

Title: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Sexual Deviance, and Victims

Description: Those with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) often are not prepared for adult life. Frequently they do not have sufficient understanding of their abilities and skills to make informed social, educational and vocational decisions. Strikingly deficient in social skills they are at best awkward in such settings. They have difficulty making friends, dating and knowing how to appropriately express their sexuality. Occasionally, due to their lack of understanding of social interaction and nuance they engage in sexually inappropriate behavior and come to the attention of law enforcement. In such cases they are at high risk of not understanding their offense, helping themselves in their defense and learning appropriate alternative behaviors. The purpose of this seminar is to dispel myths about ASD, explain how the brains of those with ASD develop differently than the general population due to genetic and neurobiological differences, and how these differences can lead to their failures to understand appropriate social and sexual expression. Finally, what treating and legal professionals can do to help treat such individuals that would be different from what is done with the “typical offender” will be presented.

What You Will Learn:

- Understand that ASD is a developmental neurobiological disorder that causes significant difficulty in understanding social and sexual behavior.
- List ways treating and legal professionals realize what can and should be done with a person with ASD that would differ from what is typically done so they would be more able to help with their defense, understand their offense and develop and use appropriate behavior.
- Explain the most common disorders that are found with ASD, how they could affect behavior and treatment.
- Discuss environmental changes to interview rooms, offices, etc. that can help with compliance and learning for a person with ASD.
- Understand unique ways those with ASD can be victimized.
- Describe and discuss how to teach an ASD offender about sexuality and appropriate sexual behavior and how it would be different than what would be done with a “typical offender”.

Biography:

- Kevin T. Blake, PhD, P.L.C., is a recognized national authority on learning disorders and AD/HD in children, adolescents, and adults. He has specialized for over 20 years in specific learning disorder, AD/HD and autism spectrum disorder and lives and works as a licensed psychologist in Tucson, Arizona. The interest in specific learning disorder, AD/HD, and autism spectrum disorder were spurred by his own struggles trying to overcome his dyslexia and hearing impairment, which were initially diagnosed during the first year of his doctoral program at the age of 26. At the time, the early 1980s, not much was known about adults with specific learning disorder. As Dr. Blake struggled to learn about his own specific learning disorder he decided to make his life's work the diagnosis and treatment of adults with learning disorders, AD/HD, autism spectrum disorder. Dr. Blake earned his doctorate degree from Oklahoma State University and his dissertation research focused on self-esteem and anxiety in the college student with specific learning disorder. When he started his professional life, he was one of a handful of professionals in the country with a focus on adults. Now he travels the

country sharing his personal story and what he has learned about specific learning disorder, AD/HD, and autism spectrum disorder with professionals who work with these populations, individuals with these disorders and their loved ones.

- Dr. Blake is a member of several state and national organizations, such as the American Psychological Association, International Dyslexia Association, Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders, and Learning Disabilities Association. He has been the facilitator of a Tucson support group for AD/HD adults for over 20 year. Additionally, he is a published author with articles having appeared in *Attention!*, *LDA Newsbriefs*, and *Perspectives* (of the International Dyslexia Association). Dr. Blake was a 1991 delegate to the National Institute for Literacy's "LEAD 2000 Congress," where he was a member of a special committee advising the U.S. Congress on diagnostic and remediation issues confronting learning disabled adults. He is an accomplished and engaging speaker whose presentations incorporate germane information, practical how-to's, and appropriate life experiences.