


6/16/02


ETHICS for Chaplains and Officers

A Guide to Live By



Presented by the International Conference of Police
Chaplains

In Conjunction with the Chaplain Corps of
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department




1

6/16/02

Professional Ethics

- True PROFESSIONALS operate under well-defined Codes of Ethics.
 - ◆ Medical Professionals – Hippocratic Oath
 - ◆ Etc.
- Adherence to these Codes of Ethics is considered nearly "sacred" within the membership
- Failure to adhere to the tenants of the Code is often grounds for dismissal from the profession




2

6/16/02

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS


"As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard life and property; to protect the innocent against deception; the weak against oppression or intimidation; and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to Liberty, Equality, and Justice"



3

6/16/02


I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my Department.



4

6/16/02


Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature, or that is confided in me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret, unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions.



5

6/16/02



With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.



6

6/16/02



I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession ... Law Enforcement."

7

6/16/02


The Chaplain's Code of Ethics
 Like most professions, Law Enforcement Chaplaincy has it's own Code of Ethics by which Chaplains are to guide their thoughts, words and actions. Adherence to this Code of Ethics is a mark of a true Professional.

8

6/16/02

RESPONSIBILITY:
 The Chaplain must represent, to all members of the Department, morality, justice, fidelity, and peace. Therefore, to all Officers and Department personnel, the Chaplain shall guide and direct them, through counseling and personal example, to that end. To recruits, the Chaplain shall impart the principles of law enforcement ethics as fundamental to their functioning as a Chaplain or Officers, and as essential for their personal career.




9

6/16/02

DUTY TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE:

The Chaplain shall conscientiously apply himself to a greater understanding of moral laws (including ethnic and cultural differences), Departmental regulations, as well as the ethics by which he must live and guide others. The Sheriff's Chaplain shall take these responsibilities seriously, seeking aid, counsel, and enlightenment from both his religious and civil superiors in matters of their respective fields.




10

6/16/02

ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES:

The Chaplain shall exercise due diligence in the selection of proper means in the discharge of the Chaplain's office. Violating the laws of God and/or Department regulations shall convey wrong messages to Department personnel and the public alike. The employment of improper means, no matter how worthy the end, is certain to destroy all respect toward the Chaplain. If laws and regulations are to be honored by others, they must be honored by the Chaplain who represents morality and justice.




11

6/16/02

COOPERATION:

The Chaplain shall cooperate with Department officials, and other religious officials, in the discharge of his duties, regardless of affiliation. The Chaplain shall be meticulous in guarding against the use of his office or person in a way that may bring disrepute to himself, law enforcement Chaplaincy, or the Department. In any situation open to questions, the Sheriff's Chaplain shall seek counsel from the appropriate religious and/or Department authority.




12

6/16/02

Conduct Toward Community:

The Chaplain, in performing his duties, shall periodically deal with members of the community. The Chaplain, on these occasions, shall perform ministerial services in such a manner as becomes the office of the Chaplain. The Chaplain shall give service to the community where he can, without interfering with law enforcement procedure, or infringing upon the ministry of others. While dedicated to the service of the law enforcement community, their families, and other members of the Department, the Chaplain also has a responsibility of service to all humanity.




13

6/16/02

Professional Conduct PRIVILEGE:

Because of the nature of the information received in personal counseling, and through confidential reports and observations, the Chaplain shall maintain strict professional privilege in these matters.




14

6/16/02

ECUMENISM:

The Chaplain's own personal convictions do not give him the right to disdain the faith of others, nor attempt to proselytize them for his own church. The Chaplain shall strive for an unbiased understanding of all faiths, and be acquainted with their liturgies. The Sheriff's Chaplain shall conduct himself in a manner that shall not offend any religious bodies, and shall attempt to win the goodwill of all.




15

6/16/02

GIFTS AND FAVORS:

The Chaplain bears a heavy responsibility to foster integrity and honor within the Department. The Chaplain shall guard against placing himself in a position in which the public can reasonably presume that special consideration has been given. The Chaplain should refuse gifts, favors, or gratuities, large or small, which the public could interpret as being offered to influence others.




16

6/16/02

PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE:

The Chaplain shall always discharge his duties with a feeling of serious responsibility. By diligent study for self-improvement and dedicated service toward Sheriff's personnel, he shall strive for effective moral leadership and high-spirited morale. The Chaplain shall appreciate the importance and the responsibility of the Department, and hold his office as essential in assisting all Deputies to render valuable service to the Department and the community.



17


6/16/02

Chaplain's Ethics Dilemma

While riding along on patrol with a deputy late one evening, you spot a car in a remote area with no lights. The deputy decides to check the car out.

As you pull up on the car with the spotlights on, you can clearly see that there are two occupants in the car, one male and one female. They do not appear to be clothed.

You also unmistakably recognize the car as being owned by a 21-year-old male in your church.




18

6/16/02

You inform the deputy that it may be someone in your church, and it is agreed that you should remain in the car. The deputy goes to the car, and does an I.D. check on the occupants. He determines that they are both adults, and advises them to go play at home.



All during the time that the deputy is doing the vehicle check, the woman in the car keeps trying to peer through the spotlights to see who is in the patrol car. You clearly recognize that it is a mid-40's aged married woman who is also a member of your church.



19

6/16/02

Everyone in your church knows that you are a police Chaplain. You have a strong suspicion that she knows you were in the patrol car.




20

6/16/02

Questions:


- What, if anything, are you going to do?
- Since you strongly suspect that the woman knew you were in the patrol car, you are concerned that she will stop coming to church because she doesn't want to face you.
- You feel that you have a moral obligation to confront each of them, since they are members of your church, and hold them accountable for their actions.



21

6/16/02

2. Since you obtained this information in your role as a Chaplain, can you even disclose that you know about it to them?




22

6/16/02

Bonus Question:

3. If you found out that they were members of another local church, would you normally call that pastor and disclose to him what you saw two of his church members doing?




23

6/16/02

A 17-Year-Old-Boy wrote:

- "Maturity is being able to handle adult matters without being childish. It's being able to ignore people who disrupt class and other gatherings with stupid remarks just to get a laugh out of someone.
- Maturity...is being responsible and able to have a goal and work hard."




24

6/16/02

Where does it start?




- It didn't begin in the Corporate boardroom
- There never was a decision to violate ethical behavior
- A long, gradual slide
- Started rationalizing behavior
- What's right? ->> What's legal? ->> What can we get away with?



25

6/16/02

You Don't Have to Be A RAT to win the Rat Race




26

6/16/02

Hebrews 12:1-2

We have around us many people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back. (NCV)




27

6/16/02

Integrity

- Our character matches our convictions
- Our beliefs match our behavior
- Our commitment to God is evident in our careers




28

6/16/02

The **COSTS** Of Running The Race With **INTEGRITY**

- I May Lose Money
- I May Face Economic Sacrifices
- I May Be Alienated From Colleagues



29

6/16/02

The **BENEFITS** Of Running The Race With **INTEGRITY**

- I Can Have a Clear Conscience
- I Can Provide a Godly Heritage For My Family
- I Can Practice Good Business Principles



30

6/16/02

Benefits, contd.

- I Can Improve My Community
- I Can Experience Spiritual Depth




31

6/16/02

Conclusion

- There's No Comparison Between The Costs and Benefits of Integrity
- Clear Conscience
- Raise your Kids to have Character
- Develop Career Based Upon Proven Principles
- Raise Community's Ethical Temperature
- Be Closer to God



32
