

MITCHELL POLICE DIVISION

CHAPTER 34

CHAPLAIN SERVICES

DISCUSSION: The Mitchell Police Division Volunteer Chaplain Program invites into this ministry ordained clergy who have the skills and the willingness to provide compassion and support to those in crisis. Furthermore, such clergy must understand that attempts to evangelize or convert police or civilians are explicitly not consistent with the primary purposes of the Mitchell Police Division Voluntary Chaplain Program.

34.1 THE CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

- A. The Mitchell Police Division Chaplain Program is a voluntary auxiliary program authorized by the Chief of Public Safety. Volunteers are not compensated for their efforts or services. Volunteers are primarily assigned to Law Enforcement-related community service functions. They can also be used as a resource in emergencies and large-scale special events.
- B. The Police Chaplains are not involved in the day-to-day delivery of Law Enforcement services. Their duties do not require the status of a sworn officer and their level of training does not warrant a commission, nor are they assigned duties requiring sworn officer status.
- C. The primary purpose of the Mitchell Police Division Chaplain Program is to respond to the immediate needs of the community, and to be available to provide spiritual counseling and guidance to all members of the Division and their families who request such services. Chaplains are not intended to replace any employee benefits such as the Employee Assistance Program or other available support services.
 - 1. Chaplains should be available to give assistance and guidance to all personnel from initial employment through retirement. On confidential basis, law enforcement personnel are authorized to consult with these members of the clergy, especially in regard to law enforcement problems.
 - 2. The services of a Police Chaplain are to be available on the basis of need and desire. Chaplains are not intended, nor do they desire, to replace an individual's own clergyman.

34.2 QUALIFICATIONS AND QUALITIES

A candidate for law enforcement chaplain should meet the following requirements:

1. Be an ecclesiastically certified person in good standing and endorsed for the law enforcement chaplaincy by a recognized religious body.
2. Show a genuine compassion and understanding for others and relates easily to people.
3. Maintain high spiritual and moral standards.
4. Be willing and available to respond to any and all situations where a chaplain's presence is indicated.
5. Manifest a broad base of experience and professional ministry, emotional stability and personal flexibility.
6. Be tactful and considerate in approaching all people, regardless of race, sex, creed or religion.
7. Be willing to become involved in training programs that enhance his efficiency in meeting and dealing with people in crisis. A chaplain should be familiar with community medical, psychiatric and other helping resources in the Mitchell area.
8. Must never have been convicted of a criminal offense (excluding traffic offenses) or offenses involving moral turpitude.
9. Must possess a valid driver's license.

34.3 CHAPLAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Duties of the Mitchell Police Division Chaplain will be as follows:

1. Respond to the needs of the community as directed by or at the request of a Supervisor.
2. Assist in making notification to families of Division members who have been seriously injured or killed.
3. After family notification, will respond to the hospital when an officer has been seriously injured or killed.

4. Visit sick and injured police personnel in the hospital and home. Division Supervisors should notify Chaplain when someone is ill.
5. Attend and participate, when requested, in the funerals of active or retired members of the Division.
6. Be on call to assist Division personnel dealing with crisis situations.
7. Counsel with officer and other personnel having personal problems, at their request.
8. Participate in appropriate in-service training classes for personnel.
9. Be willing to enter into training courses to enhance effectiveness.
10. Attend Division graduations, promotion activities, award ceremonies, dinners, social events, etc. and offer invocations and benedictions.
11. Be responsible for the organization and development of spiritual organizations in the Division.
12. Respond to all major disasters.
13. Be involved in public relations efforts if requested.
14. Provide liaison with other religious leaders in the community.
15. When responding to the scene of death or injury, whether Divisional person or private citizens, the chaplain will notify the person's personal clergy as soon as possible.
16. Will make referrals in cases where specialized attention is needed, or in those cases beyond the chaplain's ability to assist.
17. Chaplains may ride at their own discretion with prior approval of the Shift Supervisor.

34.4 CHAPLAINCY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Police Chaplain is an auxiliary position and does not fit into the Divisional chain of command.

34.5 CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. The Chaplain is available to all personnel and their families for counseling. However, as an ex-officio member of the Police Division, the chaplain has a responsibility to report to the Chief of Public Safety emotional or medical conditions, which he considers to be at great danger to the employee, their family or others.

- B. All Chaplains shall be guided by State law when dealing with confidentiality issues during any counseling situations.