

A. PURPOSE. To outline the responsibilities of the Grand Rapids Police Department Chaplain(s) and the procedures for their utilization

B. DEFINITION

*Police Chaplain(s).* An honorary position in the Grand Rapids Police Department for which appointment to and administration of is conducted by the Office of the Chief of Police.

C. CONFIDENTIALITY OF POLICE CHAPLAIN SERVICES. In accordance with Michigan Statutes [MCL §600.2156](#) and [MCL §767.5a](#) when performing counseling duties, the communications between the chaplain and counselee are privileged, and the chaplain may not be compelled to disclose the content of those communications. Since confidentiality of chaplain services is a matter of extreme sensitivity and importance to the chaplains and the administration of the department, there shall be no required departmental reporting which in any way could reveal the identity of any department employee or the nature of any counsel provided. The statutes do not bar testimony by a chaplain with knowledge of relevant admissible facts, for example, testimony regarding a public incident the chaplain may have witnessed while acting in the capacity of a chaplain.

D. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES. Police chaplain(s) may be available on a twenty-four (24) hour basis for the following services:

1. Assist in the notification of the next of kin regarding the death or injury of a citizen when requested.
2. Assist the department in potentially life-threatening or emergency situations involving department personnel when requested.
3. Assist in notifying the families of department personnel seriously or fatally injured in the performance of duty when requested.
4. Conduct home or hospital visitation of seriously ill or injured department personnel.
5. Offer comfort to families of deceased members of the department; conduct and/or participate in religious services for deceased members when requested by the family.
6. Counsel department members and/or their families regarding personal or family difficulties when requested.

7. Attend and provide the invocation/benediction at departmental functions such as award ceremonies, graduations, etc. when requested.
  8. Assist in recruiting clergy (i.e. Pastors, Rabbi's, Priests, etc.) and ministry leaders for the Clergy on Patrol Program.
  9. Represent a wide variety of religious traditions and levels of professional preparation and endorsement; therefore, the Police Chaplain is a "chaplain" for everyone.
  10. Respect the people they serve regardless of a person's race, gender, economic status, religious experience and many other factors.
  11. Provide services as may be requested by the Chief of Police.
- E. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE. The police chaplain(s) is to be notified when requested by a department supervisor or the Chief of Police or may be contacted privately when requested for personal services.