

Chaplains

338.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Public Safety Chaplaincy of Shasta County is established for the purposes of providing spiritual and emotional support to all members of the Department, their families and members of the public.

338.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this department that the Chaplain Program shall be a non-denominational, ecumenical ministry provided by volunteer clergy without financial compensation.

338.3 GOALS

Members of the Chaplain Program shall fulfill the program's purpose in the following manner:

- (a) By serving as a resource for department personnel when dealing with the public in such incidents as accidental deaths, suicides, suicidal subjects, serious accidents, drug and alcohol abuse, and other such situations that may arise.
- (b) By providing an additional link between the community, other chaplain programs and the Department.
- (c) By providing counseling, spiritual guidance and insight for department personnel and their families.
- (d) By being alert to the spiritual and emotional needs of department personnel and their families.
- (e) By familiarizing themselves with the role of law enforcement in the community.

338.4 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties of a chaplain include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Assisting in making notification to families of department members who have been seriously injured or killed.
- (b) After notification, responding to the hospital or home of the department member.
- (c) Visiting sick or injured law enforcement personnel in the hospital or at home.
- (d) Attending and participating, when requested, in funerals of active or retired members of the Department.
- (e) Assisting sworn personnel in the diffusion of a conflict or incident, when requested.
- (f) Responding to natural and accidental deaths, suicides and attempted suicides, family disturbances and any other incident that in the judgment of the Watch Commander or supervisor aids in accomplishing the Department's mission.

Shasta County Sheriff's Office

Shasta County SD Policy Manual

Chaplains

- (g) Being on-call and if possible, on-duty during major demonstrations or any public function that requires the presence of a large number of department personnel.
- (h) Counseling deputies and other personnel with personal problems, when requested.
- (i) Attending department and academy graduations, ceremonies and social events and offering invocations and benedictions, as requested.
- (j) Being responsible for the organization and development of spiritual organizations in the Department.
- (k) Responding to all major disasters such as earthquakes, bombings and similar critical incidents.
- (l) Providing liaison with various religious leaders of the community.
- (m) Assisting public safety personnel and the community in any other function of the clergy profession, as requested.
- (n) Participating in in-service training classes.
- (o) Willing to train to enhance effectiveness.
- (p) Promptly facilitating requests for representatives or ministers of various denominations.
- (q) Making referrals in cases where specialized attention is needed or in cases that are beyond the chaplain's ability to assist.

Chaplains may not proselytize or attempt to recruit members of the department or the public into a religious affiliation while on-duty unless the receiving person has solicited spiritual guidance or teaching. If there is any question as to the receiving person's intent, chaplains should verify that the person is desirous of spiritual counseling or guidance before engaging in such discussion.

Chaplains may not accept gratuities for any service or follow-up contacts that was provided while functioning as a chaplain for the Shasta County Sheriff's Office.

338.5 CLERGY-PENITENT CONFIDENTIALITY

No person who provides chaplain services to members of the department may work or volunteer for the Shasta County Sheriff's Office in any capacity other than that of chaplain.

Department chaplains shall be familiar with state evidentiary laws and rules pertaining to the limits of the clergy-penitent privilege and shall inform department members when it appears reasonably likely that the member is discussing matters that are not subject to the clergy-penitent privilege. In such cases, the chaplain should consider referring the member to a non-department counseling resource.

No chaplain shall provide counsel to or receive confidential communications from any Shasta County Sheriff's Office employees concerning an incident personally witnessed by the chaplain or concerning an incident involving the chaplain.

Shasta County Sheriff's Office

Shasta County SD Policy Manual

Chaplains

338.6 COMMAND STRUCTURE

- (a) Chaplains shall report to the Administrative Chaplain.
- (b) The responding chaplain shall report to the highest ranking deputy at the scene.

338.7 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- (a) Chaplains shall be permitted to ride with officers during any shift and observe Shasta County Sheriff's Office operations, provided the Watch Commander has been notified and approved of the activity.
- (b) Chaplains shall not be evaluators of employees and shall not be required to report on an employee's performance or conduct.
- (c) In responding to incidents, a chaplain shall never function as an officer.
- (d) When responding to in-progress calls for service, chaplains may be required to stand-by in a secure area until the situation has been deemed safe.
- (e) The Administrative Chaplain shall have access to current personnel rosters, addresses, telephone numbers, duty assignments and other information that may assist in their duties. Such Information will be considered confidential and each chaplain will exercise appropriate security measures to prevent distribution of the information.