

	<i>Narragansett Police Department</i> <i>40 Caswell Street, Narragansett, RI 02882</i>			
	ORIGINAL ISSUE August 2, 2017	LAST REVISED August 2, 2017	NEXT REVIEW August 2, 2020	
	Police Chaplain		530.01	

01 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for a Police Chaplain position working with the Narragansett Police Department. The Police Chaplain will assist the Narragansett Police Department on a volunteer basis and provide spiritual guidance that those members, their families and citizens of the community, regardless of religious orientation, may seek in times of need.

02 Policy

- A. It is the policy of the Narragansett Police Department to provide its members with access to a Police Chaplain. It is the mission of the Police Chaplain to provide spiritual guidance, counseling and nonsectarian or ecumenical functions, education and training.
- B. The Chaplain will serve people in emergency situations and strengthen the service rendered by the police to the community.
- C. The Chaplain will be available on call to provide assistance for human relation problems such as:
 1. Domestic disturbances
 2. Bereavement counseling
 3. Lonely and despondent persons
 4. Suicide attempts
 5. Subjects suffering from substance use disorders

03 Procedure

- A. Program: A police Chaplain Program is established which provides for appointment of a Police Chaplain who will act as a liaison between the religious community and the police department.
- B. Privileged Communications: Verbal and written communications between the department Chaplain and employees, including family members, enjoy such privileged status as is allowed by law of the State of Rhode Island, and will be recognized as such unless expressly waived by the employee or concerned family member.

C. Appointment

1. The Chief of Police will appoint the Chaplain and reserves the authority to revoke the appointment at any time at his/her discretion.
2. Department credentials, reflecting the title of “Chaplain” will be issued to each appointee.
3. The credentials will be in the Chaplain’s possession when involved in departmental activities and will be presented when requested.

D. Organizational Assignment and Coordination

1. Chaplains will serve as staff assistants to the Chief of Police.
2. Access will be provided to all department members as needed.
3. It is not the intent that the program circumvents an employee’s choice of clergy, nor should the religious context be perceived as compulsory.

E. Authority and Restrictions

1. Chaplains are authorized to visit department facilities and incident scenes whenever activities may indicate a need for ministerial services.
2. Chaplains may converse with department employees when the need for ministerial services is requested or apparent, provided such communication does not interfere with department operations.
3. During field operations, Chaplains will comply with orders and instructions of the Officer-in-Charge of the operation.
4. Chaplains do not have police duties or responsibilities and will not take police action when performing their official capacity.
5. Chaplains are not authorized to operate department vehicles.
6. They are not allowed to carry firearms or any other department authorized weapons.
7. Chaplains may accompany officers in department vehicles as an observer in accordance with departmental policy or while being transported to or from a department event or operational post.

F. Duties and Responsibilities

1. Respond to spiritual or pastoral counseling requests for department employees.
2. Assist department officials in providing death or serious injury notifications.
3. Respond to hospitals when incidents of on-duty serious injury or death of employees occur and perform ministerial duties as appropriate.
4. Visit sick or injured employees at their home or place of confinement.
5. Participate in funeral or memorial services for active or retired employees of the department and assist family members in preparation of funeral arrangements.
6. Respond to the site of a major incident or disaster, i.e., natural disaster, commercial aircraft disaster or civil disturbance.
7. When requested, attend departmental promotion functions, award ceremonies, dinners, social events, criminal justice graduation ceremonies, and offer the invocation and benediction.

8. Convene periodic meetings for Chaplains to discuss subjects of mutual interest.
9. When requested, attend departmental staff meetings.
10. Perform other services that may be required by the Chief of Police.
11. All services performed in the capacity of department Chaplain will be in conformance with department directives.

G. Request for Chaplain Services

1. Requests for Chaplain services as a result of operational needs will be by the authorization of any supervisor. Said supervisor may make personal contact with the Chaplain or refer notification to the Communications Center.
2. Employees or family members may contact the Chaplain directly on a personal need for Chaplain services.

H. Qualifications

1. The Chaplain will be an ordained member of a recognized religious body.

By Order of:

Chief of Police