

Dr Mitzi Waltz

Autism and disability: Your expert witness

Experienced and successful in cases involving personal injury, appropriate education and service provision, and criminal justice: Dr Mitzi Waltz can help you protect your client's interests.

- ❖ **Assessment of special education programmes and care/support packages**
- ❖ **Assessment of special educational and support needs**
- ❖ **Appropriateness of specific interventions for autism and related disabilities**
- ❖ **The impact of autism on understanding and behaviour, including "criminal" behaviour**
- ❖ **Assessment of school and service procedures, including whether these may have contributed to injury**
- ❖ **Best practices in education, care and safeguarding**

Do you need an expert witness with an in-depth, internationally recognised background in autism spectrum disorders, developmental disability, and special educational needs? I have provided fair, balanced and helpful reports to law firms representing disabled clients and their families, workers injured due to inadequate provision and planning for people with disabilities, and the Crown Court.

I have led the two largest university training programmes for autism education and social care professionals in the UK, developed national training resources, authored numerous scholarly books and articles about autism and other disabilities, and served schools, services, families and individuals as a consultant. I can provide you, your client, and the Court with impartial, evidence-based reports and solid, reliable analysis. Past clients include major firms, such as Thompsons Solicitors and Bindmans LLP. I am available and insured for work throughout the UK and EU.

"I would like to thank you for all your assistance with both trials. We were extremely pleased with your evidence and believe that it assisted the jury reaching their decision to unanimously acquit [the defendant]" – Previous client

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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

I have been retained as an expert witness by major UK law firms representing clients on the autism spectrum and their families in civil and criminal matters, and representing clients in personal injury cases where inadequate planning has led to injury to staff or service users. References available upon request (with permission of past clients.) My work has included individual and school/service/procedure evaluations, bespoke research for firms on critical issues involving policy and practice, writing individual and joint expert statements, and testifying in Crown Court. I am a vetted member of the UK Register of Expert Witnesses, and hold personal liability insurance for my work as an expert witness.

CAREER

Disability consultant, October 2013 – present

Clients include Sheffield Hallam University, for which I continue to work part-time as a contract Associate Lecturer on the Postgraduate Certificate in Autism and Asperger Syndrome, legal firms, publishers, and voluntary sector organisations.

Senior Lecturer in Autism, Autism Centre, Sheffield Hallam University

September 2012 – September 2013

In this and my previous posts with the University of Birmingham, I have developed and delivered undergraduate and postgraduate training for autism specialists in education (early years, primary, secondary, and post-compulsory), social care, speech therapy, occupational therapy, medicine, community support and advocacy. I have carried out and published the results of research, and worked with local and national policymakers, schools and services to improve practice.

Lecturer in Autism Studies, Autism Centre for Education and Research, University of Birmingham

April 2007 – July 2012

Senior Lecturer in Media and Cultural Studies, University of Sunderland

August 2002 – March 2007

Regional Tutor, Autism PGDip/MEd programme, School of Education, University of Birmingham

