

# **Qualifications for Chaplains**

## **ECCLESIASTICAL**

1. Must be a licensed or ordained minister, depending upon the custom of their denomination or religious group.
2. Must have a clear association with, be a member in good standing within, and have a recommendation from a local church or ecclesiastical body.
3. Must have had at least three years experience as a minister, or as a licensed pastoral counselor.
4. Be recommended by an official of the field of chaplaincy you will be working in.
5. Display moral, ethical, and spiritual standing to justify your position as chaplain.
6. Must agree to, and follow the ethical canons of the I.C.P.C.

## **DEPARTMENTAL**

1. Must pass a background investigation.
2. Must have a valid driver license for the State in which he/she resides.
3. Must pass a polygraph administered by an individual chosen by the agency.
4. Have at least two references from members of the local community.
5. Must have at least twenty hours of departmentally approved training and at least ten hours of supervised training in the field.
6. Have been certified by either I.C.P.C., P.O.S.T., or another similar chaplaincy conference, fellowship, or organization.
7. Must be willing to conform to the authority and procedures of the department or agency or chaplaincy organization to which they will serve.

## **EDUCATIONAL**

1. Have a college degree of no less than two years or the equivalent.
2. Indicate a willingness to be involved in training that would enhance one's efficiency in meeting and dealing with people in crisis.
3. Be familiar with community resources and referral services.

## **PERSONAL/MINISTRY**

1. Be a person of outstanding quality and integrity.
2. Manifest a high spiritual and moral standard.
3. Manifest a broad base of experience and professional maturity, emotional stability, and personal

flexibility.

4. Show godly compassion, understanding and love for fellow men/women, and can relate easily to people.
5. Be tactful and considerate in his/her approach to all people, regardless of their race, creed, religion, or lack of religious beliefs.

**TASK**

1. Be willing to respond to any/all situations where his/her presence as chaplain is needed.
2. Respond to natural disasters and catastrophes when needed and/or called, and to respond to anyone needing assistance they discover in the natural course of daily life.
3. Be willing to make the services he/she provides as chaplain a high priority when on-duty.
4. Be willing to assist the chaplaincy and/or the agency, if necessary, to raise funds and/or support.