



**MENIFEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CCN #: 1391-43172
AUTISM AND LAW ENFORCEMENT – COURSE OUTLINE**

COURSE GOAL

The 16-hour course will prepare the trainee with a wide range of strategies to effectively identify, respond to and deescalate individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. Upon completion of this course, attendees will be better prepared to engage with persons with autism and /or other developmental disabilities by utilizing adaptive communication supports, behavioral techniques and other proven methods of safely securing the scene or situation.

The course consists of lecture based teaching and hands-on/practical skills for in-service personnel.

Minimum Topics/Exercises:

- a. Definitions
- b. Characteristics and Recognition of a person with Autism
- c. Autism Facts
- d. Officer Safety and Community Safety
- e. Resources
- f. Communication Skills
- g. Law Enforcement Response and Contacts
- h. Autism and the Legal System
- i. Restraint Techniques
- j. Class Exercises / Student Evaluation / Testing

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.
2. Identify the proper communication techniques to use to respond to the individual(s).
3. Identify resources for the individual.
4. Demonstrate a minimum standard of restraint techniques.

Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique and exercise. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction

Learning objective: Attendee's will be able to define what autism is, understand its prevalence, how to support these individuals in various situations, and the likelihood they will have contact with individuals within our community.

A. Instructor Experience with autism and background.

B. Attendees will share out their personal experiences with a person with autism.

C. Defining Autism

1. DSM-5-TR Definition
2. Interpretation of DSM-5-TR definition simplified

D. Characteristics and Recognition of a person with autism

E. Autism Facts

1. Statistical information/facts/data

F. Officer Safety and Community Safety

1. Relevance of course
2. Officer Safety
3. Community Safety

G. Resources

1. Federal
2. State
3. County
4. Local

H. Communication Skills

1. Verbal and Non-Verbal
2. Communication Devices

II. Law Enforcement Response/Contacts

A. Public Safety Risks

1. Juveniles
2. Adults

B. De-Escalation

SUBJECT'S ACTIONS AND OFFICER'S RESPONSE

A. Subject's actions

1. Compliant

2. Passive non-compliant
3. Actively Resistant
4. Assaultive
5. Life Threatening

B. Officer's Response to Resistance

1. Non deadly
2. Intermediate force
3. Deadly force

C. Students will participate in a scenario-based exercise to demonstrate

1. Safety
2. Awareness
3. Balance
4. Control
5. Controlling Force
6. Proper Techniques
7. Verbal Commands / Instructions

DE-ESCALATION OF FORCE

A. Verbal Commands

1. Tone of voice
2. Gain voluntary compliance
3. Single communicator

B. Assessment

1. Ability
2. Opportunity
3. Intent
4. Recognize when to escalate vs. de-escalate
 - a. When verbal commands fail – time to take action
 - b. Use of force warning when feasible

C. Tactics

1. Distance plus cover equals' time
2. Resources
3. Contiguously Plan

III. Autism and the Legal System

A. Offender Trends

B. Arrest and Incarceration

1. Documentation
2. Notifications

C. Interview and Interrogation

IV. Restraint Techniques

OFFICER AWARENESS/TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Initial Approach with Subject
 - 1. Hands
 - 2. Cover
 - 3. Weapons/bulges
 - 4. Footing/balance, officer's ability to stay on his/her feet
- B. Tactical Considerations
 - 1. Associates, subjects, and officers (resources available)
 - 2. Escape routes, subjects – tactical retreat, officers

BODY BALANCE/STANCE AND MOVEMENT FROM POSITION OF INTERVIEW AND POSITION OF ADVANTAGE

- A. Footwork Review
 - 1. Forward shuffle
 - 2. Rear shuffle
 - 3. Normal pivot
 - 4. Shuffle right and left
 - 5. Pivot right and left
 - 6. Progressive pivot
 - 7. Shuffle pivot
- B. Body Balance and Movement
 - 1. How to fall to the ground safely and assume a position of advantage
 - 2. Access to equipment on duty belt while in a position of advantage and on the ground

SEARCH/HANDCUFFING

- A. Search
 - 1. Visual Search (plain view)
 - 2. Pat Down
 - 3. Incident to Arrest/complete search
- B. Handcuffing Techniques from:
 - 1. Standing
 - 2. Kneeling
 - 3. Prone
 - a. Minimize actions that could lead to positional asphyxia
 - b. Alternative placement
 - c. Positions of recovery
- C. Assess for Officer and Suspect Injuries
 - 1. Render First Aid or request additional medical as needed
 - 2. Document

CONTROL HOLD/ TAKE DOWNS

- A. Control Hold
 - 1. Joint Manipulation
 - 2. Pain Compliance
- B. Take Downs
 - 1. Various Positions
 - a. Handcuffed
 - b. Non-cuffed
 - 2. Single Officer
 - 3. Multiple Officer
- C. Assess for Officer and Suspect Injuries
 - 1. Render First Aid or request additional medical as needed
 - 2. Document

STUDENT RECOVERY

- A. Cool Down
 - 1. Stretching
 - 2. Hydration
- B. Injuries
 - 1. Treat
 - 2. Document
- V. Testing & Remediation
 - a. Any student scoring below standard on any exercise, as established by the presenter, will be remediated and tested until standard is achieved.
- VI. References
 - A. Course References
 - B. Questions and Answers