

Training Guidelines

Every police and fire agency has its own Policies and Procedure Manual that includes the training requirements for chaplains. I operate under the authority of the Whitman County Sheriff's Office PNP Manual, Whitman County, Washington.

1. Chaplains are to be trained to respond in the following areas:

Death notification, Death counseling

Suicide intervention

Support for families and individuals in crisis due to traffic injury or fatality

Domestic disputes

Juvenile Counseling

Child abuse situations

Assistance to victims of violent crimes for follow-up counseling

Substance abuse counseling

Disaster Response

Hostage Negotiation

Public demonstrations

Assisting elderly or children with special needs

Other situations as identified by sworn personnel

2. The Ride Along with Deputies

A ride along is an earned privilege.

The chaplain does not preach to the officer but rather is to answer questions and assist the officer. Chaplain cannot be a pastor on a ride along and do all the talking rather he will have to listen most of the time because it is about the officer not about the chaplain. What the chaplain thinks about things is not the issue rather what the officer thinks is the issue. This is the way the chaplain gets to know the officers and can then think of ways to help them.

The chaplain is trained in weapons, crisis incidents, first aid, and is expected to help the officer in any situation if needed.

Chaplain is to know radio codes, how to operate the radio, how to release the shotgun or AR 15 rifle, handguns, operate the spot light, scanner, and any other equipment in the vehicle.

Chaplains must understand that police agencies are run like para-military organizations with a chain of command system. Personal performance, responsibility, and accountability standards are high and the officers must satisfy their superior officers.

Chaplain must be willing to protect their own life and the life of the officer. Some department allow chaplains to carry firearms while others do not so the officer must know about this before

taking the chaplain on a ride along.

Chaplain must have trained to be a good listener for the officer may have some things on his mind he wants to talk about.

Chaplain must know Crime Scene Protocol so that he/she will not contaminate a crime scene.

Chaplain must know the Incident Command System and operate within it.