

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Friday November 8 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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Autism & Youthful Offenders: Understanding the Impact of ASD on Your Client

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Drawing on 20 years of clinical experience supporting individuals and families, the presenter will provide a detailed overview of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in youth. A particular emphasis will be placed upon the identification of common maladaptive behaviors related to ASD versus inappropriate sexual behavior(s) of concern. Using case examples, the presenter will assist attendees in the identification of challenging behavior frequently demonstrated by those with ASD that is a manifestation of their limited interest areas and/or restricted and repetitive behavioral characteristics versus those with ASD and comorbid paraphilic disorder(s). Targeted suggestions to best educate parents, teachers, and treatment providers regarding assessment recommendations and comprehensive, individualized treatment planning for youth with ASD will be discussed.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to demonstrate an understanding of the behavioral characteristics of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in youth
- Upon the completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify common maladaptive behavior(s) in youth with ASD versus Paraphilic Disorders.
- Upon the completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the importance of comprehensive, individualized treatment planning for youth with ASD who engage in risky sexual behavior.

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

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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)*.