1. RESPONDING OFFICER

You arrive at the scene of a wreck. The driver is unconscious. In the van is a conscious person who is in a wheelchair with a speech generating device attached to the wheelchair. The person who is conscious has no apparent injury. There isn’t much damage to the car, indicating a low-speed type of crash. Having taken this in-service you are aware of how individuals might access their devices. You need to get important information in order to get other first responders on the scene and take care of the situation.

1. VICTIM

**DO NOT GIVE ANY MORE INFORMATION TO THE POLICE OFFICER THAN YOU ARE ASKED. YOU MAY GIVE THEM A LITTLE BREAD CRUMB OF INFORMATION IF THEIR LINE OF QUESTIONING IS TOTALLY OFF-BASE. (BUT WE AREN’T TELLING THEM THAT, ARE WE???)**

You have been in a low-speed car accident. The driver of the van is your father and just before the crash, he mentioned that he was having chest pain. He subsequently passed out and the car veered off into a guard rail before coming to a stop at the side of the road. He has not had previous heart problems before. You were on the way to Lutheran Hospital where your mother just had surgery the day before. The only other person who can assist you with transportation or personal care is an aunt who lives out of town. You do not know what medications your dad is on or if he has taken medication today.

1. RESPONDING OFFICER

You are called to a family disturbance in a home. A married couple (both of whom use speech generating devices) were arguing LOUDLY. The neighbor reported hearing loud bumps and crashes coming from inside the house. When you arrive on the scene, you find a broken window and a hole in the wall.

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You and your spouse have received some unexpected bills recently. The two of you have been “discussing” how to take care of them. You have little money because of some unexpected medical problems. In frustration, your spouse pitched a frying pan through the kitchen window and you, in an attempt to dodge it, ran your electric wheelchair into a wall, creating a hole. (Fabulous. More bills for repairs!) Unbeknownst to you, your neighbors have called the cops! This, in turn, makes you angry because you were “close to a solution” and now you have more people now involved in the situation! HOW MUCH MORE DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE????? (Needless to say, you are a bit upset.)

1. RESPONDING OFFICER

You are called to the scene at the mall where a person who is nonverbal has been mugged.

1. **VICTIM**

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You are at the food court at the mall using your iPad as a communication device. There are very few people in the food court at the time. You may decide if you are in a wheelchair or are ambulatory. Your order was ready and you left your iPad (momentarily) on the table, just a few feet away from the counter as you pick up your food. (Ok, it wasn’t your smartest move of the day, but life happens, right?) When you return to your table, the iPad is gone. You flagged down the mall security but the only response you received was, “Your loss, dude.” Due to your escalating emotional state, the security guard agrees to call a more helpful officer to assist.

1. RESPONDING OFFICER:

You have been called by the administration to a local high school where a student is having a “melt-down.” They reported the student was shouting obscenities, chasing other students, and throwing dishes and furniture.

4. **VICTIM**

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You have autism. You have been overstimulated by the activities in the lunchroom – the noise, the movement, the smells, the bright lights, and a food fight at a nearby table. Your clothes have been spattered with food from the fight and you were doing all you could to handle it until some of the food hit your face. It wasn’t that the food was hot or cold, it just was one more piece of stimuli making a difficult situation unbearable for you. You have no means to communicate because you threw your $15,000 piece of equipment on the floor and shattered the screen. (Yes, you may be able to shout obscenities despite the fact that you are “nonverbal.” Obscenities are programmed in the automatic center of the brain, unlike speech that has to be thought of before speaking.) You have been shouting obscenities, chasing other students who were taunting you, and out of frustration, throwing dishes and furniture. You are above average in intelligence so spelling is something you can do despite not having your device…if someone offers you a board. All you want to do is get out of the cafeteria and go to a quiet room – you want the stimuli to be stopped or at least reduced. Now, in addition to the cafeteria and all of the commotion, you have unfamiliar and scary police officers on hand to take care of you!

1. RESPONDING OFFICER

You are called to a private home following a 911 hang up call. You have no reported previous dealings with the individuals of that home. No other information is available.

5. **VICTIM (2 parts – one parent; one child with a communication device)**

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The police are responding to a 911 call from your address. You are the parent of a child with a communication (speech generating) device. You are unaware that your child has made a phone call from your home. You do not know of a phone call that has been made.

