

## RESEARCH STUDY RECRUITMENT INVITATION

**Study Title:** Zero to five: Co-parenting when a spouse has autism

**Researcher:** Cathryn Rench, PhD, NCC, LPC

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Dear Prospective Participant:

You are invited to participate in a research study about **what it is like to share early childhood parenting responsibilities with a spouse/former spouse who has autism**. I am conducting this study as my final project requirement toward certification in Infant-Parent Mental Health (IPMH), a two-year postgraduate fellowship program at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. The results of the study will be presented at the 2014-2015 UMass-Boston IPMH colloquium November 5-7, 2015.

You may choose to provide specific stories of your experience either in writing or a face-to-face interview via Cisco WebEx teleconference. Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time.

Data collection will last until October 25, 2015.

### To participate in this study:

- (1) You are/were legally married to someone who received a formal diagnosis of Asperger syndrome or autism spectrum disorder from a mental health professional.
- (2) You have experience raising one or more children between ages 0 and 5 years with your spouse/former spouse.
- (3) You have not been diagnosed with Asperger syndrome/autism spectrum disorder, and have no reason to believe that you might have Asperger syndrome/autism spectrum disorder.
- (4) You accept to participate in a brief individual pre-interview screening phone call with the researcher, where you will be asked to provide personal information, such as your age, gender, occupation, and education level.
- (5) You are over the age of 18 years.

The confidential nature of the information and your identity will be strictly protected, as well as the identity of all other people to whom you refer.

I would be grateful for a response via email to let me know if you are interested in participating in this study or have any questions.

Thank you for your help,

Cathryn Rench, PhD, NCC, LPC

Author of the study *When Eros meets autos: Marriage to someone with autism spectrum disorder*

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