

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Wednesday November 6 | 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

D-08

Forensic Assessment with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Best Practices & Intervention

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This presentation will focus on how to best evaluate individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) who demonstrate inappropriate or dangerous sexual behaviors using a multidisciplinary approach. The presenters will provide recommendations to differentiate clients with ASD and inappropriate sexual behavior versus ASD and comorbid paraphilic disorder(s) utilizing case examples from actual forensic cases. Suggestions will be offered to participants regarding how to effectively communicate these differences and associated risk. Evidence-based, best-practices for intervention/treatment of ASD will be reviewed including visual supports, video modeling, and direct instruction. This training is intended for forensic evaluators, treatment providers, probation and parole, and law enforcement personnel.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity participants will demonstrate an understanding of ASD symptoms versus Paraphilic Disorders.
- Upon completion of this educational activity participants will identify specific assessment tools for the purpose of differentiating ASD versus paraphilic disorders.
- Upon completion of this educational activity participants will be able to effectively communicate the differences between sexual behavior problems associated with ASD versus paraphilic disorders in a forensic context.
- Upon completion of this educational activity participants will understand the importance of a comprehensive forensic ASD multi-disciplinary team evaluation approach.
- Upon completion of this educational activity participants will demonstrate an understanding of evidence-based, intervention strategies for clients with ASD who engage in problem sexual behavior.
- Upon completion of this educational activity participants will demonstrate knowledge of appropriate application(s) of evidence-based intervention strategies for clients with ASD who engage in problem sexual behavior based upon client symptom presentation.

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Dr. Kim Spence has served as the *Coordinator of Educational and Training Programs* for the *Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)* at the *University of Central Florida (UCF)* since 1999 and as the *Clinical Director of Autism Support Services for Specialized Treatment & Assessment Resources* since 2017. Dr. Spence began collaborating with Dr. Eric Imhof in 2015 to develop a nationally recognized, evidenced-based model for the comprehensive forensic evaluation and treatment of individuals with ASD with sexual behavior problems. Dr. Spence developed and began providing specialized sexuality education training for parents, teachers, and care providers of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders in 2000, and has lectured internationally about creating visual supports, discriminating between maladaptive sexual behaviors versus mental health issues, and specialized educational and behavioral interventions to support healthy sexual knowledge for individuals with ASD across the life-span. In 2001, Dr. Spence developed and began providing specialized training about autism and intellectual impairments with an emphasis on inappropriate social and sexual behaviors for emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, the criminal justice system, and public defender's offices across Florida. She has trained numerous law enforcement officers from all 67 districts within the state of Florida; provides training for the Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) Schools in all regions of Florida; and has provided training nationally regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Cognitive Impairments for the federal public defender's office, mitigation specialists, and capital defense teams. Dr. Spence is an appointed Advisory Board Member of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) Advisory Board and has served nationally as a consultant and expert witness to state and federal public defenders regarding autism spectrum disorders and sexual behavior problems. Dr. Spence is a member of the Project Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Grant Advisory Committee at UCF; an adjunct instructor for the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at UCF; serves as a consulting editor for the journal *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)*; and serves on the editorial review board of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation (JVR)*.

Eric A. Imhof, PsyD began treating, evaluating, and studying typologies of sexual offenders in 1993 as a therapist/case manager in a large juvenile sex offender treatment program in Virginia. In 1996, he received his doctorate in clinical psychology and was certified as a Sex Offender Treatment Provider in 1998. In 1999, Dr. Imhof accepted a position as the director of a Juvenile Justice Level 8 program for sexual offenders in Florida and one year later established ***Specialized Treatment and Assessment Resources***. For the past 18 years Dr. Imhof has served as a forensic examiner and expert witness for the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Program and federal and local courts with a specialty focus on internet and child pornography offenders. In 2013, after having undergone extensive training in ASD assessment, including the ADOS-2, Dr. Imhof began working on specialized cases involving comorbid cases of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Paraphilias. He has previously maintained an appointment as an Assistant Professor with Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia and has served as a consultant to a number of mental health organizations. In 2005, he was appointed by Florida's Governor Bush to the Task Force on Juvenile Sexual Offenders and their Victims and, in 2007, he served as chair of the Department of Juvenile Justice Sex Offender Workgroup which focused on implementing

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the recommendations of the Task Force. He has lectured to legislators, judges, attorneys, probation officers, and mental health professionals on topics including sex-offender diagnosis, treatment, and risk assessment and advocates for empirically-based sex offender laws and policies with Florida legislators, particularly regarding child pornography offenders. Dr. Imhof began collaborating with Dr. Kimberly Spence in 2015 to develop a nationally recognized, evidenced-based model for the comprehensive forensic evaluation and treatment of individuals with ASD with sexual behavior problems. Dr. Imhof is a member in good standing with the American Psychological Association (APA), the Florida Psychological Association (FPA), American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), and the Association of the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), having served as the co-chair of the 2008 annual ATSA conference. He has served on the board of the Florida ATSA (FATSA) chapter since February 2004, serving as the President from 2007 to 2010 and was reelected to serve an additional two terms from 2013 to 2018.