**SAMPLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Alabama Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support (ALLEAPS)**

NOTE: The following guidelines address both safety and policy and are for internal use only. This document does not nor is intended to enlarge an employee’s civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third-party claims. Violations of these guidelines if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

1. **PURPOSE**

To provide information regarding Peer Support for emergency responders including available services as outlined in the CODE of Alabama §36-21-14.

1. **POLICY**

When an emergency responder is involved in job-related stress or a work-related traumatic event, e.g., officer-involved shooting, the department will provide peer support through the Alabama Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support (ALLEAPS). Peer support is the standard of care in Alabama for individuals involved in traumatic events. This policy provides information on ALLEAPS and the procedure to receive their support.

1. **DEFINITIONS**
	1. Traumatic Event: An incident that may overwhelm an individual’s normal coping mechanisms causing unusually strong emotional reactions or distress or have the potential to interfere with the ability to function optimally in their personal or professional lives.
	2. Certified Peer Support Member: An emergency responder or a person who is assigned to be a chaplain by an emergency service agency, who has received training in critical incident stress management and who is certified as a peer support member by the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) to provide emotional and moral support to an emergency responder as a result of job-related stress or an incident in which the emergency responder was involved while acting in his or her official capacity.
2. **PROCEDURE**
3. The Alabama Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support (ALLEAPS) has been established to provide individuals with services as outlined in the CODE of Alabama §36-21-14. The structure for ALLEAPS is as follows:
4. Alabama is divided into seven regions recognized by the Department of Homeland Security and adopted by ALEA for resource management.
5. ALLEAPS functions under seven Regional Coordinators from various law enforcement agencies which increases efficiency and provides a rapid response for peer support events.
6. ALLEAPS is the organization that provides peer support services to emergency responders and provides training to peer support members.
7. Affiliation with ALLEAPS is essential to ensure all peer support providers are trained and offer a consistent and effective standard of care.
8. The CODE of Alabama §36-21-14 governs all interactions providing the emergency responder with the necessary tools to cope with a traumatic event. The standard of care includes no notes or recording of the interactions and specifies all communications as privileged and confidential.
9. Activation of ALLEAPS / Request for Peer Support
10. ALLEAPS maintains a toll-free number, (833) 219-2461, which is available and maintained by ALEA around-the-clock (24/7/365) for a quick response to departments and their members. ALLEAPS is available to contact requesting departments within thirty (30) minutes of notification and have trained peer support officers on-scene within three (3) hours, if needed.
11. To request an emergency response for service, any police chief, law enforcement officer, or family member may call the ALEA Primary Communication Office at (833) 219-2461. The caller should request “Peer Support” or an “ALLEAPS Response” to an incident and provide the location and contact information. ALEA Dispatch will immediately notify the appropriate regional coordinator to initiate an immediate peer support response.
12. For a non-emergency response, any law enforcement officer or a family member may call a certified peer support member or a regional coordinator directly or by using information available on the ALLEAPS Website at: <https://alleaps.org/>
13. Training:
14. Emergency responders interested in becoming a certified peer support member must be appointed by the Chief of Police in writing and complete training provided by ALLEAPS.
15. ALEA and ALLEAPS maintain all appointment letters to ensure that peer support members are trained at the acceptable level.

APPROVED: CHIEF OF POLICE DATE

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS ORDER

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER DATE

***DISCLAIMER***

***NOTE****: These documents are being provided to you from the AMIC/MWCF Loss Control Division and are not intended to be legal advice. They do not identify all the issues surrounding a particular topic. Laws and “Best Practices” change and policies must be continually reviewed and updated as needed. Public agencies are encouraged to review their procedures with an expert or an attorney who is knowledgeable about the topic. Reliance on this information is at the sole risk of the user.*