

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a chaplain's program which will provide for ordained clergy to assist citizens and personnel of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office on a voluntary basis and to establish the duties of the chaplain.

Procedures

The Cecil County Sheriff's Office enlists the services of persons ordained by recognized religious denominations who will contribute their time to accomplish the duties described herein.

Duties of the Chaplain

The Cecil County Sheriff's Office may request the chaplain to provide the following services:

1. Assisting Deputies at the scenes of death notifications, suicides (and attempts), domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assaults, and other appropriate incidents.
2. Provide advice and guidance to the employees of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office in personal matters when requested. Discussions of a personal nature will remain confidential between the chaplain and the employee.
3. Attending Sheriff's Office ceremonies such as graduations, promotions, and award presentations.
4. Visiting personnel and their immediate families at times of illness or injury.
5. Participating in a flexible ride-along program with on-duty deputies. The chaplain will not be brought into situations where weapons are present or the potential for violence is likely.
6. Helping the Sheriff's Office foster a positive relationship with the community.

Call-Out Procedures

1. The chaplain will provide the Office of the Sheriff and the dispatch center with telephone numbers where he can be reached in emergencies.
2. The duty officer will use his discretion in requesting the assistance of the chaplain.

Authority of the Sheriff's Office Chaplain

1. The Sheriff's Office chaplain is a non-sworn position.
2. Deputies will retain complete and final authority in all enforcement matters.
3. The chaplain will respond to requests for his services as his schedule permits.

Uniform

The chaplain will be issued a Sheriff's Office polo shirt identifying him as chaplain for official functions but may also wear a shirt and tie at his discretion. The chaplain will not be issued a firearm or authorized to carry a firearm.