



## Understanding Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities: Scenarios and Case Studies



In-service 

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## Scan for handouts





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## Common Core Disability Characteristics

Disability	Visible Characteristics?	Communication /Language Processing Disorder	Sensory Processing Disorder	Social Interaction	Behavior
Autism	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cerebral Palsy	Y	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intellectual Disability	Y/N	✓	✓	✓	✓
* Down syndrome	Y	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tourette Syndrome	N	✓			✓
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	Y				✓



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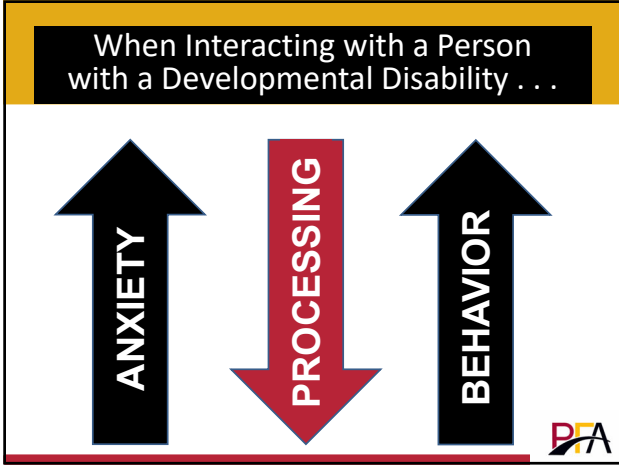
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Michael in Graham, TX

- What characteristics do you see that might indicate Michael has an IDD?
  - Communication
  - Behaviors
  - Cognitive understanding

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## Communication

- Direct literal language
  - “Keep your head still” vs “Use your eyes and your eyes only”
- Give directions in the positive
  - “Do not run” vs “Walk slowly”
  - “Stop moving” vs “Stand still”



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## Michael in Graham, TX

- Resolution and resources
- Arrest?
  - Considerations for arrest
- EP?



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## When Interacting with a Person with a Developmental Disability . . .

- Be aware that the person might have low/under-developed muscle tone



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## Elopement and Wandering

- **71%** of deaths related to wandering caused by drowning



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## Questions Dispatchers Need to Ask

- Have they ever eloped before? If so, where did they go?
- Do they have family/friends or favorite place nearby they might be trying to visit?
- Are they able to verbally communicate? How do they communicate?
- What are their passions and fears?
- Do they have sensory issues?



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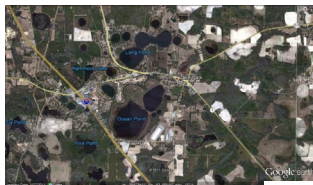
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## Elopement and Wandering – What to Do

- Know your surroundings
- Anticipate time and effort required
- Verify information with caregivers
- Use social media



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## Elopement and Wandering – What to Do

- Don't search with preconceived notions



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## Scenario: Shackled to a Bedpost

9-year-old found wandering down New Hampshire Ave in Silver Spring in the middle of the night. He had walked from Prince George's County.

He is shackled with a dog leash and padlock dragging a bedpost.

Child is nonspeaking. He seems somewhat confused, is stimming and so you suspect he has a developmental disability.



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## Identification Tools

- State ID
  - Look for Emergency Contacts listed on ID (scroll to bottom of soundex)
- Labels in/on clothing
- Shoe tags
- Medic Alert bracelets
- Temporary tattoos



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**IfNeedHelp.org**



**FIRST NAME**  
Glenn Myers  
Pathfinders For Autism

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**  
Andrew Myers  
443-686-1952

**EMERGENCY CONTACT 2**  
Janelle Myers  
443-686-1871

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
Glenn Myers  
302 Whelstone Road  
Forest Hill MD 21050


Prader-Willi Syndrome  
Autism

Glenn's PASSIONS are Police Officers, Fire Fighters,  
Paramedics and Animals (Dogs)


No Allergies to Medication

Medication Sensitivity

Janelle Myers (mom) works for Harford County Sheriffs  
Office.



