



Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION **TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2017-11**

DATE: August 17, 2017
TO: Criminal Justice Agency Administrators
Criminal Justice Training Center Directors
FROM: Director Dean Register *DR*
Criminal Justice Professionalism Division
SUBJECT: Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) & Interviews

Effective October 2016, Florida Statute s. 943.0439 requires that, at the request of a person with ASD (or their parent/guardian), public safety officers must make a good faith effort to find a professional (e.g., psychologist, mental health counselor) to be present at all interviews. This online course outlines the requirements for interviewing individuals with ASD and will assist officers and agencies in meeting the requirements of s. 943.0439, F.S. The course also includes special considerations for interviewing people with an autism spectrum disorder.

Completion of this course is not mandatory; however, one (1) hour of credit may be given toward mandatory retraining hours.

Officers may access the course at the following link:

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/FCJEI/Online-Training/Autism-Interviews.aspx>

For technical support with completing the course, officers may contact the Bureau of Professional Development at (850) 410-7373.

Effective October 2017, Florida Statute s. 943.1727 directs FDLE to develop additional training related to autism spectrum disorder. Completion of this course will not be required; however, credit may be given toward mandatory retraining hours. Staff is in the process of developing this broader course on autism recognition and response and will present it to the Commission for approval as a specialized course in November 2017. Agencies will be notified when this course becomes available.

DR/km

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission