



Colorado Springs Police Department Standard Operating Procedure

DL-210-03 Chaplaincy Corps

Section 200 – Community Collaboration

Effective Date: 10/11/2021

Supersedes Date: 10/30/2009

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to describe the chaplaincy corps, suggest appropriate utilization of its services, and specify privileged communication guidelines.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 1030 Death Notifications](#)

[GO 708 Family Notification: Officer Death or Trauma](#)

.03 Definitions

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.04 Procedure

The Colorado Springs Police Department's (CSPD) chaplaincy corps is made up of public-spirited clergy of many faiths and denominations. Those selected for the program volunteer their time, energies, and talents to assist the CSPD and the community. They provide services that are invaluable to the mission of the department, which could not be furnished otherwise.

Police employees are encouraged to make use of the services provided by the chaplaincy corps, whenever those services could be helpful. The communication between employees and members of the chaplaincy corps is considered legally privileged.

Suggested Uses of Chaplaincy Services – Community Members

Police chaplains are available to respond to the needs of families and individuals who are suffering from a variety of traumatic events, to include:

- Homicides

- Suicides
- Serious injury or fatal traffic accidents
- Death notifications
- Domestic disturbances
- Other situations police personnel believe their services could be beneficial.

Suggested Utilization of Chaplaincy Services – Department Employees

The International Conference of Police Chaplains suggests a number of general areas in which chaplains can be of use to law enforcement. This includes:

- Family assistance when an officer is injured, ill, or killed
- Assistance to problem officers, or officers with a problem
- Counseling to families of department members
- Assistance to civilian employees
- Death notifications
- Education/teaching
- Assistance to hostage and barricaded suspect negotiators, but not in the role of negotiators themselves
- Ministry to prisoners
- Victim assistance
- Consultation on religious questions
- Liaison with other community clergy
- Prayers at ceremonies and other CSPD events
- Awards, review boards, and other committees

Chaplaincy Corps Contact

Members of the chaplaincy corps may be contacted through the communications center or by way of the department issued cellular phone.

Members from the chaplaincy corps often conduct ride-alongs with patrol officers and if available, on-duty members of the corps can be requested to respond directly to a location.

If contacted off-duty and requested to respond to a location, members of the corps have access to a department issued vehicle.

Privileged Communication

C.R.S. § 13-90-107 Who May Testify without Consent details those relationships that are considered privileged communication. Included in the statute are those associated with the chaplaincy corps.

The following provisions will apply to all members of the chaplaincy corps:

Confidential communication, including confessions to a criminal act, made in private to any clergy person, priest, minister or rabbi, acting as a member of the chaplaincy corps, will be considered privileged communication, and will not be violated. Such communication includes, but is not limited to, any communication made in confidence by a member of the department.

Any statement to a police chaplain made in the presence of a third person, whether or not the third person is a police officer, is not considered privileged communication. Under such circumstances, it is the responsibility of the police chaplain to inform the individual that any statements made to the chaplain are not considered confidential or privileged.

Privileged communication does not apply to statements concerning future actions. Any statement made about plans or proposed actions that threaten the welfare of another person, or constitute a criminal act, are not considered privileged or confidential. It is the responsibility of any police chaplain to report such statements to the proper authority.

Chaplain Ride-Along

Police chaplains will accompany police officers on all calls, regardless of the type of call and/or potential danger. It will be at the police officer's discretion to request that the chaplain remain in the car if the police officer believes the presence of a chaplain would undermine the officer's or chaplain's safety.