

My name is Dr. Ellen Preen, I am a clinical neuropsychologist and have a 20-year-old daughter with Autism Spectrum Disorder. I think I have somewhat of a unique perspective of being a professional in the mental health field and a mother raising a child with ASD. With the increasing news coverage of police mishandling individuals with mental illness and more specifically individuals with Autism; the reality of a gap in the police understanding of and training in how to handle individuals within this population is glaringly alarming and distressing. Additionally, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of professional training with experts in the field and the dissemination of accurate information to all personnel involved in the police department. Not knowing is not and most certainly cannot be an excuse.

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