

Training in recognizing non-apparent disabilities.

Provide training that instructs peace officers in the recognition of a person with a non-apparent disability and appropriate interaction with a person with a non-apparent disability.

Stress positive responses to such individuals, de-escalating potentially dangerous situations, and understanding of the different manner in which such individuals' process sensory stimuli and language, and appropriate methods of interrogation. **Where appropriate, the training presenters shall include experts on non-apparent disabilities.**

Techniques for differentiating between an individual with a non-apparent disability from an individual who is belligerent, uncooperative, or otherwise displaying traits similar to the characteristics of an individual with a non-apparent disability.

Some Non Apparent disabilities:

Cognitive:

Autism, FASD, Intellectual Disability, Aspergers, etc.

Mayhave/be:

- Limited vocabulary
- Difficulty understanding/answering questions
- Mimics answers/responses
- Unable to communicate events clearly in his/her own words
- Unable to understand complicated instructions or abstract concepts
- Not understand consequences of situations
- Unaware of seriousness of situations
- Easily led or persuaded by others
- Naïve eagerness to confess or please authority figures
- Unaware of social norms and appropriate social behavior
- Acts younger than actual age, may display childlike behavior
- Displays low frustration tolerance and/or poor impulse control
- "Act out", become emotional, or try to leave if under pressure
- Difficulty performing tasks
- Inability to read or write
- Inability to tell time
- Difficulty staying focused and easily distracted
- Awkward/poor motor coordination
- Difficulty recalling facts/details
- Impulsive actions (try to run, fight, etc.)
- Over-willing to confess
- Hides disability
- Says what others want to hear
- Frustration

- Not make eye contact. Don't misinterpret limited eye contact as deceit.
- Not talk (nonverbal).
- Communicate with sign language, picture cards or gestures
- Have a delayed response to your question.
- May be prone to seizures.
- Exhibit odd behaviors such as flapping hands or pacing. Don't try to stop these behaviors which may be the person's way of calming him/her

Traumatic or Acquired Brain Injury (TABI)

- Caused by external forces or internal events that impair physical, neurological, psychological, intellectual, emotional, and behavioral functioning.
- Changes following a brain injury can affect how the person experiences life, interprets events and responds behaviorally.
- Has trouble processing or remembering information, may not follow instructions and may be perceived as belligerent or unmotivated.
- Experiences headaches and fatigue, level of frustration tolerance may be low causing them to act out in anger.
- Has difficulty perceiving how their behavior affects others, important relationships can become strained.
- Has difficulty with impulsivity, he may do or say things that are not always socially appropriate (e.g. sexual acting out).
- Experiences emotional volatility, he may have outbursts of anger, aggression, or crying.

Mental Health

POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF MENTAL ILLNESS

Verbal Cues

- Illogical thoughts
- Sharing a combination of unrelated or abstract topics
- Expressing thoughts of greatness
- Indicating ideas of being harassed or threatened
- Exhibiting a preoccupation with death, germs, guilt, or other similar ideas
- Unusual speech patterns
- Nonsensical speech or chatter
- Word repetition
- Pressured speech
- Extremely slow speaking
- Verbal hostility or excitement
- Talking excitedly or loudly
- Being argumentative, belligerent, or unreasonably hostile
- Threatening harm to self or others

Behavioral Cues

Physical appearance
Inappropriate to environment
Bizarre clothing or makeup (taking into account current trends)
Bodily movements
Strange postures or mannerisms
Lethargic, sluggish movements
Pacing, agitation
Repetitive, ritualistic movements
Seeing, smelling, or hearing things that cannot be confirmed
Confusion about or unawareness of surroundings
Lack of emotional response
Causing injury to self
Nonverbal expressions of sadness or grief
Inappropriate emotional reactions
Overreacting to situations in an overly angry or frightening way
Reacting with the opposite of expected emotion

Environmental Cues

Decorations-Strange trimmings, misuse of household items
Waste matter/trash
“Packratting” – accumulation of trash
Presence of feces or urine on the floor or walls
Childish objects

Posttraumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, can occur after someone goes through, sees, or learns about a traumatic event:

- feel tense or afraid
- be agitated and jumpy
- feel on alert
- overreact to small misunderstandings
- drink, use drugs, or smoke too much
- drive aggressively
- avoid certain people or situations
- hyper vigilance, or a heightened awareness of external stimuli like police lights or sirens