



Understanding Autism and Other Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Training Description for First Responders

*This training provides **law enforcement and first responders** with scenario-based instruction with practical application in the field. Pathfinders for Autism provides a balance of factual information and practical tips and strategies, along with personal stories that both entertain and provoke thoughtful consideration. Participants leave the session with a comprehensive understanding as to why this Autism/Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities training is important and how it will play into their daily work experience.*

MPCTC Certified Training
Law Enforcement - This class meets the MPCTC mandate for I/DD training, both entry-level and in-service
Police In-Service P27716
Police Entry-Level P25083

Corrections
Corrections Entry-Level C14044
Corrections In-Service C14371

MIEMSS Certified Training
Miemss/EMS Continuing Education
Credit Hours 1610480
ALS Category 2; ALS Hours 2
BLS Category L; BLS Hours 2

Purpose of Training

Pathfinders for Autism seeks to train Maryland-based law enforcement and first responders in ways to interact more effectively with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and other Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).

Benefits of Pathfinders for Autism's Training

Education is a powerful tool, and in high-stress situations or tragic incidents, proper training and education can mean the difference between safety and harm for all involved. If a child elopes and the first responders on the scene happen to know what social and sensory elements may or may not work in finding that child, that has an everlasting impact. If a first responder is trying to determine if someone is behaving unusually, or simply displaying signs of a developmental disability, education can have an affect on their course of action. If we can assist officers and medical professionals in the difficult job they do every day — protecting and serving our community — by helping them to understand how best to interact with individuals with ASD/I/DD, all of us will breathe a little easier.

Our Curriculum

You can't arrive on a scene and make a diagnosis, And we will never expect you to. So our curriculum focuses on functional ability (rather than specific diagnosis) that incorporates the most prominent developmental disabilities law enforcement and first responders may encounter. The program addresses how to identify disabilities and their characteristics and make necessary accommodations.



Interactive scenario discussions and practicals

In our trainings, we present different situations such as an elopement case, domestic disturbance, driving incident and crime victim. We solicit strategies for handling these cases when they involve people with ASD/I/DD.



Our team

Our curriculum development team consists of Pathfinders' staff, two neuropsychologists, a Harford Co. Sheriff's deputy, a Maryland Capitol Police officer, and a retired Maryland State Trooper.



Our training team includes:

Shelly Allred, parent of a son with autism, certified police instructor through MSP, CIT certified through Montgomery County Police and Mental Health First Aid certified through Harford County Sheriff's Office

Janelle Myers, parent of a young adult with an I/DD, detective with Harford County Sheriff's Office, certified police instructor and CIT certified through Harford County Sheriff's Office

Drew Myers, parent of a young adult with an I/DD, former fire/EMS personnel, certified police instructor

Glenn Myers, self-advocate, active community volunteer

Jake Edwards, teenage self-advocate, White House Champion of Change award recipient for his work teaching police

Josh Smith, self-advocate, longtime Martin's Food Store employee and leadership program participant, Special Olympian