

April 1, 2008

Dear Friend:

Ensuring the safety of Illinois citizens is a priority we share. While carrying out this important work, we may be faced with unique issues when interacting with people with disabilities as victims, perpetrators, and witnesses. In fact, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 1 in 10 Illinois residents has a disability. Due to the considerable size and diversity of this population, it is important that we are prepared to address crimes involving people with disabilities.

I am pleased to invite you to the Law Enforcement Response to Individuals with Disabilities Conference Series. We have designed this series of trainings to assist police officers and prosecutors with responding to crimes involving people with disabilities.

The topics of the trainings are: (1) Sensory Disabilities and Law Enforcement and (2) Autism and Law Enforcement. Both conferences will be offered once in the Metro East area and again in the Chicagoland area.

The first training, Sensory Disabilities and Law Enforcement, will present tips for communicating with and responding to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired. Our speakers, including police officers, attorneys, and people with disabilities, will share techniques for safe and effective police intervention with individuals with these types of disabilities, as well as those who use service animals.

The second training, Autism and Law Enforcement, will include an overview of autism, information on risk and safety management, and tips on communicating with autistic individuals. This training features Dennis Debbaudt, a distinguished speaker recognized as the world's leading authority on autism and risk and safety management.

I hope that these trainings will provide a valuable supplement to your already extensive training programs. Please consider joining us for these sessions. For more information, contact Eileen Baumstark-Pratt at 1-866-376-7215 (TTY: 1-800-964-3013).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Madigan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LISA MADIGAN
Illinois Attorney General