



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF POLICE CHAPLAINS

B01 – Introduction to Law Enforcement
Chaplaincy

B01 – Introduction to Law Enforcement Chaplaincy - Revised April 2014



Training Objectives

- Purpose and need for law enforcement chaplaincy
- Qualities of an effective law enforcement chaplain
- Law enforcement chaplaincy and ministry
- What law enforcement chaplains do
- What law enforcement chaplains should not do
- Lemon vs. Kurtzman and law enforcement chaplaincy

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Training Objectives

- Ride along protocol
- Health and safety issues
- Being an asset to the agency
- Communication skills and being a good listener
- Individual agency protocol
- International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC)

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Purpose

- ▣ Primary purpose
 - Provide spiritual support and encouragement to law enforcement officers, agency employees, and their families
- ▣ Secondary Purpose
 - Provide spiritual support, comfort, and assistance to the community in crisis
 - ▣ Death scenes
 - ▣ Accidents
 - ▣ Domestic violence scenes
 - ▣ Other scenes where officers perceive a need

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Need

- ▣ Relieve stress for officers
- ▣ Build rapport with officers
 - Ride-Alongs build relationships
- ▣ Offer friendship to officers
 - A listening ear without judgment or criticism
- ▣ Work alongside officers at scenes
 - Free officers for police work

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Qualities of a Chaplain

- ▣ Willingness to go where most people don't
- ▣ Willingness to love and care for officers
- ▣ Acceptance
- ▣ Availability
- ▣ Confidentiality
- ▣ Credibility
- ▣ Faith
- ▣ Genuine interest in officers, families, agency
- ▣ Law enforcement knowledge

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What Chaplains Do

- ☐ Work with officers – officer always in charge
 - Death notifications
 - Death scenes
 - Comforting victims and/or survivors
- ☐ Be aware of crime scene protocol
- ☐ Do more listening than talking
- ☐ Refrain from “preaching” to officers
- ☐ Be a sounding board

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Chaplain Don'ts

- ☐ Do not judge officers
- ☐ Do not proselytize officers or agency personnel
- ☐ Do not change or circumvent officer's directions or instructions
 - Respect
 - Safety
- ☐ Do not interfere with investigation or crime scene

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Chaplain Don'ts

- ☐ Do not show preference of officer or group of officers
- ☐ Do not be a “wanna be cop”
- ☐ Do not pursue chaplaincy as a way to fulfill personal goals or receive recognition

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Lemon vs Kurtzman

- ☐ Cannot be purely religious
- ☐ Must be ecumenical
- ☐ Cannot advance or inhibit religion
- ☐ Cannot preach to personnel
- ☐ Cannot attempt to influence to come to any church
- ☐ The Establishment Clause
- ☐ Three Prong Test

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Ride-Alongs

- ☐ Learn and always follow agency protocol
- ☐ Avenue for chaplains to build relationships with officers
- ☐ Officers become familiar with chaplains
- ☐ Officers learn to trust chaplains
- ☐ Enhance visibility of chaplains reminding officers of availability
- ☐ Allows officers privacy to talk to chaplains

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Ride-Alongs

- ☐ Be a respectful guest – car is officer's “office”
- ☐ Follow instructions of officer
 - Officer advise whether to leave or stay in car
 - Assist as requested by officer
- ☐ Be familiar with radio procedures, etc.
- ☐ Listen more than talk
- ☐ Do not criticize or judge
- ☐ Be prepared for language or humor
- ☐ Dress appropriately

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Advantages of Ride-Alongs

- ❑ Chaplains see what officers do and the stressors of the job
- ❑ Chaplains see the community and officers interact
- ❑ Chaplains provide an outlet for officers to vent
- ❑ Chaplains gain the trust and acceptance of officers
- ❑ Chaplains can assist officers in difficult situations

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An Asset to the Agency

- ❑ Serve the officers, employees, and families of the agency
- ❑ Provide spiritual support and encouragement
- ❑ Serve the community in crisis situations
- ❑ Establish and maintain rapport with officers, employees, and families
 - Build relationships
 - Be part of the team
 - Genuine caring for officers, employees, and families

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An Asset to the Agency

- ❑ Build trust and remain trustworthy
- ❑ Maintain credibility with willingness to respond and assist
- ❑ Understand agency policies and goals
- ❑ Know the organizational structure and chain of command
- ❑ Become familiar with community resources available when providing assistance

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International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC)



- ❑ Education
- ❑ Credentialing
- ❑ Networking
- ❑ Fellowship

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ICPC Credentialing

- ❑ Basic Level Credentials
 - Five years of ministry experience
 - Ecclesiastical endorsement
 - Agency endorsement
 - Background check
 - Completion of ICPC 12 Basic courses
 - 30 hours of classroom training related to law enforcement chaplaincy

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ICPC Credentialing

- ❑ Senior Level Credentials
 - Five years of law enforcement chaplaincy experience
 - Ecclesiastical endorsement
 - Agency endorsement
 - 150 hours of classroom training related to law enforcement training

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ICPC Credentialing

- ☐ Master Level Credentials
 - Ten years of law enforcement chaplaincy experience
 - Ecclesiastical endorsement
 - Agency endorsement
 - Track A
 - 250 hours of classroom training related to law enforcement
 - Thesis paper on an approved subject related to law enforcement chaplaincy
 - Track B
 - 350 hours of classroom training related to law enforcement

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ICPC Credentialing

- ☐ Diplomate Level Credentials
 - 15 years of law enforcement chaplaincy experience
 - Five years of Master Level credentials
 - 500 classroom hours of training related to law enforcement chaplaincy
 - Received 10 ATS/RTS credits
 - Two personal references
 - Served ICPC as an officer, taught at RTS or ATS level, or member of ICPC committee

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ICPC Credentialing

- ☐ Fellow Level Credentials
 - 20 years of law enforcement chaplaincy experience
 - Five years with Master Level credentials
 - 1,000 classroom hours of training related to law enforcement chaplaincy
 - Ten ATS/RTS credits
 - Two personal references
 - Served ICPC as an officer, taught at RTS or ATS level, or member of ICPC committee

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ICPC

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Training Seminars ▪ Annual Training Seminars | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full Members ▪ Associate Members ▪ Affiliate Members |
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Communication

- ☐ Always practice more listening than talking
- ☐ Keep an open mind
- ☐ Understand what is being said before response
- ☐ Repeat back to the person what is said
- ☐ Respond without judgment
- ☐ Maintain confidentiality
- ☐ Avoid being involved in agency administrative matters; never criticize management or policy

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Communication

- ☐ Use common sense
- ☐ Refrain from giving spiritual advice until asked
- ☐ Never say one thing and live another
 - Walk the talk
- ☐ Be a positive thinker and role model

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