You are free to make up the rest of scenario or to incorporate one or more of the suggestions below:

Suggestions for the parent:

You have your child explain who made the phone call and why s/he did it.

You behave as a parent with whom you have encountered (whether good or bad) and allow/don’t allow your child to participate in the conversation.

You encourage the officer to engage in conversation with the child to explain what 911 is for and not for.

**5.VICTIM (2 parts – one parent; one child with a communication device)**

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The police are responding to a 911 call from your address. You are the child with a communication (speech generating) device. You made the phone call from your home. You must interact with the parent and police officer despite any conversation around you. You may choose from the following suggestions or make up something feasible that fits the scenario.

Suggestions:

In your class at school, there was a discussion about 911 and how to do it. You are a curious kid so you wanted to try it and see if it worked.

In your class at school, there was a discussion about 911 and how to do it. You are concerned that there may be an emergency in your home at some time and you wanted to practice doing it.

In your class at school, there was a discussion about 911 and how to do it. You are tired of a situation at home so you wanted the police to come so you can tell them that you are (being abused, there is drug use between your parents, your brother beats you up, or whatever you can think of or have experienced.

1. RESPONDING OFFICER

You receive a call that an elderly couple is in need of assistance after having their home vandalized; the wife was not home during the incident, but her husband noticed the perpetrator as he ran away. The husband, though, cannot speak, and his wife explained that he’d had a stroke 5 years ago and has difficulty communicating. She has no information that she can provide about the possible suspects of the vandalism, but the husband indicates that he has information he wants to share.

6. VICTIM

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Your wife decided to run errands today but you’re not much of a shopper and decided to stay home. As you were watching your favorite morning news show, you heard a lot of noise outside. When you went to the window, you noticed cans of spray paint lying in your grass and saw two young individuals (your guess would be 13-14 years old) running through your backyard towards the neighboring street. They were wearing black sweatpants and red jackets, and they both had a baseball hat on, one blue and one green. They had their hoods up over their hats, and they wore brown gloves so you couldn’t tell what nationality they were. They were both about the same size (not very tall and average weight), so you weren’t entirely sure if they were boys or girls. After they were out of sight, you went outside to look at the damage and saw they’d painted various lines and shapes on your siding, but you couldn’t make out any words or symbols. Because you have difficulty with communicating, you decide to wait until your wife gets home from her shopping…4 hours later.

1. Your fire station has been called to a house fire. When you arrive, there is an older gentleman (early 60s) in a wheelchair with a communication device outside the house. He is visibly upset and vocalizing loudly. Vocalizing is not the same as verbalizing. Vocalizing means that he is making sounds, but you cannot understand what he is trying to say using his voice.
2. Victim: **DO NOT GIVE ANY MORE INFORMATION TO THE POLICE OFFICER THAN YOU ARE ASKED. YOU MAY GIVE THEM A LITTLE BREAD CRUMB OF INFORMATION IF THEIR LINE OF QUESTIONING IS TOTALLY OFF-BASE. (BUT WE AREN’T TELLING THEM THAT, ARE WE???)**

Your house is on fire. You live with your elderly parents, both well into their 80s. Your mother pushed you in your wheelchair out of the house and out onto the sidewalk so you would be safer. She then returned to the house to assist your father. He was asleep in the back bedroom at the time the fire was found. He has problems with mobility and uses a walker. He also has COPD and uses oxygen. The oxygen concentrator is in the back bedroom.

1. Responding Officer:

You are called for a 911 call with no response when the dispatcher answers. The dispatcher reports hearing sounds coming from the victim’s home, but cannot understand anything other than “my my my” from the caller.

1. Victim: **DO NOT GIVE ANY MORE INFORMATION TO THE POLICE OFFICER THAN YOU ARE ASKED. YOU MAY GIVE THEM A LITTLE BREAD CRUMB OF INFORMATION IF THEIR LINE OF QUESTIONING IS TOTALLY OFF-BASE. (BUT WE AREN’T TELLING THEM THAT, ARE WE???)**

You suffered a stroke five years ago. Your only intelligible word is “my.” Your wife fell about 10 minutes ago in the downstairs bathroom and her body is against the door so you cannot get to her to see if she is ok. She has had no other health problems to this point and takes only vitamins.