



Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION **TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2026-11**

DATE: June 08, 2026

TO: Criminal Justice Agency Administrators
Criminal Justice Training Center Directors
Criminal Justice Selection Center Directors

FROM: Director Chad Brown 
Criminal Justice Professionalism, Standards & Training Services Division

SUBJECT: Revision of Specialized Course, #022, Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness

This technical memorandum announces the revision of the 4-hour Specialized Course, #022, Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 418: Law Enforcement Officer Interactions With Individuals With Autism Spectrum Disorder, which was enrolled March 11, 2026, requires current law enforcement officers to complete an online training on the nature and manifestation of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), techniques for interviewing or interrogating a person with ASD, de-escalation strategies, and other ASD-related training components by July 1, 2030. To capture all future officers, the same information is required to be in the law enforcement basic recruit training and listed as a mandatory course requirement for equivalency of training officers by July 1, 2028.

In preparation for the possible passage of the Senate Bill 418, Commission staff revised the instructor-led Specialized Course, #022, Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness, to include the content required by the bill. The content in the revised instructor-led course will also be used to create the online training required by Senate Bill 418. However, the online course will only cover the requirements specified in the bill; therefore, the course hours will be less than the instructor-led course. This online training will be completed and presented to the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) in May 2027.

With regard to the instructor-led Specialized Course, #022, Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness, Commission staff worked with subject matter experts (SMEs) to update the curriculum to reflect contemporary methods and best practices for responding to and interacting with people on the autism spectrum. These updates include additional information on the nature and prevalence of ASD, common co-occurring physical and psychiatric conditions, and safety risks associated with ASD, to name a few. The SME workgroup also revised and developed roleplay exercises to help officers practice skills for interacting with a person with ASD. Due to the added material, the course hours increased from 4 to 8.

On May 14, 2026, the CJSTC approved the revised Specialized Course, #022, Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness (version 2026.05), which went into effect immediately. Instructors can find the revised course on FDLE's course materials website via the Automated Training Management System (ATMS) or by visiting: <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/ATMS/>.

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If you have questions about the revised course, please contact Training and Research Manager Jamie Peeters at JamiePeeters@fdle.state.fl.us or (850) 410-8608.

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission