



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS



330.06 USE OF POLICE COMMUNITY CHAPLAINS 01-27-17

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for use of Police Community Chaplains.

POLICY

To use Police Community Chaplains for assisting victims, secondary victims, and witnesses of crimes and other catastrophic events.

PROCEDURE

A. DEFINITION

1. **TRAUMATIC INCIDENT** - Includes, but is not limited to, situations in which victims, secondary victims, and/or witnesses have been involved with, or exposed to, a violent crime or other catastrophic event, i.e. crimes against persons (rape, assault, etc.), robbery, hostage situations, accident victims (901A fatalities), etc.
2. **VICTIM** - Any person who is the subject of a traumatic incident as defined in paragraph A1 above.
3. **SECONDARY VICTIM** - Any person vicariously traumatized as a result of a traumatic incident, i.e., family member, close friend, etc.
4. **WITNESS** - Any person traumatized as a result of observing a traumatic incident.

B. GENERAL

1. A Police Community Chaplain is on call 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week to assist victims, secondary victims, and witnesses of crimes and other catastrophic events.
2. For post-trauma incidents involving Department employees, refer to [General Order 570.03](#) when contacting a Law Enforcement Chaplain.
3. The on-duty Police Community Chaplain has a pager, a city car equipped with a Police radio, and a cellular phone.
4. Each Police Community Chaplain shall be assigned a specific radio designator (i.e., Chaplain 21), assigned by the program manager or designee.
5. Officers shall consider requesting assistance from a Police Community Chaplain at any crime scene or event where victims, secondary victims, or witnesses are present.
NOTE: Officers should use their own discretion in requesting a Police Community Chaplain, not that of the victim.
 - a. Officers shall contact Communications Division to request a Police Community Chaplain.
 - b. The Office of Operations shall maintain the Computer-Aided Dispatch "Info Index" for notification and scheduling of Police Community Chaplains.
6. Police Community Chaplains are trained to be sensitive of, and understand, the various police procedures conducted by officers, but shall not perform those procedures.

C. CHAPLAIN RESPONSE

1. Police Community Chaplains shall respond based on requests from any patrol officer, detective, or other member of the department who becomes involved in an event where victims and/or witnesses are present.
2. Upon arrival at the scene, the Police Community Chaplain shall report to the supervising officer.
3. Police Community Chaplains shall not normally attend to any person identified as a suspect unless specifically requested to do so by the supervising officer.
4. Police Community Chaplains may perform non-hazardous tasks, such as driving someone home, attending to non-belligerents until officers take statements, i.e., family members of barricaded subjects, hostage family members, consoling families of missing persons, etc.
5. Police Community Chaplains may make referrals, as necessary, to other appropriate community service agencies.