


# **GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **GENERAL ORDER**

	<b>TITLE</b> Chaplain Program		<b>ACCREDITATION</b> N/A
	<b>PROponent UNIT</b> Chaplain Unit		<b>PRIOR REVISIONS</b> 01/ 03/18  <b>ATTACHMENT: 0</b>
<b>NUMBER</b> 36.2	<b>ISSUE DATE</b> 01/03/2018	<b>REVISION DATE</b> 01/27/2022	<b>TOTAL PAGES</b> 3

**I. PURPOSE:** This Order establishes guidelines for the administration of the chaplain program.

**II. POLICY:** The Chaplain Program is designed to provide emotional, moral and spiritual support and guidance to all Department members who request it. The goal of this program is to provide a trusted individual to minister to Department members and their families.

### **III. PROCEDURE:**

#### **A. General Principles:**

1. The Chief of Police shall appoint all chaplains.
2. The Chief of Police, or designee, may terminate chaplain services at any time if their involvement in the program is not in the best interest of the Department.
3. Any information received by a chaplain while in the performance of their official duties as chaplain shall remain in the strictest confidence

**B. Qualifications:** To be considered for a position of chaplain, a person shall be an ordained or licensed member of the clergy, and shall:

1. Maintain high spiritual and moral standards.
2. Possess a caring and understanding attitude toward all people.
3. Be willing and available to respond to any situation where the presence of a chaplain is requested.
4. Never have been convicted of a criminal offense or offenses involving moral turpitude.

**C. Community Volunteer Chaplains:**

1. Prospective community volunteers for the Chaplain Program shall submit to an agency background investigation including, but not limited to fingerprinting, driver's license check, and an FCIC/NCIC check.
2. Community volunteer chaplains shall not receive any salary or benefits,
3. Community volunteer chaplains shall be issued a photographic identification card that shall be displayed only while performing duties as a chaplain.
4. Community volunteer chaplains should participate in the Department's Patrol Ride-Along Program and periodically attend Departmental briefing sessions to familiarize themselves with agency operations.

**D. Duties: Chaplain Duties shall include:**

1. Assisting in notifying families of Department members who are severely injured or killed.
2. Visiting severely ill or injured Department members.
3. Attend and/or participating in funerals of active and retired members of the Department and their immediate families.
4. Providing counseling for members upon their request.
5. Attending Department official and social events, giving invocations and benedictions as requested.
6. Promoting, encouraging and aiding spiritual activities and functions among Department members.
7. Attending periodic meetings with all Department chaplains.
8. Participating with the CISM Team and attending training as suggested by the CISM Coordinator.

**E. Senior Chaplain:** The Chief of Police shall designate a senior chaplain. The senior chaplain shall be responsible to the personnel bureau commander for the direct administration and management of the Chaplain Program.

**F. Notifications:**

1. The senior chaplain, or designee, shall be notified by the appropriate supervisory personnel in the event of any of the following situations:
  - i. Death or severe injury to any Department member, while on or off duty.
  - ii. Unexpected death or severe injury to any immediate family member of Department members.

iii. Any officer-involved shooting incident regardless of injury to an officer, suspect, or civilian.

iv. Any action taken by a police officer resulting in death or severe injury to another person.

v. Any other situation deemed necessary by the appropriate supervisory personnel.

2. All members of the Department are also authorized to make direct contact with chaplains for personal or Department related purposes.

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**By Order of**

***Signed Original on file in the  
Accreditation Section***

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**Lonnie Scott Sr.  
Acting Chief of Police**