

## Is your department prepared to deal with an individual with autism?

The goal of the Autism Society of Greater Orlando's Autism Awareness Training for First Responders is to ensure that first responders are prepared with the knowledge to handle this unique developmental disability

It is our mission to train police, fire, and search and rescue departments across the State of Florida to recognize the characteristics of autism, learn how to interact and respond to individuals with autism, while insuring the safety and security of all involved.

This training program will consist of classroom instruction and live interactions with individuals with autism. The focus of the training will be to provide the skills necessary to identify, interact, and respond to individuals with autism

In the training, the officers will be taught ways to de-escalate a situation and bring the situation to a peaceful resolution while avoiding possible injury and/or death to those involved.

If you feel that your department would benefit from ASGO's Autism Awareness Training, please contact the Autism Society of Greater Orlando at 407-855-0235.

ASGO was founded in 1996 by a group of volunteer parents to better assist families of children and adults with autism in the Central Florida area. The mission or goal of the ASGO is that all individuals within the autism spectrum will be provided a lifetime network of opportunities to become fully accepted, included, and actively participating members of our community, through family support, education, and advocacy, and public awareness.

We are primarily a volunteer organization. Most of the volunteers are parents that understand what it is like to live with autism on a daily basis.

ASGO is a 501(c) (3)  
-not-for-profit organization.

Civil Service today is a very diverse duty; People with autism are part of that diversity.

This presentation will provide you with some tips on how to resolve the situation effectively. Individuals with autism have been injured and have died during contact with First Responders.

### Autism Society of Greater Orlando

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# ASGO

**AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO**

in partnership with the  
**BAL HARBOUR  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## AUTISM AWARENESS TRAINING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Police, Fire & EMS encounter individuals in different situations. Just as each situation differs from the next, so does the individual involved. Civil Service Personnel are trained to respond to situations but are not trained to deal with individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Because First Responders are first to respond to an emergency, it is critical that they have a working knowledge of ASD, and the wide variety of behaviors individuals with autism can exhibit in emergency situations.

Autism is America's fastest growing developmental disability. You will meet children and adults with autism

An estimated 1.5 million individuals in the U.S. and tens of millions worldwide are affected by autism.

Today, it is estimated that 1 in every 68 children is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined.

The cause or origin of Autism is still a mystery.



## Course Objectives

At the end of this lesson, students should be able to identify signs of autism and, should be able to demonstrate how to deescalate a situation with an individual with autism. This block of instruction will assist the student to:

- Define Autism.
- Recognize signs/characteristic of autism.
- Understand Baker Act criteria as it relates to autism
- Identify stressors for families dealing with autism.
- Identify and apply techniques when responding to a call for service involving an individual with autism.
- Identify and apply techniques when making an arrest involving an individual with autism.
- Identify and apply techniques when performing a pat-down or search to an individual with autism.
- Identify and apply techniques to de-escalate situation(s) with an individual with autism
- Identify and apply techniques when interviewing or interrogating an individual with autism.
- Interact with individuals with autism

## Meet the Instructors



Donna is a native Floridian having been born and raised in West Palm Beach. Married to Steve Lorman for 25 years, they are the parents of two children, Drew 23 (with autism) and Lauren 21. Donna graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1989 with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration. Donna is the President of the Autism Society of Greater Orlando and has coordinated many events and activities to support individuals with autism and their families. She is an advocate devoted to raising Autism Awareness in Central Florida. Donna began Autism Awareness for First Responders back in 2005 and to date has trained over 6,000 first responders on autism.

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Hector Gonzalez has been married for 26 years with three children Rita 25, Chris 20, (with autism) Sheila 21. He has been in Law Enforcement for 17 years, for the past 9 years he has been employed with the Bal Harbour Police Department. During his time in Law Enforcement, he has been assigned and/or volunteered for various tasks and duties, including Uniform Patrol, Marine Patrol, Field Training Officer, Detective, Undercover and Police Instructor to name a few. His latest venture is conducting Officer training for Autism Awareness. He has trained Officers & Recruits throughout Miami Dade County.