



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



330.06 USE OF POLICE COMMUNITY CHAPLAINS 09-09-2026

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use of law enforcement and community chaplains.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) to use law enforcement and community chaplains to assist SPD employees, victims, secondary victims, and witnesses of traumatic incidents.

PROCEDURE

A. DEFINITIONS

1. COMMUNITY CHAPLAIN - Chaplains trained in trauma response and crisis care to provide support to community members who are impacted by traumatic incidents.
2. LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAIN – Community chaplains who have completed the POST Advanced Law Enforcement Chaplains Academy and have received additional training in law enforcement culture to serve SPD employees and their families.
3. SECONDARY VICTIM – Any person vicariously traumatized by a traumatic incident (e.g., co-worker, family member, close friend, etc).
4. TRAUMATIC INCIDENT – Distressful situations that overwhelm a person's ability to cope and could cause emotional, psychological, or physical harm.
5. VICTIM – Any person who is the subject of a traumatic incident.
6. WITNESS – Any person traumatized by observing a traumatic incident.

B. GENERAL

1. Officers should consider requesting chaplain when a traumatic incident has occurred and SPD employees, victims, secondary victims, or witnesses are present. Officers should use their discretion in requesting a chaplain, not that of the victim.
2. Law enforcement and community chaplains are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist SPD employees, victims, secondary victims, and witnesses of traumatic incidents.
3. Post-trauma responses involving SPD employees shall be in accordance with General Order 570.03 (Post-Trauma Response), prior to contacting a law enforcement chaplain.
4. Organizing the response of a chaplain should be coordinated via the Communications Center.
5. Chaplains are trained to understand and be sensitive to the various police procedures conducted by officers, but shall not perform law enforcement related activities.

C. CHAPLAIN RESPONSE

1. Law enforcement and community chaplains shall respond based on requests from any department employee who becomes involved in an event where victims or witnesses are present.
2. Upon arrival at the scene, chaplains shall report to the supervising officer.
3. Chaplains shall not normally attend to any person identified as a suspect unless specifically requested to do so by a supervising officer.
4. Chaplains may make referrals, as necessary, to other appropriate employee resources or community service agencies.