

What does a Law Enforcement Chaplain Do?

The Appleton Police Department Chaplain's primary role is to support members of the police department including all sworn and non-sworn officers, support staff, and their families.

Chaplains are licensed professionals who offer a credible ministry of presence to employees of all faith backgrounds with the utmost confidentiality.

Chaplains develop relationships and provide emotional, mental, and spiritual support.

Chaplains can help answer spiritual questions, offer encouragement, and provide emotional and spiritual wellness.

Chaplains can provide individual counseling and provide wellness assistance to officers inside and outside the department.

Chaplains provide support and service in critical incident situations; officer involved shootings, line of duty deaths, death notifications, assistance to employees dealing with sickness, death, loss, and conflict within their family

Chaplains may serve on a Wellness, Crisis Response Team, Peer Support Team, or other committees within the department.

Chaplains serve as a liaison with other community clergy and between law enforcement and the community as needed.

Chaplains can represent the department for community events honoring law enforcement; offer prayers for special occasions, ceremonies, dedications, retirements, and swearing in ceremonies.

Chaplains can officiate end of life care and funerals for employees and their loved ones.



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Tom Gritton**

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APPLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHAPLAIN PROGRAM



*"Serving those who protect
and serve with compassion,
integrity, and commitment"*

*Blessed are the Peacemakers
"Be strong and courageous... the LORD your
God goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."*

"The greatest gift you can give is your time. People need your presence. The way you can help a soul the most is to simply be there."

} *Richelle E. Goodrich*

The duties and responsibilities of Law Enforcement Professions can expose employees to mentally painful and highly stressful situations. Employees can experience stress and trauma both from significant events and performing their daily duties.

These events can have a negative impact on their job performance and can cause emotional problems for the employee, their families, and co-workers.

The Appleton Police Department has established a Police Chaplain Program to provide support to employees and their families.

Police Chaplains are a valuable resource because of their education, experience, and training, as well as their ability to understand the nature of Law Enforcement Professions.

Law Enforcement Employees may choose not to discuss certain situations that affect their work or personal lives with co-workers or family members to avoid undue concern or negative judgment.

While they may contact their own clergy, employees may also benefit from the services of a Police Chaplain in a unique way regarding issues related to their jobs.

Did you know that there were full time paid Chaplains appointed to the very first Continental Congress in 1737?

Chaplains have faithfully served the federal government, all branches of the military, and both houses of congress for over 280 years.

Chaplaincy is a spiritual role protected by the Federal Government under the Lemon vs. Kurtzman ruling by the Supreme Court. Chaplaincy is considered a legal and necessary function of government to provide for the mind, body, and spirit of its citizenry during times of crisis. Because chaplaincy does not form one specific religion, it is protected under this law even though there is a spiritual component.



"A chaplain's greatest gift to the department is to be present and just listen to the law enforcement professionals he or she serves."



"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop

QUICK FACTS About Your Appleton Police Department Chaplains

APD Law Enforcement Chaplains...

- Are protected by the Federal Government
- Provide humanitarian aid that supports wellness for mind, body, and spirit
- Are volunteers but considered staff
- May or may not be sworn law enforcement officers
- Cannot have a criminal conviction, or evidence of criminal or moral failure
- Are carefully screened and vetted
- Must be ordained for at least five years within their faith community
- Represents their own faith, but must minister to people of all faith backgrounds equally
- Must keep up with professional trainings relevant to law enforcement
- Are appointed, usually by the Chief
- Must wear credentials identifying them as a law enforcement Chaplain while serving
- Should be well trained and knowledgeable about community medical, mental health, and other helping resources.
- Must not proselytize or try to convert an employee to any one specific religion or denomination