

Autism Society of Maine

Membership Form

	Price	Total
ASM Membership		
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family Member with ASD	15.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Membership	20.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation		
ASA Membership		
<input type="checkbox"/> ASA Membership Family member	40.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> ASA Membership Individual	30.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> ASA Membership Individual	100.00	
	Total:	_____

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Membership includes:

- ASM lending library
- Scholarships for conferences
- Quarterly newsletter
- Access to Annual Family Retreat Weekend
- Autism awareness packets

Method of Payment

- Check
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Purchase Order # _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Information about the individual on the Autism Spectrum

Name _____

Male/Female _____ Date of Birth _____ Diagnosis _____

Which best describes you:

- Individual on the Autism Spectrum
- Parent/Family Member
- Professional

Mission Statement

The Autism Society of Maine is a non-profit organization that serves individuals with autism and their families, professionals, and communities by providing education, advocacy, referrals, and resource development. The Society provides current information in support of informed choice of treatments and services.



This program is sponsored by DHHS

AUTISM SOCIETY OF MAINE

**72 B Main Street
Winthrop, ME 04364**

**Phone: 1-800-273-5200
Fax: 207-377-9434**

**Email: asm@asmonline.org
www.asmonline.org**

**Autism Society of America
www.autism-society.org
Revised 01/08**



Autism Society of Maine

FIRST RESPONDERS
AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
PROFESSIONALS



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Autism Society of Maine's "Autism and Law Enforcement" Training Program

Fact: Autism Spectrum Disorders affect an estimated **1 in 150 persons**; it is the fastest growing developmental disability (Autism Society of America).

Fact: Persons with Autism and other developmental disabilities are **7 times** more likely to come into contact with law enforcement authorities (Dennis Debbaudt, 2002).

Fact: Among the leading causes of death for persons with Autism are drowning and positional asphyxia due to being restrained (often in arrest situations).

Fact: Persons with Autism often display behaviors that can easily cause a law enforcement officer to misinterpret their conduct or behavior as suspicious, non-compliant, or threatening, such as: lack of eye-to-eye contact, processing delays, invasion of body space, and others.

In 2003, recognizing the above noted issues, the Autism Society of Maine embarked on a mission to educate law enforcement, fire/rescue, EMS, and other first responders about Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dennis Debbaudt, a Florida-based law enforcement professional and father of a young man with Autism, has been the trail blazer in this mission. Through his lectures around the globe and his video, he has "gotten the ball rolling" in terms of making the importance of this training known to law enforcement offi-

cers far and wide. Inspired by his efforts, starting in early 2004, the Autism Society of Maine developed a 2 hour training program which was approved by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Since that time, hundreds of police and correctional officers, state game wardens, firefighters, EMT's, and search and rescue workers, dispatchers, Homeland Security airport screeners, and other first responders have received the training.

About the program

The training program consists of a 2 hour (or a shortened version to suit individual department needs) block of instruction that includes a power point presentation and a professionally produced video. The highlight of the program, however, is the personal stories shared by individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder who has been involved in the criminal justice system, and who have experienced many struggles throughout their lives. Their determination to overcome challenges and to make a difference by sharing experiences is a true inspiration to any who are privileged to hear the individual speak.

During the course of the program, participants will learn:

- * What Autism is- a history of the disorder, a discussion of how common it is, as well as the common characteristics shared by many on the Autism Spectrum.
- * Specific characteristics that could pose problems for law enforcement are discussed in detail, such as: sensory issues (sensitivities to touch, sound and vision), processing delays, insistence on routine and predictability, and difficulties posed in interviewing scenarios.
- * Discussion on the most common incidents involving persons with Autism, such as lost and wandering issues, "suspicious behavior" calls, incidents at schools, etc.
- * Discussion on preventing, recognizing, and responding to meltdowns, as well as arrest techniques and officer safety issues.
- * Issues relating to persons with Autism as vulnerable victims.
- * Fire safety/EMS issues
- * Ideas on creating community partnerships to improve outcomes.

About the instructor:

Matt Brown is an 20 plus year law enforcement veteran, who has been employed as a U.S. Probation Officer for over 15 years. His son Matthew, Jr., is diagnosed with high-functioning Autism.

The Autism Society of Maine will provide this training free of charge to any interested law enforcement agency. To request a training session for your department, contact ASM or:

Matt Brown, US Probation Officer

at work 780-3358 x232 or cell 415-4737

email

Matt_Brown@mep.uscourts.gov

Some material used in the presentation are from:

Dennis Debbaudt

www.autismriskmanagement.com



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