As with Alzheimers patients, persons with autism may wander. Persons with autism may be attracted to water sources, roadways, or peer into and enter dwellings.

TIPS FOR INTERACTIONS WITH PESONS WITH AUTISM

- · Display calming body language; give person extra personal space.
- · Use simple language
- · Speak slowly, repeat and rephrase questions.
- · Use concrete terms and ideas; avoid slang.
- · Allow extra time for response
- Give praise and encouragement.
- Exercise caution during restraint.
- Person may have seizure disorders and low muscle tone.
- · Avoid positional asphyxia. Keep airway clear. Turn person on side often.
- · Given time and space, person may deescalate their behavior.
- · Seek advise from others on the scene who know the person with autism.

If in custody, alert jail authorities. Consider an initial isolation facility. Person would 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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Putting People First NYS Office For People With Developmental Disabilitie

The person you are interacting with:

- May repeat your words & phrases; your body language and emotional reactions

May repeat your words & phrases; your body language

May have difficulty expressing needs

and emotional reactions

May not respond to your commands or questions

May be non verbal or have limited verbal skills

COMMUNICATION

The person you are interacting with:

Autism

BEHAVIOR

- · May be extremely sensitive to lights, sounds or touch

· May be extremely sensitive to lights, sounds or touch

 May display a lack of eye contact May have no fear of real danger • May appear insensitive to pain

• May laugh, giggle or ignore your presence

May display tantrums or extreme distress for no

appreant reason

May exhibit self-stimulating behavior; hand flapping,

- May appear insensitive to pain

• May not understand consequences of their actions

 May not understand rights or warnings May become anxious in new situations

IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SITUATIONS

body rocking or attachment to objects

If verbal, may produce false a confession or

misleading statements

Putting People First

NYS Office For People With Developmental Disabilities

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