

Learning Objectives

Forensic Evaluation of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders & Intellectual Disabilities Spring 2023

After completing the program requirements, trainees will be able to:

Introduction to Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities & the Criminal Legal System

1. Describe forensically-relevant updates to DSM-5 and DSM-5-TR, as well as current AAIDD criteria for intellectual disability and a basic definition of developmental disabilities.
2. Describe how and why individuals with developmental disabilities are at increased risk of contact with formal justice systems, as victims and defendants.
3. Describe the various states of the criminal justice system, from initial contacts with law enforcement through post-adjudication community supervision, and the relevance of IDD and ASD to those stages.

Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders & the Criminal Legal System

1. Identify the features of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) that can lead individuals into unintentional interactions with the legal system.
2. Report current statistics regarding legal involvement and risk thereof for people with ASD.
3. Consider specific tools and approaches that people with ASD, their family members and friends, as well as members of the law enforcement community, can take to reduce the risk of dangerous outcomes when people with ASD encounter the legal system.

Assessing Intellectual Disabilities & Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Forensic Context

1. Describe two considerations when assessing intellectual functioning in a forensic context.
2. Describe two considerations when assessing adaptive functioning in a forensic context.
3. Describe two considerations when diagnosing an autism spectrum disorder in a forensic context.

Community Forensic Challenges for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

1. Identify reasons that people with ID/DD may experience legal/criminal issues.
2. Identify mitigating factors and helpful post-trial recommendations.
3. Name best practices in working with attorneys on forensic cases involving individuals with ID/DD.