

## **CHAPLAINS AS ADVOCATES MINISTRY SCENARIO GUIDELINES**

Introduction: Chaplains are to function in the realm of being a spiritual advocate for official workers and their families especially in times of difficulty. As a spiritual advocate, chaplains will come alongside official workers and their families striving to empathize, encourage, support, speak the truth in love and overall be an incarnation of the love and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **I. Possible Chaplaincy Ministry Scenarios:**

- A. Official Worker Confesses Personal/Private Sin To Chaplain
- B. Official Worker Confesses Sins Committed Against Another (To Chaplain), Yet Is Not Public Knowledge
- C. Official Worker Confesses Sins Committed Against Another (To Chaplain) And It Becomes Public Knowledge
- D. Official Worker Is Caught In Sin And Exposed Publicly

### **II. Implications of Four Possible Chaplaincy Ministry Scenarios**

#### **A. Official Worker Confesses Personal/Private Sin**

##### **1. Chaplain's Core Responses:**

- a. Pray with individual
- b. Share/teach Scriptural principles to individual
  - 1). Hope in Christ
  - 2). Forgiveness in Christ
  - 3). Believer's position in Christ
- c. Be a spiritual advocate for individual
- d. Encourage/coach the individual to take appropriate steps (repentance, confession, restitution, rebuilding of trust, etc.).
- e. Nurture a redemptive relationship
- f. Maintain complete confidentiality
- g. Practice "Seven Core Dimensions" of counseling
- h. Refer to competent clinical psychologist/counselor if needed
  - 1) Have Official Worker sign "Release of Information" with counselor
  - 2) Maintain an advocate/supportive relationship with Official Worker
  - 3) To ensure confidentiality, billing should be sent to the District Office in the name of the chaplain.
- i. Safeguard healthy relational boundaries with Official Worker

##### **2. Official Worker's Actions**

- a. Contact chaplain
- b. Strive for open, transparent communication with chaplain

#### **B. Official Worker Confesses Sins Committed Against Another, Yet Sin Is Not Public Knowledge**

##### **1. Chaplain's responses- All of above "Core Responses a-i," plus:**

- a. Prepare/Equip Official Worker to Biblically deal with individual he/she has sinned against.

- b. Create safe atmosphere so that restitution, reconciliation and restoration may take place between parties involved.
    - c. Prepare Official Worker in event that the sin becomes public knowledge
  - 2. Official Worker's Actions
    - a. Contact chaplain
    - b. Strive for open, transparent communication with chaplain
    - c. Work toward restitution, reconciliation and restoration of broken relationships
- C. Official Worker Confesses Sins Committed Against An Individual And Sin Becomes Public Knowledge
  - 1. Chaplain's responses- All of above "Core Responses a-i," plus:
    - a. Encourage Official Worker to voluntarily come to District Superintendent
    - b. Be a spiritual advocate for Official Worker if disciplinary action is entered into by the district
      - 1). Pray for individual throughout the process
      - 2). Provide emotional and spiritual support throughout process
      - 3). Attend disciplinary hearing if requested by Official Worker
      - 4). Assist in fulfilling the restoration plan as a spiritual advocate (not an accountability partner) if requested by Official Worker and approved by the District Discipline Committee.
  - 2. Official Worker
    - a. Contact chaplain
    - b. Strive for open, transparent communication with chaplain
    - c. Work toward restitution, reconciliation and restoration of broken relationships
    - d. Voluntarily confess sin to District Superintendent
- D. Official Worker Is Caught In Sin And Exposed Publicly
  - 1. Chaplain's responses- All of above "Core Responses a-i," plus:
    - a. Be a spiritual advocate for Official Worker throughout the disciplinary process
      - 1). Pray for individual throughout the process
      - 2). Provide emotional and spiritual support throughout process
      - 3). Attend disciplinary hearing if requested by Official Worker
      - 4). Assist in fulfilling the restoration plan as a spiritual advocate (not an accountability partner) if requested by Official Worker and approved by Discipline Committee
  - 2. Official Worker
    - a. Contact chaplain
    - b. Strive for open, transparent communication with chaplain
    - c. Cooperate fully with the discipline/restoration process and those involved

### III. Situations Chaplains Must Avoid

- A. Ceasing to function in the realm of being a spiritual advocate of/for the Official Worker and becoming an "agent" of the district.
- B. Becoming enmeshed/co-dependent with the Official Worker.
- C. Crossing over from being the Official Worker's spiritual advocate (pastoral/spiritual counselor who is practicing the Seven Core Dimensions of Counseling) to playing the

role of a clinical psychologist (diagnosing emotional/mental issues and then prescribing treatment plans).

- D. Becoming overwhelmed by not referring to a competent clinical psychologist or counselor (if at all possible the professional should be a Christian).
- E. Becoming so sympathetic in the situation as to dilute the severity of the sin and thus undermining the critical aspects of genuine repentance, confession, restitution, rebuilding of trust, and ultimately restoration.

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