



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Community Relations Unit



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO

AUTISM AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Tips for Autistic Individuals to Help
Ensure More Supportive Interactions



What Autistic Individuals Can Do:

- Do your best to remain calm. If you need something to help you self-soothe or stay comfortable, tell the deputy what you need.
- Let the deputy know that you are autistic. You can say it or show an autism information card.
- Ask for a family member or advocate to be with you if needed.
- Listen to the deputy's questions or instructions.
- If the deputy instructs you to stop moving, try to do so and keep your hands visible at your sides if possible.
- If you don't understand an instruction or question, say: "I do not understand."
- Avoid touching the deputy, anything on their uniform, or their dog.
- If you are injured or feel unsafe, tell the deputy. They are there to help keep you safe.
- It is okay to give the deputy your name, address, and phone number.



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Tips for Families to Help Promote
More Supportive Interactions



How to Build a Positive Relationship:

1350 Norris Road,
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 391-7500

Building positive relationships between autistic individuals, families, caregivers, and local law enforcement helps create safer, more supportive interactions in the community. Here are some simple ways to strengthen those connections:

- Visiting a law enforcement or fire station can help build comfort and familiarity with deputies, first responders, and their vehicles. These informal visits can make future interactions feel safer and more predictable.
- Community members should learn about autism. Greater understanding and awareness lead to better interactions and help reduce unnecessary emergency responses. Education supports acceptance and respect for neurodiversity.