

SHERIFF OF GARFIELD COUNTY

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GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY/PROCEDURE GENERAL

SUBJECT: TRAUMA TEAM AND LINE OF DUTY DEATH/INJURY OR TRAUMATIC EVENT

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 01, 2024

POLICY:

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office will provide liaison assistance to the immediate survivors of a member who dies in the line of duty or who is hospitalized for a line of duty injury or to members and their families for any traumatic event either work related or personally. This assistance is provided whether the death or injury was accidental or intentional, either on or off duty, and while he or she was an active member of the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office will also provide a comprehensive packet of information on benefits as well as emotional support during a traumatic event or readjustment for the surviving family.

The Sheriff or his designee may institute all or part of this policy for cases of a Sheriff Office member's natural death or traumatic event. Funeral arrangements of the deceased member are to be decided by the family, with their wishes taking precedence over the Sheriff's Office.

PURPOSE:

This policy establishes procedures to ensure the proper support and emotional care for a member and or his/her family following a line of duty death or any relevant traumatic event.

METHOD:

Coordination of events following a line of duty death or relevant traumatic event is an extremely important and complex responsibility. Professionalism and compassion must be exhibited at all times as an obligation to the member and his or her family/survivors and to the Law Enforcement community. In order to provide the best possible support and service for the member and his/her family, specific tasks may be assigned to selected members of the Sheriff's Office. Members of this team are compiled from all areas of the Sheriff's Office to include: Patrol, Detentions, Finance Administration, Professional Standards, Human Resources, and Victim Services. The duties and responsibilities of the selected members are detailed in the Sheriff's Office Trauma Team Field Guide.

Upon activation of the Sheriff Office Trauma Team, the Sheriff or his designee will determine what resources will be needed to handle the specific set of circumstances at that time. The Sheriff or his designee will then use the Trauma Team Field Guide as a resource and delegate the proper persons to most effectively handle the given crisis.

Also upon activation of the Trauma Team, and if deemed necessary, a critical incident stress debrief will be arranged and staff involved in the Line of Duty death/injury or relevant traumatic event will be required to attend.

No part of the Trauma Team Field Guide should be considered legally or morally binding on the Sheriff or his designee and should only be viewed as it was intended for this policy, a “resource” to help members of Sheriff’s Office handle and cope with a Line of Duty death or relevant traumatic event/crisis. The Trauma Team Field Guide is also intended to be a living document and is to be updated as the Sheriff sees fit.