



350 S. Washington Street PO Box 271 Herkimer, NY 13350  
P: (315) 574-7000 F: (315) 866-8339 E: [info@archerkimer.org](mailto:info@archerkimer.org)  
[www.archerkimer.org](http://www.archerkimer.org)

**CONTACT:** Joan Wishod Reardon, Public Relations Director, (315) 574-7357  
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## **National Author and Clinical Psychologist to Discuss Criminal Justice System Related to Individuals with Disabilities**

As a leader bringing renowned experts to Central New York for individuals with disabilities and autism, families, and area professionals, Arc Herkimer will host a workshop, A Look at Criminal Justice and Legal Proceeding Related to Autism and Other Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, on Friday, October 5.

Dr. Nancy Musarra, clinical psychologist and author, will present the workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Herkimer College, 100 Reservoir Road in Herkimer. The event is free and open to the public. To ensure that the venue accommodates registrants, Arc Herkimer is asking those interested to register [www.archerkimer.org](http://www.archerkimer.org) under upcoming events. To register by phone, please contact Janet LaRock at (315) 574-7780 or email: [jlarock@archerkimer.org](mailto:jlarock@archerkimer.org).

This workshop provides an in-depth look at criminal justice and legal proceedings related to autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Through case examples and group participation, attendees will learn specific tactics that can be helpful when encountering someone who is stimming, hallucinating, naked, hesitating or in crisis. Parents and health and law enforcement professionals in attendance will gain a working knowledge of these disorders, enabling them to achieve the best outcome for everyone involved in a potentially volatile situation.

The sessions will illustrate the clinical features of autism and neurodevelopmental challenges with regard to behavior, social interactions, sensory triggers, and decision-making. Correlations will be made between the legal involvement an individual may experience as a witness, suspect or victim of a crime and the many misconceptions about this population that currently exist.

By becoming familiar with this population and learning practical communication strategies, those in attendance will be able to manage stressful situations before they escalate into a full-blown crisis. Just as each emergency differs from the next, so does the individual involved, especially with regard to autism spectrum and neurodevelopmental challenges. This is particularly important for police officers who encounter a multitude of individuals facing emergencies each day.

Individuals can also order Dr. Nancy's book, *The New Normal: 7 Things to Know as You Care for & Love a Child with Special Needs* at a discount of \$10 at [www.archerkimer.org](http://www.archerkimer.org) under upcoming events.

This event is made possible by the Family Support Services of the CNY DDRO Consumer Council and Arc Herkimer. Arc Herkimer's mission is empowering people with disabilities and enriching lives throughout the community. For more information regarding Arc Herkimer, call (315) 574-7000 or visit [www.archerkimer.org](http://www.archerkimer.org).

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