

# **Autism Awareness for the First Responder Law Enforcement**

## **Program Agenda:**

Autism Awareness, Law Enforcement. This training will provide first responders with an overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), growth rates, theories, common characteristics, effective communication methods, behavioral symptoms, sensory issues, and some practical skills on how to effectively interact and respond to an emergency involving a person with ASD.

Autism and Law Enforcement Roll Call Briefing Video was developed for use in conjunction with approved training curriculum and by qualified trainers. It is intended to bring meaning and understanding to people with autism when this condition is discovered during field situations.

Responding to the autism emergency. Information on how first responders can recognize an individual with ASD and discuss how actual incidents were handled. Special tactics, response techniques, rescue techniques, patient care, search and rescue, water rescue, and actual incidents will be discussed.

This program was developed by police officers that are parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This program is from the Autism and Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC) in Massachusetts. The program was developed in collaboration with:

Massachusetts DDS/Autism Spectrum Division  
The South Norfolk County Arc  
The Family Autism Center  
The Autism Society of America  
PA Premise Alert

## **Learning Objectives:**

To prepare law enforcement personnel for a response to an incident involving a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

How to identify characteristics and behaviors of a person with ASD.

How to effectively communicate with a person with ASD.

Discuss special tactics, rescue techniques, and patient care.

How to build relationships with the ASD community.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES &  
PUBLIC PROTECTION  
Police Officer Standards and Training Council

SUSAN E. RAINVILLE  
DIRECTOR OF FIELD SERVICES DIVISION  
CONNECTICUT POLICE ACADEMY

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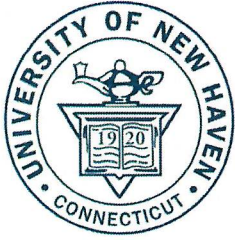
Fax: (203) 238-6119

Website: [www.ct.gov/post](http://www.ct.gov/post)

Sgt. Roetger,

Thank you so much for instructing our police officers in Connecticut on ASD. We appreciate the heartfelt commitment and dedication you give to this important topic in order to prepare and educate first responders.

Attendees indicated the program was educational and beneficial to their job, praising your professionalism, knowledge and passion. We would appreciate hosting a future session at your convenience. You convey a clear message to police officers on serving, helping people and being instrumental in calming situations. Thank you for your excellent presentation.  
Susan Rainville



# University of New Haven

## Department of Criminal Justice

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John DeCarlo, PhD  
Chair of Criminal Justice  
[jdecarlo@newhaven.edu](mailto:jdecarlo@newhaven.edu)  
203-931-2983

March 16, 2018

Sergt. Ryan Roettger  
Southbridge Police Department  
1 Mechanic St.  
Southbridge, MA 01550

Dear Sergt. Roettger:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan" with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

We would like to personally thank you for your presentation on February 15, 2018. We are grateful for the time and effort you took to share your years of research, your depth of understanding on autism awareness for the first responder, and your personal experiences with Connecticut's policing community. Judging from the comments of those who attended, the seminar was very successful.

Since we are entering a new growth phase at the Center for Advanced Policing, we hope that you will consider being involved in future seminars. We were pleased to have your participation at this outstanding event, and we thank you for valuable contribution.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John DeCarlo" in a cursive style.

John DeCarlo, Ph.D.



**Fwd: UNH autism class**

Ryan Roettger [Ryan@chasetactical.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 4:33 PM

**To:** Ryan Roettger

Regards,

**Ryan S. Roettger**

NE Sales Manager

Chase Tactical, LLC



Fax: (800) 709-7059

[Ryan@ChaseTactical.com](mailto:Ryan@ChaseTactical.com)

[www.ChaseTactical.com](http://www.ChaseTactical.com)

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Matthew Solak <[MSolak@willimanticpolice.org](mailto:MSolak@willimanticpolice.org)>

**Date:** February 21, 2018 at 10:23:42 AM EST

**To:** "[ryan@chasetactical.com](mailto:ryan@chasetactical.com)" <[ryan@chasetactical.com](mailto:ryan@chasetactical.com)>

**Subject:** UNH autism class

Good morning, Sergeant Roettger- how are you? I received your email from Officer Dan Rovella, whom I work with at the Willimantic Police Department, and wanted to send you a quick email and advise you that I found the Autism and LE class you taught at the University of New Haven last week to be one of the most professional, timely, and educational Police trainings I have attended. As a thirteen year cop, who has been involved in CIT training for over ten years and well as several local mental health work groups here in Willimantic, I had "presumed" that I had a decent working knowledge of autism prior to attending your class, and I could not have been more wrong. Your class, delivered with an intense and personal focus that truly drew in the students (really, when was the last time you were at a training class and the whole class volunteered to stay late the instructor could continue teaching ...? ;-)) completely opened my eyes to the wide variety of autism disorders, and most timely and relevantly, how individuals with these disorders interact with

society at large and law enforcement in particular. The personal investment that you have put into your teaching product is evident, and I can think of no better instructor for a matter as sensitive as this than a Police Officer and parent who also has a daughter with ASD. As a new parent of five-month old twins, your personal stories and recollections had a far greater impact on me than they likely would have prior to the birth of my son and daughter.

