

Some Dos and Don'ts For Police Chaplains

DO's

1. Learn to tolerate teasing
2. Ride with the officers; visit roll call sites; get personally acquainted
3. Attend social functions; get to know minister, priest, or rabbi of officers
4. Develop basic knowledge of officers' work responsibilities
5. Learn the lingo; ten codes, 10-4, 10-8, 10-25, etc.
6. Know the organizational structure of the department
7. Recognize the ranks of authority and use them, especially in public settings
8. Congratulate personnel on weddings, anniversaries, promotions, etc.
9. Volunteer to assist
10. Listen to the radio
11. Go in on calls – but be careful about interfering
12. Be loyal to officers and supervisors by serving as a bridge between them
13. Respect the officers' religious views or lack of them
14. EARN their personal respect and confidence
15. Be contagiously honest
16. Empathize more than sympathize with person – look at options
17. Be positive and optimistic
18. Be a good stroker (always be courteous)
19. Become acquainted with referral agencies in community and county
20. MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY
21. Remember: Your life will reveal what you profess
22. Be a good listener
23. Be a team member; be trusting; be a play-maker; keep informed
24. Be clean and neat in appearance and attitude; you are the Police Pastor

DON'Ts

1. Do not get involved in inter-departmental politics
2. Do not over identify with the situation; remain objective
3. Do not interfere with management operations (policy, transfers, etc.)
4. Do not confuse the role of the Chaplain with that of an officer
5. Do not throw your weight around; status must be earned
6. Do not appear to have all the answers

