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- Allow extra time for response
- Give praise and encouragement
- Exercise caution during restraint
- Person may have seizure disorders and/or low muscle tone
- Given time and space, person may deescalate their behaviour
- Seek advice from others on the scene who know the person with autism

If in police custody, alert all officers of diagnosis. Consider isolation, as person with autism could be at risk in general prison population. REMEMBER: Each individual with autism is unique and may act or react differently. PLEASE contact a professional who is familiar with autism.

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AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD)

The person you are interacting with:

COMMUNICATION

- May be non-verbal or have limited verbal skill
- May not respond to your commands or questions
- May repeat your words & phrases: your body language or emotional reactions
- May have difficulty expressing moods

BEHAVIOUR

- May display tantrums or extreme distress for no apparent reason
- May laugh, giggle or ignore your presence
- May be extremely sensitive to lights, sounds or touch
- May display a lack of eye contact
- May have no fear of danger
- May appear insensitive to pain
- May exhibit self-stimulating behaviour: hand flapping, body rocking, or attachments to objects

IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SITUATIONS

- May not understand rights or warnings
- May become anxious in new situations
- May not understand consequences of their actions
- If verbal, may produce false confession or misleading statements

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