



Cynthia Carroll, Executive Director

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Living in the Community - Navigating the Criminal Justice System

Increased Prevalence



- ASD is a neurological disorder
- Current prevalence of 1 in 88
- Four times more likely in boys than girls
- Social communication disability
- Range in severity
- Common mental health disorders include but are not limited to:
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
 - OCD

Law enforcement officers, judges, legal, correction personnel and first responders will come into contact with people with ASD.

Common Characteristics

- Hand flapping or excessive fidgeting – could be interpreted as “guilty” or “nervous” tendencies
- Lack of eye contact – could be interpreted as being disrespectful
- Increase processing time for language – could be interpreted as “uncooperative”, “not paying attention” or “being defiant”
- Slurred speech or echolalia – Could be interpreted as being intoxicated
- Sensory Overload – Could be interpreted as intent to harm, causing use of excessive force

Dangers of Ignorance

Young boy dies after being found in N.S. woods

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CTV.ca News Staff
Published Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009 11:32AM EST

Hospital officials have confirmed the death of James Delorey -- the seven-year-old Cape Breton boy who spent two days in the cold and whose disappearance triggered a massive search involving aircraft, police and volunteers.

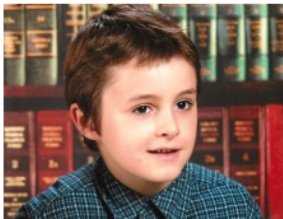
Jocelyn Vine, the vice-president of patient care for the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, said Delorey died earlier Tuesday.

"It is with our deepest regret to advise you that James Delorey passed away at the IWK Health Centre early this morning," Vine told a news conference on Tuesday morning.

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- [Searchers grow more concerned about lost N.S. boy](#)

PHOTOS



Vine also read a statement from the Delorey family: "The family would like to thank everyone involved in James's care. It was amazing to see how everyone came together. It really kept my hopes alive. We will have more to say later after we've had some time."

Delorey was rushed to the IWK Health Centre after he was found early Monday afternoon, in a heavily wooded area in South Bar, N.S., about 10 kilometres north of Sydney.

The autistic boy had a weak heartbeat and was suffering from hypothermia when he was found. But the fact that he was alive provided hope to residents of his community.

Delorey went missing on Saturday after following his dog - a Dalmation-mix named Chance -- into the woods. He was without a winter jacket, mittens or hat when he left his house and a snowstorm hit the area shortly after he

Hundreds turn out for James Delorey's funeral

Last Updated: Monday, December 14, 2009 | 8:05 PM AT CBC News

Hundreds of people — many of them strangers — gathered Monday in Sydney, N.S., for the funeral of a seven-year-old Cape Breton boy who died after wandering away from his home just before a snowstorm.

Mourners began arriving more than an hour before James Delorey's funeral began at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church on Monday.



James Delorey's dog, Chance, sits in the front passenger seat of the hearse carrying the boy's casket to church on Monday. (CBC)

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Internal Links

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Your






Can't trust police yet, arrested autistic man says

2 witnesses have stepped forward, RNC says amid internal probe

| Last Updated: Friday, April 24, 2009 | 12:32 PM NT CBC News

The autistic teenager who spent a night at the St. John's lockup last weekend because police officers assumed he was drunk says he's not ready yet to accept their apology.

"I still don't trust them," said Dane Spurrell, 18, who was arrested Saturday night when a Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer saw him walking on Topsail Road. After a second officer arrived on the scene, Spurrell resisted arrest and wound up in the lockup in the basement of the Newfoundland Supreme Court building.



Dane Spurrell says he is not ready to accept an apology from the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

On Thursday, RNC Chief Joe Browne apologized to Spurrell and his mother, Diane Spurrell, who brought the issue to CBC News earlier this week. She had spent hours looking for her son around their Mount Pearl home, only to find that he had been in a cell for hours — and had been repeatedly asking to speak with her.

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Internal Links

- YOUR VOTE: What do you think of the police apology in this case?
- 'Wish it had never happened,' police chief says of autistic man's arrest
- Will apologize for mistaking autistic teen as drunk, police chief says
- Complaint filed against RNC after autistic teen jailed

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Investigation into Braemore abuse to begin

CBC News Posted: Mar 14, 2011 1:18 PM AT | Last Updated: Mar 14, 2011 4:05 PM AT

The province has hired a consulting firm to look into a case of abuse at Braemore Home Corp. in Sydney.

Denise Peterson-Rafuse, minister of community services, said the investigation by Deloitte will help to explain why a man with autism was locked in a room for 15 days.

"It will also help us identify challenges and address how we can work with Braemore in the future to ensure residents are safe and that they, and staff, are getting the support that they need," she said in a statement.

Last September, the 20-year-old man was confined to his room except for exercise breaks and some other tasks. A department official said there was a light shining near his bed all night and there was a video camera monitoring his room.

His mother said he urinated in the corner when staff didn't know he had to use the bathroom.

Community Services said the incident met the definition of abuse under Nova Scotia's Protection of Persons in Care Act.



A resident at Braemore Home was confined to his room for 15 days. (CBC)

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Lates



Mandatory Training

- ASD/autism cannot be special interest areas for professionals in the field.
- Education and Training Modules need to be mandatory to have effective reach and maximum impact
- Seeking out specialists in ASD to support the individual and the system
- Flexibility when possible

A parent/caregivers worst fear is that their child will have a negative encounter with the law; be tasered and/or harmed. Ultimate fear is death.

Community partnerships



- Education and training is key
- Parents/caregivers need to educate their children
- Law enforcement, corrections and judicial personnel need to educate themselves about ASD and ways to effectively intervene
- Community based organizations can help as a conduit and as community partners





Cynthia Carroll, Executive Director

Thank You