



Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Training Program

Mobile Team Unit 15

Training Announcement

Name of Class			Class ID#	Course ID#
Autism and the Law Enforcement Response			200676	84346
Date of Training	Time	Hours	Location	
April 22, 2026	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	8	Mt. Vernon PD 600 S. 27 th St Mt. Vernon, IL 62864	

Course Description

Autism and the Law Enforcement Response training course will provide law enforcement personnel with a basic understanding of autism and how individuals with autism behave, communicate, and react in various situations. Furthermore, it will address high-risk and crisis incidents and provide officers with tips and strategies to defuse and deescalate the situation. Additionally, it will address how to conduct interviews involving victims, witnesses, and suspects who have autism.

Course Objectives

- Understand what autism is and how individuals are affected by it
- Recognize possible signs of autism
- Understand how autism affects people differently
- Develop alternative ways of identifying individuals with autism
- Understand the various challenges of interviewing individuals with autism
- Recognize de-escalation strategies for reducing stress and anxiety in autistics
- Understand what types of crimes and schemes people with autism are more likely to become a victim
- Recognize the importance of developing departmental policies and procedures for addressing missing person cases involving individuals with autism

Instructor



Bart Barta is the proud father of Daniel, an adult with autism. Bart understands many of the challenges faced by individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder. He is a retired law enforcement commander with more than 31 years of experience. He is also a nationally recognized instructor who has trained more than 20,000 first responders to interact with individuals who have autism successfully. Bart is recognized as a subject matter expert by Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and in 2017, he was selected to contribute to the development of autism curriculum for officers in the state of Florida. He served as an instructor for the CIT training program for Florida's 11th Circuit Court's Mental Health Project for more than 10 years. He is also a former SWAT and Crisis Management Team (Hostage Negotiations) Commander.

Mandates Met by This Training

Constitutional Use of LE Authority (1 hr), Crisis Intervention (3 hrs), Human Rights (1 hr), De-Escalation Techniques (1 hr), Officer Safety Techniques, Including Cover, Concealment, and Time (1 hr)

This class is partially funded and certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board