

# SPECIAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Topic  
**Selection of Peer Support Team Members**

---

Series / Number

**SO – 00 – 15**

---

Effective Date

**July 21, 2000**

Distribution

**A**

---

Replaces

**Special Order 89-2 (Selection of Peer Counselors)**

In September 1988, the Metropolitan Police Department and the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Committee agreed to provide sworn members of the Department with counseling assistance. As a result, the Metropolitan Police Employee Assistance Program (MPEAP) was established. MPEAP offers services that assist members in coping with the effects of alcohol, stress, post shooting related trauma, marital/parental responsibility and other problems that may tend to affect the member's emotional and physical health and their overall job performance. MPEAP services are available at no cost to members and shall be treated with the utmost **CONFIDENTIALITY**.

In an effort to establish a liaison between members and the MPEAP, a Peer Support Team was initiated, utilizing volunteer members from each unit as specially trained colleagues. Members are able to detect problems early due to their daily contact with fellow officers. This early intervention can prevent a minor problem from developing into a more serious incident. The Peer Support Team member can advise fellow officers of the services of the MPEAP where they can receive appropriate assistance.

MPEAP is currently accepting applications for a limited number of Peer Support Team members, in accordance with General Order 201.28 [Metropolitan Police Employee Assistance Program (MPEAP)]. Previous counseling experience is not required.

## SELECTION PROCESS

1. Applications for Peer Support Team members can be obtained from the member's administrative office or FOP shop steward. Members shall complete and submit applications to their administrative office no later than Friday, September 22, 2000.
2. The element's commanding officer shall review the application and recommend approval or disapproval, and sign the form. The signed form shall then be forwarded to the Executive Assistant Chief for Operational Services by September 29, 2000.
3. The Executive Assistant Chief for Operational Services shall forward all applications to the MPEAP for review and selection. Members selected will be notified by MPEAP.
4. Replacement Peer Support Team members shall be selected through the same process.

PEER SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER TRAINING

1. Upon concurrence by the Executive Assistant Chief for Operational Services, the selected member shall be scheduled for a two-day training course to be given by the MPEAP staff.
2. In addition to the initial two-day training course, regularly scheduled mandatory training sessions shall be given to Peer Support Team members in order to assist them in developing their skills.

QUALIFICATIONS

Interested members must:

1. Be a sworn member in good standing.
2. Have a minimum of five years on the Department.
3. Enjoy a good rapport with other members.
4. Display a mature and professional demeanor as demonstrated by job performance.

These positions are strictly voluntary and offer no additional compensation. Questions concerning Peer Support Team members shall be directed to Sergeant Sharon McInnis, MPEAP Director at 546-9684.

MPEAP offices are located at 901 East Capitol Street, S.E. The hours of operation are 0800 hours to 1700 hours, Monday through Friday. The Crisis Intervention Team is available on a 24-hour, on-call basis and can be reached via pager through the Communications Division.

// SIGNED //  
Charles H. Ramsey  
Chief of Police

Attachment

CHR:NMJ:SCM:uk

**PEER SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS**

Peer Support Team members will be selected from sworn members of the Department in accordance with the following allocation:

First District	2
Second District	2
Third District	2
Fourth District	2
Fifth District	2
Sixth District	2
Seventh District	2
Special Investigations Div.	3
Major Nar. Branch	1
Invest. Supt. Branch	2
Special Operations Div.	1
Youth & Perv. Services	1
Forensic Sciences	1
Communications Div.	1
Business Services Div.	1
Institute of Police Science	1

Total	26
-------	----

Attachment to Special Order 00-15