Autism and De-escalation
GPSTC Police Legitimacy, Procedural Justice, and Community Relations Curricula

Online Training Course

Program of Instruction

Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Instructional Services Division
November 2017
Autism and De-escalation
2 hours

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a familiarization of Autism Spectrum Disorder and an understanding of how to effectively engage a person with autism during an emergency. This course is presented as an interactive online course, and the students will complete activities throughout the course.

Instructional Goal

The instructional goal for Autism and De-escalation is to familiarize officers the Autism Spectrum Disorder and introduce scenarios in which officers will practice de-escalation skills and other techniques to effectively engage someone with Autism.

Intellectual Property Notice

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Evaluation Plan

A written examination should consist of 20 multiple-choice questions designed by the agency instructor. The questions must follow the prescribed method of test development according to POST Uniform Academy Rules and Regulations.

The quality and effectiveness of this course should also be evaluated through feedback from course participants using course evaluation forms, observation by instructional supervisors, and feedback from graduates.
Autism and De-escalation

Terminal Performance Objective

During a citizen encounter, the officer will practice de-escalation skills and utilize techniques to effectively engage someone with Autism, in accordance with the concepts included in the GPSTC Police Legitimacy, Procedural Justice, and Community Relations Curricula.

Enabling Objectives

1.1 Explain Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities.

1.2 Describe escalation and law enforcement’s role.

1.3 Discuss de-escalation strategies.

Topical Outline

I. Course Introduction
   A. Introduction Video & Instructions
   B. Activity
   C. Reading assignments
      1. Course Introduction
      2. Terminal Performance Objective
         During a citizen encounter, the officer will practice de-escalation skills and utilize techniques to effectively engage someone with Autism, in accordance with the concepts included in the GPSTC Police Legitimacy, Procedural Justice, and Community Relations Curricula.
3. Enabling Objectives
   a. Explain Autism Spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.
   b. Describe escalation and law enforcement’s role.
   c. Discuss de-escalation strategies.

II. Module 1: Autism Spectrum Disorder
   A. Reading Assignment: “Cop shoots caretaker of autism man playing in the street with toy truck.”
   B. Autism Spectrum Disorder Presentation
   C. Video Presentation
   D. Knowledge Check

III. Module 2: Escalation and Law Enforcement
   A. Escalation and Law Enforcement Presentation
   B. Video Presentation
   C. Reading Assignment
      2. “FOUND: Crews locate missing girl with autism after daylong search.”
      3. “Autistic Boy, 4, Found Dead After Vanishing From Grandma’s House.”

IV. Module 3: De-escalation Strategies
   A. De-escalation Strategies Presentation
   B. Video Presentation
V. Course Conclusion

A. Learning Activity

B. Final Exam

Student Resources (Optional recommended readings)

1. GCAL Handout
2. Communication Overload Processing Sensory
3. First Responder Information
4. Wandering Prevention and Safety Information Sheet
5. Meet the Police Toolkit
6. Big Red Safety Toolkit

Instructional Guide

This block of instruction could be enhanced by the use of additional videos, a practical exercise, role-playing, or demonstration.

Instructor References

The instructor should identify current references for this block of instruction, including, but not limited to, the Peace Officer Reference Text, the Georgia Criminal and Traffic Law Manual, and the Georgia Criminal Procedure Manual for Peace Officers, as amended.

The following references were used in the original development of this course.


Ohio Attorney General’s Office.