Johnnie  
Mom's cell 684-123-4567  
IF NEED HELP  
800-456-7890  
@PFA2014



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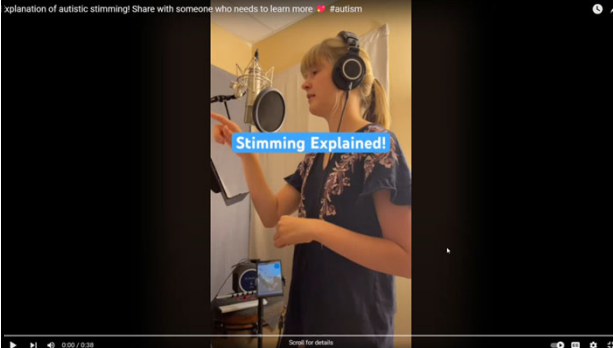
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**Scenario: Shackled to a Bedpost**

Explanation of autistic stimming! Share with someone who needs to learn more. #autism



Stimming Explained!

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**Scenario: Shackled to a Bedpost Abuse and Neglect**

- Individuals with I/DD are 4 to 10 times more likely to be victimized than the general population




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**Scenario: Shackled to a Bedpost  
Pain and Injury**

- Individuals with I/DD may have a high tolerance for pain

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**Scenario: Shackled to a Bedpost  
Interview Techniques**

- Use direct, literal language
- Calm sensory environment
- Offer to let them respond by writing, typing or texting
- Let them know how long you want to talk, and when they get a break
- Ask questions one at a time
- Allow for processing time



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**Communication/Language  
Processing Disorder**

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### Scenario: Shackled to a Bedpost Resources and Resolutions

- Take him back home?
- Take him to the hospital?
- Contact CPS?



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### Scenario: Naked in Chick-Fil-A

- LE have received a call an adult male has stripped naked inside a Chick-Fil-A
- He is not verbally communicating
- He is touching his genitals
- While he is not being destructive, making threats, or assaulting/attempting to assault anyone, it is still inappropriate, disturbing and unlawful



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### Naked in Chick-Fil-A Review

- Sensory
- Behavior
- Social interaction



Resolution and resources?



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**Cecil in S. Euclid, OH**

**Stand up**

- Recognizing behavior
- Communication
- De-escalation
- Patience

 A thumbnail image showing a police officer in a dark uniform standing in a grocery store aisle. The officer is facing right. The store has bright overhead lighting and various products on shelves. A news banner at the bottom of the image reads "ONLY ON NEWS 5 POLICE TRAINING IN ACTION". In the top right corner of the image, there is small text: "2018-03-03 7:22:16.61Z AXON BODY 2 88155297".

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**Cecil in S. Euclid, OH**

- Resolution and resources
- Arrested? (age?)
- EP'd?

 A thumbnail image showing a person's face, which is heavily pixelated and obscured by a hand reaching in from the right. The background is a bright, outdoor setting. A news banner at the bottom of the image reads "ONLY ON NEWS 5 POLICE TRAINING IN ACTION". In the top right corner of the image, there is small text: "2018-03-03 7:22:16.61Z AXON BODY 2 88155297".

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**Scott in Bel Air, MD**

- Medication
- Communication
- Behavior
- De-escalation



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**Scott in Bel Air, MD Review**

- Resolution and resources
- Arrest?
- EP?
- Pathfinders for Autism, Adult Protective Services



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**Did you follow instructions?**

**Cecil in S. Euclid, OH**

**Stand up**

- Recognizing behavior
- Communication
- De-escalation
- Patience




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**Maryland Resources**

- Pathfinders for Autism - [pathfindersforautism.org](http://pathfindersforautism.org)
  - Wandering and elopement Safety Kits
  - ID tools
  - Online provider directory (legal, medical, educational, therapies, etc.)
- Sensory Kits from The Hussman Institute
  - Beth Benevides 443.590.3164



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**Maryland Resources**

- Adult Protective Services/Child Protective Services
  - 1-800-91Prevent (1-800-917-7383)
- Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
  - (410)767-6500
  - <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/>
- Autism Society
  - <https://autismsociety.org/>



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