January 2002 – March 2007

June 1990 – Aug 2002

Freelance journalist and editor (health, medicine and technology specialist)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Waltz, M. (2013) *Autism: A Social and Medical History*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Waltz, M. (2012) "Images and narratives of autism within charity discourses," *Disability & Society*, 27 (2): pp. 219-233.
- Waltz, M. (2010) "Great expectations?: The Autism Act meets hopes, misconceptions and realities," Public Servant, 26 February. Online at: http://www.publicservice.co.uk/feature_story.asp?id=13684
- Waltz, M. (2010) "Guide to Safeguarding People with Autism Against Abuse and Neglect," *Community Care Inform*, 2 June. Online at: <http://tinyurl.com/aph5fqj>
- Waltz, M. (2009) "Identifying autism in children from ethnic minorities," *Community Care Inform*, 2 October. Online at: <http://tinyurl.com/aptdun9>
- Waltz, M. (2009) "Guide to people with autism and vulnerability when giving testimony, taking part in hearings, or interfacing with professionals," *Community Care Inform*, 5 October. Online at: <http://tinyurl.com/bhzt2am>
- Waltz, M. (2009) "From changelings to Crystal Children: An examination of 'New Age' ideas about autism," *Journal of Religion, Disability and Health*, 13 (2): pp. 114-128.
- Waltz, M. (2008) "Local authority Web sites and the autism spectrum: How informative are they for parents and carers?," *Good Autism Practice*, 9 (2): pp. 54-60.
- Waltz, M. (2008) "Autism=Death: The social and medical impact of a catastrophic medical model of autistic spectrum disorders," *The Journal of Popular Narrative Media*, 1 (1): pp. 13-24.
- Waltz, M. (2007) "The relationship of ethics to quality: The particular case of research in autism," *International Journal of Research & Method in Education*, 30 (3): pp. 353-361.
- Waltz, M. and Burdus, A. (2007) "Factors in developing and delivering an effective in-service programme on Asperger syndrome for secondary school staff," *Good Autism Practice*, 8 (2): pp. 65-74.
- Waltz, M. (2004) "Autism, gender, sex, and sexuality," *Proceedings of the 2004 Durham International Conference on Autism*.
- Waltz, M. (2003) *Pervasive Developmental Disorders: Diagnosis, Options and Answers*. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons.
- Waltz, M. (2002) *Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Finding a Diagnosis and Getting Help*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates.
- Waltz, M. (2002) "A history of ideas about autism: A framework for research, and a preliminary report on recent work," *Proceedings of the 2002 Durham International Conference on Autism*.
- Waltz, M. (2002) *Adult Bipolar Disorders: Finding Answers and Getting Help*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates.
- Waltz, M. (2001) *Tourette's Syndrome: Help for Children and Adolescents*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates.
- Waltz, M. (2001) *Partial Seizure Disorders: Help for Patients and Families*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates.
- Waltz, M. (2000) *Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder: Help for Children and Adolescents*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates.

Waltz, M. (1999) *Bipolar Disorders: A Guide to Helping Children and Adolescents*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates.

Waltz, M. (1999) *Pervasive Developmental Disorders: Finding a Diagnosis and Getting Help*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates. Nominated for the Autism Society of America's Outstanding Literary Work of the Year award.

RESEARCH

Researched and developed autism-specific safeguarding guide and policy development programme for Ambitious About Autism, 2012.

Part of team that developed national training materials and standards for teachers and school staff for the Autism Education Trust, London, and Department of Education, piloted and released in October 2012. See <http://www.aettraininghubs.org.uk/>

Developed care home staff training materials on autism for Craegmoor/The Priory Group, 2011.

Jones, G., Waltz, M., et al. (2009) Primary and Secondary Inclusion Development Programme: Supporting Pupils on the Autism Spectrum. London: DCSF/National Strategies. Online at: <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/165037>

Guldberg, K., Waltz, M., et al. (2009) EYFS Inclusion Development Programme: Supporting Children on the Autism Spectrum. London: DCSF/National Strategies. Online at: <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/168117>

Jones, G.E., English, A., Guldberg, K.K., Jordan, R.R., Richardson, P. and Waltz, M. (2008) *Educational Provision for Children and Young People on the Autism Spectrum Living in England: A Review of Current Practice, Issues and Challenges*. London: Autism Education Trust. This widely-cited scoping report also formed the basis for the Better Commissioning for Autism Education programme.

Waltz, M. (2008) Survey and evaluation of online information for parents of children with ASD by Local Authorities in England. London: Autism Education Trust.

EDUCATION

PhD, Cultural Studies / Disability Studies, University of Sunderland, 2006

BA (Hons) Journalism, San Francisco State University, 1988

I have also had specialist training in a number of intervention methods and frameworks, including SCERTS, PECS and TEACCH.