

Chaplains come  
at any hour.  
Mostly, they listen.  
But they also comfort  
people who are  
in situations where  
they need guidance  
and compassion...  
or perhaps, if someone  
asks, a moment  
of silent reflection  
will be offered  
in guarded privacy  
to support the  
trembling spirit  
that comes in  
difficult moments.

**The ECSO Chaplaincy Program  
is a group/organization  
of volunteer clergy designed  
to serve the needs of the ECSO  
by providing spiritual and emotional  
guidance, counseling and assistance  
to ECSO personnel and their families.**



**Confidentiality is the  
cornerstone of *your* Chaplain.**

Chaplains are available 24 hours a day,  
7 days a week, 365 days a year.  
*Help is just a phone call away.*

Rev. Kenyatta Cobb, Ha'naniah Lutheran Church  
578-4031 / doccobb48@verizon.net

Imam Fajri Ansari, Masjid NuMan Mosque  
892-1332 / ansarif@buffalostate.edu

Shri Vijay Chakravarthy, Ph.D., Hindu Cultural Society  
879-7321 / vijay\_chakravarthy@praxair.com

Rev. Louis Guadagno, Old Time Baptist Church  
983-5941 / preacher@oldtimebaptist.com

Rev. Cleveland Howell, Greater Faith Temple  
570-1405 / trustgod4yourself@juno.com

Rev. James A. Lewis III, Ph.D.,  
Miracle Missions Full Gospel Church  
898-3357 / JLewis@ecmc.edc

Sister Madonna Sweet, CSW, SSJ  
Diocesan Counseling Center  
886-5729 / mrsweet@verizon.net

*Liaison Officers*

Retired Deputy Tim Decker, Jail Management Division  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
693-2341 / Decker3604@roadrunner.com

Retired Deputy Frank Thomas, Court Division  
Faith Baptist Church  
854-5710 / FThomas973@aol.com

Reserve Deputy Wayne Wolf, Mounted Division  
St. gabriels R.C. Church, Elma, NY  
597-5131 / Mounted9horse@gmail.com



**Timothy B. Howard, Sheriff**

10 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14202  
(716) 858-7618 www.erie.gov/sheriff

ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



# Employee Chaplaincy Program

*Easy to Access  
Confidential*

**Who can use the Chaplaincy Program?**

All ECSO personnel and members of their family are eligible to use Chaplaincy services. The program is voluntary and is only offered as a resource.

**What is the Chaplaincy Program used for?**

Your Chaplain ranges from being a sounding board, to offering therapeutic intervention for any issues affecting everyday life.

This brochure lists some of the many services offered by the Chaplain.

**What are the office hours?**

Chaplains are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can be used as often as needed.

**Who are the Chaplains?**

A Chaplain is a person of faith. They represent a wide variety of professions and religious traditions. Each Chaplain is an ecclesiastically certified person in good standing by a recognized religious body. A Chaplain is available for everyone at all times regardless of personal and religious beliefs. As Chaplains, they do not represent a particular religious tradition, congregation, or service agency.

**How are the Chaplains organized?**

Chaplains are organized under the supervision of an administrative liaison and a coordinating Chaplain. Chaplains are licensed, and/or ordained, and/or recognized leaders of their faith. Liaison Chaplains are employees who are active in their faith and want to be of service to their coworkers. Liaison Chaplains have received advanced training from religious or educational institutions.

*“Working as a Chaplain with an officer brings a sense of community, a sense of the holy, and a place that is familiar.”*

**Chaplain David Selzer  
Buffalo Police Chaplain**

*“His inspirational speaking of how we are used in different ways was insightful and comforting.”*

**Officer Robert Gee,  
Niagara Falls Police Department**

When asked about his experience with a Chaplain after a critical incident.

**Are discussions with the Chaplains really confidential?**

If you choose to talk with a Chaplain, your contact is confidential and free. Confidentiality is protected by law, and the ethical guidelines prescribed by the licenses of the clergy and professional counselors. It is incumbent upon you and your Chaplain to discuss confidentiality parameters.

**How do I contact a Chaplain?**

You simply call a Chaplain. To ensure that you are eligible, you will be asked to identify yourself as an ECSO employee or household member. You will meet with a Chaplain at a time and place mutually agreeable. Chaplains and their phone numbers are listed on the back of this brochure.

**What can I expect when I call a Chaplain?**

Expect confidentiality and professionalism. Expect to be treated with concern, compassion and respect.

**If I am referred to another service by a Chaplain, who pays for the cost of that service?**

If the Chaplain refers you to another provider, such as the Employee Assistance Program or longer-term counseling, alcohol or other drug treatment, etc., you are responsible to pay for those services. However, whenever possible, the Chaplain will refer you to a service covered by your insurance, or to a low-cost or no-cost service.

**How do Chaplains help?**

They counsel law enforcement officers, other department personnel and their family members on issues such as:

*Stress  
Depression  
Mediation  
Addictive behaviors  
Domestic and family issues  
Conflict resolution  
Anxiety  
Anger management  
Sexual abuse  
Substance abuse  
Critical incident stress debriefing  
Counseling*

**What other services do they provide?**

Visit sick or injured officers and departmental personnel in homes and hospitals

Make death notifications

Assist with critical incidents

Serve as liaison with other clergy in the community

Furnish expert responses to religious questions

Offer prayers at special occasions such as recruit graduations, awards ceremonies and dedications of buildings and memorial services