

Post Critical Incident Seminar (PCIS)

At least once each year, SCLEAP will offer a Post Critical Incident Seminar. The PCIS is a three-day training seminar for officers who have been through highly traumatic events. The event is experiential in format, providing officers the chance to talk through a particularly horrific/troublesome event in the presence of their law enforcement peers. The group receives training in law enforcement survival of traumatic stress and coping as well as one-on-one support from members of the PCIS Peer Team. If you wish to speak with an officer who has been through the PCIS, names and numbers are available upon request.

Basic CISM Training, Peer Support, and Pastoral Crisis Intervention Training

A 2-day module of Basic CISM training a 2-day module of Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support and a 2-day training in Pastoral Crisis Intervention training is available on an annual basis in cooperation with the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy. For departments or agencies who wish to hold an in-house training, SCLEAP is able to provide the two-day or four-day block of training. A sample training budget is available upon request. Minimum class size is 20 and maximum class size is 40.

CALEA STANDARDS REGARDING CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS AND PEER SUPPORT IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

CALEA STANDARD 22.2.10: Standard states, "the agency makes available to employees an Employee Assistance Program designed to assist in the identification and resolution of concerns which may adversely affect an employee's personal or professional well-being or job performance."

CALEA STANDARD 35.1.15: Standard states, "a written directive establishes a Personnel Early Warning System to identify agency employees who may require agency intervention efforts. The system should include procedures for...some type of employee assistance such as a formal Employee Assistance Program, Peer Counseling, etc."

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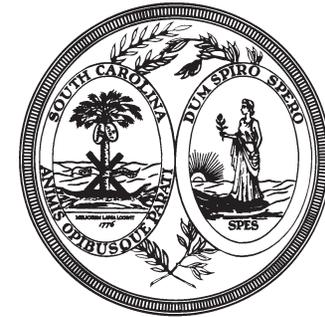
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SCLEAP Website

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CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT



**Critical Incident
Stress Management
&
Peer Support Services**

**Provided By:
The South Carolina
Law Enforcement
Assistance Program
(SCLEAP)**

**Offices: 2501 Heyward Street
Columbia, SC 29205**

**Mailing: PO Box 9552
Columbia, SC 29290-9552**

What is SCLEAP?

SCLEAP is the acronym for The South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program. It was created by a mutual agreement between four state police agencies. (SLED, SCDPS, SCDNR, SCDPPPS). In June of 2000, the Governor of South Carolina signed legislation that placed the SCLEAP program into law in our state. The text of the law is provided below. In addition to traditional employee assistance support and volunteer chaplaincy support, SCLEAP provides direct support to state and local law enforcement during times of critical incident stress. These services are provided at no cost to the receiving agency and they are available 24/7/365.

New Law Calls for Critical Incident Support and Training

“Section 23-3-65. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) shall administer the South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program. (SCLEAP). The purpose of this program includes, but is not limited to, responding to and providing counseling services to all requesting law enforcement agencies and departments in the State which have experienced deaths or other tragedies involving law enforcement officers or other employees, and providing any other critical incident support services for all South Carolina law enforcement agencies and departments upon their request. The SCLEAP may also utilize local critical incident support service providers including, but not limited to chaplains, mental health professionals and law enforcement peers. In consultation with the professional staff of the SCLEAP and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Chaplains’ Association, the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy shall develop a course of training for the critical incident stress management and peer support team.”

What is a Critical Incident in Law Enforcement?

- Any situation that results in an overwhelming sense of vulnerability or loss of control. Roger Solomon, Ph.D.
- Any situation that causes officers to experience unusually strong emotional reactions which have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either at the scene or later. Jeff Mitchell, Ph.D.

Examples of Critical Incidents in Law Enforcement

- A. Line of Duty Death of an Officer
- B. Suicide of an Officer/Family Member
- C. Multi-Casualty Incident/Disaster
- D. Significant Event Involving Children
- E. Knowing the Victim of an Event
- F. Serious Line of Duty Injury
- G. Law Enforcement Shooting Incident
- H. Excessive Media Interest
- I. Prolonged Incident With Loss
- K. Any Significant Event involving Law Enforcement

What is Critical Incident Stress Management? (CISM)

CISM is a comprehensive, integrated system for the mitigation of critical incident (traumatic) stress. The goals of this program are to:

- reduce the incidence, duration, and severity of traumatic stress
- reduce impairment from traumatic stress
- return officers to adaptive functioning
- facilitate access to continued care

Trained Volunteers on Statewide CISM Team

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| State & Local Law Enforcement Officers: | 175 |
| Dispatchers/Telecommunicators: | 10 |
| Mental Health Professionals: | 20 |
| Law Enforcement Chaplains: | 30 |
| Other Volunteers: | 25 |

The Ten Specific Elements of CISM

1. Pre-Incident Education
2. Demobilization (used in large scale events/disasters)
3. Crisis Management Briefings (large groups of primary victims)
4. Defusings (used with small groups within 3-8 hours of incident)
5. Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (main intervention done with law enforcement)
6. One-on-One Crisis Intervention (normally officer to officer)
7. Family CISM (support of law enforcement families following critical event)
8. Organizational Consultation (work on policies, procedures, standards, etc.)
9. Pastoral Crisis Intervention (use of clergy in crisis intervention)
10. Follow-up and Referral of Officers for further care.

What Can a Supervisor Expect When SCLEAP Assists?

Regardless of the time of day or night, SCLEAP staff and/or members of the Law Enforcement Peer Support Team will come to your location for immediate peer support of personnel, assess need for Defusing, Debriefing or both. If a defusing is called for, this will normally take place 3-8 hours following the event, prior to officers being released to return home. Over the course of the next days, the supervisor will work very closely with SCLEAP staff and peer team to plan appropriate crisis intervention. The supervisor may expect a normal peer support team to consist mainly of sworn officers along with a chaplain and a mental health professional. All of the team members will be trained in crisis intervention. It is the preference of the SCLEAP staff that the sworn peer team members lead the group process in the defusings and debriefings. The SCLEAP follows a model of Crisis Management known as The Mitchell Model. More information on this model is available on the web at: www.icisf.org