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# **EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

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## Pennsylvania Statutes

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### Title 35, Section 75A01 –

"Emergency responder." Any of the following:

(2) A peace officer.

...

"Peace officer." As defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 501 (relating to definitions).

...

**Title 18, Section 501 – "Peace officer." Any person who by virtue of his office or public employment is vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for offenses, whether that duty extends to all offenses or is limited to specific offenses...**

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Referral: Title 35, Sec. 75A01. –

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=35&div=0&chpt=75A&sctn=1&subsctn=0#>

Title 18, Sec. 501. –

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=18&div=0&chpt=5&sctn=1&subsctn=0>

**CHAPTER 75A**  
**EMERGENCY RESPONDER MENTAL WELLNESS**  
**AND STRESS MANAGEMENT**

**Sec.**

75A01. Definitions.

**Enactment.** Chapter 75A was added July 23, 2020, P.L.670, No.69, effective immediately unless otherwise noted.

**Cross References.** Chapter 75A is referred to in section 8153 of this title.

**§ 75A01. Definitions.**

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

**"Cooperating officials and agencies."** Includes the following:

- (1) The Department of Human Services of the Commonwealth.
- (2) A county mental health office located within this Commonwealth.
- (3) The State Fire Commissioner.
- (4) The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs of the Commonwealth.

**"Corrections officer."** A full-time employee assigned to the Department of Corrections whose principal duty is the care, custody and control of inmates of a penal or correctional institution operated by the Department of Corrections.

**"Critical incident."** A situation to which an emergency responder responds that presents or involves either the death or serious bodily injury of an individual, or the imminent potential of death or serious bodily injury of an individual, or any situation faced by an emergency responder in the course of duty which causes or may cause the emergency responder to experience strong negative emotional reactions.

**"Critical incident stress management network."** A network that meets the requirements of membership with the Pennsylvania Voluntary Critical Incident Stress Management Network as administered by the department.

**"Department."** The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

**"Emergency responder."** Any of the following:

(1) A current or former certified emergency medical services provider, current or former member of an emergency medical services agency, fire company or rescue company.

(2) A peace officer.

(3) A 911 dispatcher.

(4) A coroner or medical examiner who responds in an official capacity to an emergency.

(5) A corrections officer.

**"Mental wellness and stress management guidelines."** A plan that:

(1) Requires education and training on traumatic brain injuries and traumatic stress, including acute stress reactions, acute stress disorder, post-traumatic stress injuries and other emotional reactions and components of trauma reaction for emergency responders.

(2) Sets responsibilities for public agencies and emergency responders who sustain a post-traumatic stress injury or traumatic brain injury arising from their work.

(3) Provides remedial supportive actions for public agencies in response to a report of a post-traumatic stress injury or traumatic brain injury sustained by an emergency responder.

**"Peace officer."** As defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 501 (relating to definitions).

**"Peer-to-peer support program."** A regional peer support service program established under section 75A03 (relating to peer-to-peer support programs) which offers services:

(1) designated by the department to be used in:

(i) recognizing the symptoms of a mental health condition, including those caused by a critical incident; and

(ii) making a behavioral health referral through an employee assistance program or other mental health agency for treatment by a licensed behavioral health professional; and

(2) delivered by a trained peer support provider.

**"Post-traumatic stress injury."** A post-traumatic stress disorder as defined by the American Psychiatric Association and documented in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition.

**"Public agency."** As defined under section 5302 (relating to definitions).

**"Secretary."** The Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth.

**"Trained peer support provider."** An emergency responder who has the training, credentials or experience to provide support and advocacy services and is recognized by the department under this chapter.

Referral:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=35&div=0&chpt=75A&sctn=1&subsctn=0>

## CHAPTER 5 GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF JUSTIFICATION

### Sec.

#### 501. Definitions.

**Enactment.** Chapter 5 was added December 6, 1972, P.L.1482, No.334, effective in six months.

**Cross References.** Chapter 5 is referred to in sections 311, 908.1, 2503, 2507, 2605, 2608 of this title; section 711 of Title 51 (Military Affairs).

#### **§ 501. Definitions.**

Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this chapter which are applicable to specific provisions of this chapter, the following words and phrases, when used in this chapter shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

**"Believes" or "belief."** Means "reasonably believes" or "reasonable belief."

**"Correctional institution."** Any penal institution, penitentiary, State farm, reformatory, prison, jail, house of correction, or other institution for the incarceration or custody of persons under sentence for offenses or awaiting trial or sentence for offenses.

**"Corrections officer."** A full-time employee assigned to the Department of Corrections whose principal duty is the care, custody and control of inmates of a penal or correctional institution operated by the Department of Corrections.

**"Deadly force."** Force which, under the circumstances in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

**"Dwelling."** Any building or structure, including any attached porch, deck or patio, though movable or temporary, or a portion thereof, which is for the time being the home or place of lodging of the actor.

**"Peace officer."** Any person who by virtue of his office or public employment is vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for offenses, whether that duty extends to all offenses or is limited to specific offenses, or any person on active State duty pursuant to 51 Pa.C.S. § 508 (relating to active duty for emergency). The term "peace officer" shall also include any member of any park police department of any county of the third class.

**"Residence."** A dwelling in which a person resides, either temporarily or permanently, or visits as an invited guest.

Referral:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=18&div=0&chpt=5&sctn=1&subsctn=0>