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**CATTA**

Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance Center  
working with communities to prevent child abuse



# Children with Disabilities:

## A Training for First Responders

### Course Overview

People with developmental disabilities are overrepresented in our criminal justice system, both as victims of crimes and suspects of crimes. Law enforcement and other first responders often have little training regarding the nature of these disabilities and how to effectively engage with such individuals. The training is offered to first responders who may serve children with developmental disabilities who have been victims of sexual abuse and will...

- Include a brief overview of developmental disabilities with special attention to intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder
- Discuss common characteristics of disabilities
- Highlight facts and statistics, and the frequency in which people with disabilities interface with first responders
- Include some case examples, discuss common misunderstandings, review strategies to use when interacting with people with disabilities, and educate people regarding available resources

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### Presenter Information

**Kathryn Pedgrift, Psy.D.** is a licensed clinical psychologist at North Bay Regional Center. She has a Master's Degree in Special Education and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She specializes in addressing social-sexual behavior problems in adolescents and adults, as well as empowering those at-risk of sexual exploitation. She has participated in numerous research projects related to the practice of self-protection skills and the acquisition of knowledge related to physical boundaries and sexual abuse.

**Ron Harrison** is 24 year veteran of the Daly City Police Department. Ron has been assigned to the Detective Bureau for the past 13 years and has exclusively investigated child sex crimes, adult sex crimes, child abuse and domestic violence. Ron is also the lone law enforcement representative for the San Mateo County Keller Center M.D.I.C and has participated in training new Detectives, Advocates and C.P.S. for San Mateo County regarding sexual assault investigation.

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