

East Central Illinois Mobile Law Enforcement Training Team

MTU #13

Course Announcement

Responding to Autism: a Law Enforcement Response

Denny Stewart Training Center

3121 Dewitt, Ave.

Mattoon, Il.

December 22nd, 2025

0830-1630 Hrs

Submit enrollment to:

Registration form at

www.mtu13.com



PURPOSE OF COURSE: This one day, 8 hours program has been designed by Stefan Bjes to provide students with basic understanding of autism spectrum disorders and strategies for interactions with individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

COURSE OVERVIEW: Law Enforcement officers need autism awareness training in order to maintain citizen and officer safety and to avoid litigation. This training will show you how inappropriate responses by individuals such as lack of communication skills, aggressive behavior, and obsessive-compulsive behaviors can be reconciled with the duties of police officers to serve and protect the community.

COURSE GOALS: The goals of this course are to Identify the recognizable signs of a person who has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), identify the procedures that an officer should/may employ when interacting with an individual with a disability, and identify the procedures a law enforcement officer should follow to ensure the safety and cooperation of a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Mandates

Civil Rights

Crisis Intervention

Human Rights

Procedural Justice

De-Escalation

Law Concerning stops, searches and Use of Force

This training is funded by a grant from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board

Stefan Bjes is currently the Director of Safety and Security for Plainfield School District 202 and a Team Adam Consultant with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Stefan previously served as the Assistant Director of Campus Safety at North Central College. Stefan is a retired patrol sergeant and served with the Addison, IL Police Department for more than 21 years. Stefan has a bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University in Psychology and Sociology and a master's degree from Lewis University. Stefan is an active CIT officer and was one of the supervisors for the department's CIT program. He has served the department in several different capacities, such as Gang



Investigator, School Resource Officer, Use of Force Instructor, Rapid Response Instructor, Field Training Officer, Evidence Technician and Juvenile Officer. He is also a former board member for the DuPage County Juvenile Officer Association. Stefan was named the 2019 Juvenile Officer of the Year by the Illinois Juvenile Officer Association for his work with children with disabilities. In 2021, Stefan was awarded the Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award by the United States Department of Justice for establishing programs to assist with the prevention and search for missing children with disabilities. Stefan is an instructor for Northeast Multi Regional Training (NEMRT), Tri-River Police Training Region and is also an approved instructor regarding Autism and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities for the Basic CIT Course with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. Stefan has written articles for the International Law Enforcement Educators & Trainers Association (ILEETA) Journal, Campus Safety Magazine and Calibre Press regarding Law Enforcement interactions with individuals with Autism. He is also the owner of Blue Line Spectrum Safety LLC, which specializes in First Responder training regarding Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

As a father of two sons with Autism, Stefan has extensive experience, through his personal and professional life, in interacting with individuals with autism spectrum disorders.