

A chaplain can be one of the most important members of the Sheriff's Office. Today, more than ever, law enforcement agencies need religious guidance, counseling, and assistance for law enforcement professionals, their families, and the communities they serve.

Clergy are trained to fill this need. No one is confronted with more situations that can demoralize and create emotional, mental, and spiritual burdens than the law enforcement professional.

In many respects the criminal justice profession is more emotionally challenging than physically dangerous, and every employee of the agency, regardless of responsibility, is affected. Contemporary agencies are now providing routine counseling to help employees handle the emotional stress involved in the job. A concerned Sheriff wants to take care of his/her staff.

Many good employees choose other vocations because of an inability to cope with stress. A properly trained chaplain can assist law enforcement professionals as well as staff with their emotional well-being and through support to ensure performance of their duties on a day-to-day basis.

There are four specific areas of the chaplaincy.

Chaplaincy Liaison: These chaplains are appointed by the Sheriff to supervise the Chaplaincy and serve as a liaison to area associations.

Field Chaplain: These chaplains must possess an ecclesiastical certification and must be ordained or licensed as a Minister with a minimum of three to five years of direct experience in the ministry. They must attend recommended OCSO training to obtain Field Chaplain status. Field chaplains need to be available to respond on a 24-hour basis in the event of an emergency.

Associate Chaplain: Same qualifications as field chaplain only lacking the ecclesiastical requirements, and/or the applicable academics required of the field chaplains.

Honorary Chaplain: Honorary chaplains are appointed by the Sheriff as he deems necessary and may be ministers and/or lay persons who wish to promote and support the welfare of the law enforcement community. Honorary chaplains receive a certificate of appointment only. No uniform will be issued.

The Chaplain Application Process

- ❖ Fill out a civilian application and return it to the Chaplain Liaison. (Applications can be picked up from our HRD office at 2500 West Colonial Drive or downloaded from our website at www.ocso.com)
- ❖ Application will be reviewed by the Chaplain Liaison, Chaplain Training Coordinator and Chaplain Squad Coordinators.
- ❖ Voice Stress Analysis Test
- ❖ Psychological Evaluation
- ❖ Background Investigation
- ❖ Review of Sponsorship Letter
- ❖ Chaplain Interview (All chaplains are required to have a sponsorship organization, church or authority.)
- ❖ Orientation

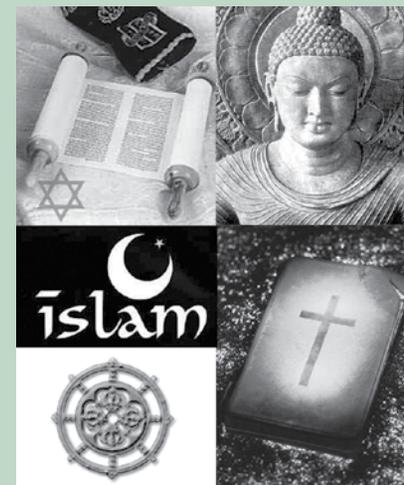


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ORANGE COUNTY
SHERIFF

Sheriff Jerry L. Demings



CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

Helping
Law Enforcement and
the Community
Through the Hard Times

CHAPLAIN'S DUTIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Employees with Problems

A chaplain is someone the employees can turn to when he/she has a problem. Ministerial confidentiality assures the employees that nothing will be told to supervisors, or the sheriff, nor will reports be generated. Sworn and civilian personnel receive the same care and attention from the chaplain.

Family Members of Agency Personnel

Many times when an employee (sworn or civilian) has a problem, it relates to the family. Such problems often reflect in job performance, attitude, and morale. The chaplain is available to counsel and help all family members of employees, including spouse and children.

Death Notifications to the General Public

One of the least liked tasks by deputies is making death notifications. Upon request, chaplains accompany deputies or make the notification. The chaplain can stay with the bereaved family until appropriate arrangements have been made. The lasting results are excellent public relations for the department.

Deputy Illness, Injury or Death

The chaplain is involved in visitation and prayer for those in the hospital or on sick leave. Often the chaplain is included in notifying the family of an injured deputy or when a deputy has been killed.

Education

Stress management, dealing with death, and ethics are examples of topics chaplains can teach.

Hostage Negotiations and Barricaded Subjects

As part of the crisis response team; the chaplain is a support member. Normally at the command center, the chaplain can help secure information about the religious background of the hostage taker, answer religious questions; and/or practice emotional support to the family members at the crisis scene.

Victim Assistance

The chaplain can help victims/witnesses start the process of dealing with trauma they experience due to criminal activity. Rape, serious assaults, and the mugging of elderly persons are all traumatic events where compassionate support is needed. The chaplain may do the counseling himself and often refers victims to the appropriate community resources.

Religious Questions

Kosher food for visiting dignitaries; protocol in dealing with church officials; religious quotes found at crime scenes-the chaplain is a resource for answers to questions involving religion.

Liaison with Other Clergy and the Community

The chaplain should foster good public relations with other clergy and religious leader in the community. A positive rapport with religious congregations benefits all parties, law enforcement agencies and community groups.

Prayers at Ceremonies

Whether it is a promotion ceremony, a banquet, dedication of a new building or equipment, the

chaplain may be asked to open the ceremony with prayer or spiritual insight. The chaplain may coordinate enlisting other members of the clergy community to take part in important departmental event. The chaplain may always keep in mind the diversity of culture and religious belief in our community.

Awards, Review Boards and Other Chaplain Activities

The chaplain may serve on chaplain hiring boards, chaplain committees for events such as the annual picnic, advisory boards with civic or religious organizations, banquet, etc. A chaplain should never be a part of a grievance committee or board.

Humanizing It All

The chaplain is a visible reminder that we are dealing with people... human beings, whether it is a law enforcement officer, citizen, clergy, clerical worker, the sheriff, or even an incarcerated person. The chaplains points out to us that we are all God's creation, and deserve to be treated with respect.

