REQUIREMENTS OF A CHAPLAIN

- Be a credentialed, licensed, or ordained "member of the clergy", i.e. priest, religious organization counselor, certified spiritual director, deacon, minister, or religious practitioner of a religious denomination having necessary training and experience in Post Traumatic Stress
- Applies for and successfully completes the Volunteer in Probation process which includes an interview and background investigation
- Agrees to accept and comply with the policies and procedures of the Orange County Probation Department, upholding the department's philosophy and principles
- Donates a minimum of 8 hours per month
- Commits to attending training relevant to their assignment as a chaplain, including training on departmental issues such as officer/chaplains safety, sexual offending, domestic violence, gangs, alcohol and drug abuse, etc. Also provides training to staff as mutually agreed upon
- Demonstrates compassion and understanding for all persons with whom they come in contact regardless of race, religion, gender status or social status
- Agrees to respond to requests for spiritual counseling on an "as needed" basis

A Chaplain is available to support staff in times such as these…

A 15-year-old gang member lies dead on the sidewalk after being shot by a rival gang. A Deputy Probation Officer responds to the scene and is assigned to notify the minor's parents of his death.

A Deputy Probation Officer encounters a mentally unstable probationer for four hours and then goes directly home to deal with routine family life.

A Deputy Probation Officer searching computers views thousands of pornographic images of children of an age similar to his own children.

A supervisor is approached by a clerical employee (expecting a third child) who is concerned regarding rumors of impending layoffs and is asking for assurance that he/she will not be laid off.

A Deputy Juvenile Correctional Officer overseeing a unit at a juvenile institution observes a minor in the process of hanging himself and reacts by lifting the minor to prevent strangulation, while calling for assistance.

Chaplain contact information:

Sr. Chaplain Ken Schlenker
(714) 667-7655
ken@nccdat.org

Reverend Ric Sera
714-667-7655
Email: ejsera@aol.com

Rabbi Linda Seidman
714-667-7655
lindaseidman@cox.net

Website: www.ocgov.com/probation

F057-860AF (04/13)

ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION

Steven J. Sentman
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

Probation Staff Chaplain

"Supporting Probation Staff"

Mission Statement

Credentialed volunteer Chaplains provide presence and support to Orange County Probation Staff in daily operations and in times of crisis.

AS A PROBATION EMPLOYEE

Probation work exposes all staff regardless of their position to some of the worst human tragedies imaginable. Staff deals with victims and perpetrators of murder, domestic violence, sex offenders, drug and alcohol abusers, gangs, and the mentally ill. Officers visit homes amid conditions of extreme poverty and filth. They encounter children in these homes, suffering from neglect and abuse by their parents who are offenders.

A dedicated and committed chaplain can assist our staff to maintain a healthy psychological and emotional state of well being as they work side by side with staff in a ministry of presence and faith. Chaplains also serve as a reminder of the uniqueness of each individual and the importance of treating people with respect and dignity.

The creation of a Chaplaincy Program within the Orange County Probation Department is an innovative approach to meeting the needs of our staff by making Chaplains of all faiths immediately available as trained and caring professionals who can assist in the time of loss, confusion, depression, and grief to staff who may be experiencing emotional crisis.

The field of Corrections is increasingly becoming more challenging. Life altering and demoralizing situations staff face on a regular basis working with clients, the current state of our government, and the economy create pressures that far exceed the day-to-day work of staff. These situations add pressures to hopes and dreams for the future and our relationships with family and friends resulting in situations that can create emotional, mental, and spiritual burdens.

THE PRESENCE OF THE CHAPLAIN IS TO SUPPORT PROBATION STAFF

A Chaplain, will work side by side with staff to provide moral support and spiritual encouragement in dealing with the following:

- Special Events/Ceremonies
- Other Situations as Requested by Staff
- Death Notifications
- Attempted Suicides
- Illness or Injury
- Ethical and Moral Dilemmas
- Crime Scenes
- Disasters
- Times of Crisis and/or Trauma

PURPOSE OF PRESENCE TO PROBATION STAFF

Duties and Responsibilities of the Chaplain

- Provides spiritual guidance and encouragement
- Works side by side with staff as a constant reminder of the dignity of all people
- Provides hope and celebrates success
- Supports and reassures staff on the job and in times of trauma, tragedy and crisis
- Builds a trusting and confidential relationship with staff and is present for them during times of personal or family distress or crisis
- Provides crisis intervention
- Recognizes and deals with Post Traumatic Stress

OUR CHAPLAINS ARE TRAINED IN THE FOLLOWING

Qualified chaplain candidates will possess significant prior training and experience in

- Crisis Intervention
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

On-going additional training will be provided On Policies and Procedures of the Orange County Probation Department

- Ethical – Mandated Reporting
- Radio and Communication Training
- Ride-a-longs