

VFW Chaplains Training

Ethics



Ethics



WHAT IS **ETHICS**?



Ethics is a set of moral principles or rules that guide our behavior to determine what is **right or wrong.**

The purpose of chaplaincy ethics

Accountability:

Public trust:

Safety and well-being:

Key ethical duties

Confidentiality:

Non-proselytizing:

Competence:

Respect for autonomy:

Avoid exploitation:



VFW Chaplain Code of Ethics

1. Chaplains will demonstrate utmost personal and professional integrity: truthfulness, honesty, and compassion to those who they minister to.
2. Chaplains will provide an objective, appropriate, holistic support and a comforting presence.

VFW Chaplain Code of Ethics

3. Chaplains will not proselytize. Those who are cared for will be provided freedom from unwanted gifts of religious literature or symbols, evangelistic and sermonizing speech, or forced acceptance of specific moral values and traditions.

4. Chaplains will demonstrate sensitivity to all faith traditions and provide appropriate and sensitive spiritual care to all persons in need, irrespective of their religious or nonreligious identity.
5. Chaplains will not discriminate, with regards to their care, based on sex, age, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disabilities, socioeconomic status, or any other factors that would hamper a person's ability to receive spiritual care.



6. Chaplains will, whenever possible, attempt to locate a spiritual leader within the faith tradition of an affected person, if needed.
7. Out of respect for those who are served, Chaplains will maintain confidentiality.
8. Chaplains recognize their personal and professional limits, know their boundaries and make referrals to professionals with appropriate expertise.
9. Chaplains will do no harm.



10. Chaplains are volunteers and will take no monetary gifts from those who are served.

11. Chaplains shall adhere to all applicable Codes of Ethical Standards as prescribed by the VFW





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Welcome to the VFW Chaplain Portal

Listen Comrade Chaplains,

There comes a moment when someone looks to you—and nothing in the room feels steady. A veteran loses a loved one, a family member is hurting or a call comes when you least expect it. In those moments, you are counted on to **stand in the gap**—to listen, being a steady

https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html



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Ethical Foundations

Ethics is a branch of philosophy concerned with what is morally right or wrong. For chaplains, ethics can be simply understood as the commitment to **“do no harm”**—a principle borrowed from the Hippocratic Oath. Another guiding concept is the **Golden Rule**: *Treat others as you would want to be treated*.

Chaplain Statement of Ethics and Guiding Principles

1. Integrity

Uphold the highest standards of personal and professional integrity, demonstrating truthfulness, honesty, compassion, and attentiveness in all interactions.

2. Holistic Support

Offer objective, appropriate, and holistic spiritual care, providing a comforting and respectful presence.



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

VFW Code of Ethics

Also Includes

- personal conduct
- Accountability
- Conflict of interest

CODE OF ETHICS POLICY



2022-2023

AS APPROVED BY THE VFW, DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Additional Points

- Avoid or correct any conflicts of interest or appearance of conflicting interest.
- Understand the limits of your individual expertise and make referrals to other professionals when appropriate.
- Do not directly or by implication claim professional qualifications that exceed actual qualifications. Represent yourself honestly.
- Promote good relationships with your fellow chaplains.
- Never forget we each represent the VFW, the chaplaincy.



Don't
take sides
until you know
the **whole story.**

Some people are very skilled
at making others **look bad.**



Why Chaplains Must Avoid Taking Sides

- **Maintaining Neutrality**
- **Preventing Triangulation**
- **Protecting the Care Environment**



*Thank
You*
for your time





Questions?