
- Recognize possible signs of autism.
- Understand how autism affects students differently.
- Develop alternative ways of identifying students with autism.
- Understand the various challenges of interviewing students with autism.
- Develop strategies for reducing stress and anxiety in students with autism.
- Develop de-escalation techniques for responding to autistic students in crisis.
- Understand what types of crimes and schemes that students with autism are more likely to become victims.
- Recognize when an involuntary mental health examination is necessary.
- Understand best practices for responding to students with autism who elope or are discovered missing while in school.

Date:

March 22, 2021

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Registration begins at 8:15 am

Location:

Adam W. Herbert University Center
Building 43, University Center
University of North Florida

12000 Alumni Drive | Jacksonville,
Florida 32224

Registration Deadline:

March 20, 2021

Limited to first 50 participants

Registration:

Participants must be submitted by their district administrators for registration.

This training is only for officers and security personnel who work in the school district.

Registration is mandatory.

For more information contact:

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or (904)633-0801

Directions:

For directions, click [HERE](#).

Be sure to contact your ESE District Staff or Staff Development Contact to determine the process for receiving in-service.