I hope you are successful in getting this class into the "mainstream" of Police training through the CT. Police Academy and regional/statewide recerts, as I think it is something that every Officer needs to be highly cognizant of. As I mentioned to you at the conclusion of class, I have family that also resides in Tolland, and my wife and I live in Ashford, right off of RT. 74, so I am local to northeastern Connecticut, and if you or your family need anything personally or professionally from the Willimantic Police, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you again for the excellent class-

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Matthew Solak # 295

**Willimantic Police Department**  
**22 Meadow Street, Willimantic CT. 06226**  
**P: 860.465.3135**  
**F: 860.465.3125**

[Willimanticpolice.org](http://Willimanticpolice.org)  
[Facebook.com/willimanticpolice](https://Facebook.com/willimanticpolice)



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**Fwd: Autism Seminar-Thank You-Dr Isenberg**

Ryan Roettger [Roet1073@aol.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, February 17, 2018 6:49 AM

**To:** Ryan Roettger

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ryan Roettger <Roet1073@aol.com>

**Date:** February 15, 2018 at 4:38:51 PM EST

**To:** [firerescueautism@yahoo.com](mailto:firerescueautism@yahoo.com), [bcannata@arcsouthnorfolk.org](mailto:bcannata@arcsouthnorfolk.org)

**Subject:** Fwd: Autism Seminar-Thank You-Dr Isenberg

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jim Isenberg <[izofam@aol.com](mailto:izofam@aol.com)>

**Date:** February 15, 2018 at 4:30:59 PM EST

**To:** [roet1073@aol.com](mailto:roet1073@aol.com)

**Cc:** John DeCarlo <[JDeCarlo@newhaven.edu](mailto:JDeCarlo@newhaven.edu)>, Sara R Jeffries <[sdudel@unh.newhaven.edu](mailto:sdudel@unh.newhaven.edu)>, David Lambert <[DLambert@newhaven.edu](mailto:DLambert@newhaven.edu)>, Linda Dominguez <[LDominguez@newhaven.edu](mailto:LDominguez@newhaven.edu)>

**Subject:** Autism Seminar-Thank You-Dr Isenberg

Ryan

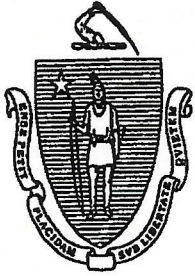
I want to thank you for the outstanding Autism seminar that you provided today as part of the University of New Haven's Center for Advanced Policing program. Your knowledgeable, engaging presentation was clearly well received and much appreciated. I'm glad that I was able to join a part of the session as I was impressed with your approach to the officers as you offered numerous invaluable suggestions that will guide their work in the future. I'm glad that you were able to present this excellent seminar and hope we will have other opportunities to share your leadership in this important area with other police officers in CT and across the Northeast region.

Again, many thanks for today's important seminar and we look forward to your future involvement with our program.

With best wishes,

Dr Jim Isenberg  
Center for Advanced Policing  
University of New Haven





# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Trial Court of the Commonwealth  
Probate and Family Court Department  
Suffolk Division  
Probation Department

24 New Chardon Street - P.O. Box 9667  
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FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF  
PROBATION OFFICER  
Stephen B. Patien

ASSISTANT CHIEF  
PROBATION OFFICERS  
Marguerite C. Riley  
Timothy O. Daley

September 22, 2014

Captain William Cannata  
Family Autism Center/The Arc of South Norfolk  
ALEC  
789 Clapboardtree Street  
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear Captain Cannata:

I can't thank you enough for the spectacular presentation given to our probation officers, courtesy of ALEC and Officer Ryan Roettger of the Southbridge Police Department at our Fall MPPA meeting which took place on September 19.

The issue of first responder autism training is very real in our work as probate and family officers. Probate probation officers handle families in crisis every day and strive to find answers for the Court. We often interview children, (whose numbers are increasingly on the autism spectrum), and make recommendations to the Court on issues of parenting time and custody.

Officer Roettger's presentation provided our officers with suggestions of the skills needed when meeting and interacting with children who are on the spectrum, as well as their caretakers. We often consider ourselves 'experts' in the area of interviewing children, however, the growth of this population demands that we expand our knowledge to include the needs of families who experience autism, and communicate those needs to the Court. Officer Roettger's personal experience in this field provided a unique perspective into this issue.

Should you ever need assistance on a probate/family matter, please feel free to call me at 617-788-8242.

Sincerely,

Patrice M. O'Brien  
Assistant Chief Probation Officer  
Suffolk Probate Court

cc: Officer Ryan Roettger, Southbridge Police Department