

# The Role of a Chaplain

*Beginner's One-Sheet · For New Chaplains & Clergy*

Full guide: [www.kriscruz.com/chaplain-role-beginners-guide](http://www.kriscruz.com/chaplain-role-beginners-guide)

A chaplain is a keeper of sacred presence — clergy who brings Christ's peace into rooms where life has turned hard. You are not there to win an argument. You are there so people feel less alone and can encounter hope.

## What a Chaplain Is

**Pastoral care provider** — prayer when welcomed, grief support, crisis presence, Scripture when invited

**Recognized clergy** — able to serve in hospitals, workplaces, jails, and disaster settings

**Whole-person care** — tending the spirit where mind and body also bear weight

## What a Chaplain Is Not

Not a licensed clinical counselor, not HR, and not someone who reports pastoral conversations to management. Refer when clinical care is needed — and stay present along the way.

## Listen First

Do not assume shared meaning when people say "spiritual" or "faith." Ask. Listen to understand. Four words to guide every visit:

**Listen. Listen. Love. Love.**

## Know Your Limits

**Refer** abuse, addiction, severe mental health crisis, and situations beyond your training

**Partner** with Christian counselors, pastors, and chaplain colleagues in your community

## Where Chaplains Serve

**Emergency & disaster** — help when asked; step back when responders need space

**Prisons & jails** — respect rules; serve inmates and staff with humility

**Hospitals, hospice & nursing homes** — bedside care, grief, and long-term presence

**Workplaces & nonprofits** — confidential care for people carrying moral weight

## Availability Over Ability

God does not call the qualified — He qualifies the called. Start where you are. Pursue training, mentorship, and endorsement for your setting.

*Free printable one-sheet* · Adapted from chaplaincy training material. Read the full beginner's guide at [www.kriscruz.com/chaplain-role-beginners-guide](http://www.kriscruz.com/chaplain-role-beginners-guide) · [chaplain@kriscruz.com](mailto:chaplain@kriscruz.com)