



International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc.

CISM Peer Support Team Registry Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is a Critical Incident?

A critical incident can be defined as any situation faced by emergency personnel or any other persons that caused them to experience unusually strong emotional reactions which have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either at the scene or later. A situation does not have to be at the magnitude of a major disaster to be classified as a critical incident. A critical incident has also been described as any event that overwhelms the capacities of a person to psychologically cope with the incident. A critical incident has also been described as any event that overwhelms the capacities of a person to psychologically cope with the incident.

What is an ICISF CISM Peer Support Team Registry database?

This is a listing of teams that have been trained in the ICISF Core Courses (**Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention**) and agree to follow the ICISF CISM Model. The team agrees to provide support in the immediate aftermath of a critical incident. When a request comes into ICISF, being listed in the database allows us to contact the team coordinator to verify if they are able to help the person or organization requesting team contact information. The Team Registry is not a way to advertise your organization or team.

Why should I register my team with ICISF?

Registering your team on the ICISF Team Registry adds your team to a worldwide list of trained CISM Peer Support Teams. Registered Teams will be able to enjoy the forthcoming benefits (i.e. free content, Private FB page, attendance in quarterly team coordinator meetings via zoom). When registering your team you must agree to be referred out to other teams or inquiries from outside individuals requesting help.

What is required of a Registered CISM Peer Support Team?

- All team members must be trained in the ICISF Core Courses (**Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention**).
- Team Members should be asked to take the [Certification of Knowledge Exam](#) (CCISM), but it is not required, just suggested.
- Teams should have organizational By-Laws and Standard Operating Procedures that are followed.
- All teams **must** have a clinical director.
- Examples of organizational By-Laws are available upon request. [Click here](#) for suggestions on forming a CISM Team.



How do I get my team members trained in the Core Courses (Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention)?

To learn more about our Core Courses, which provide the foundation in critical incident stress management (CISM), visit our [Course Description](#) page. To see when these courses are available, visit our [event calendar](#) for more information.

Why is a Clinical Director required?

A Clinical Director will serve as an expert in the subject of mental health. Be a resource to members of the organization/team and review and provide expert opinion on organizational protocols. Teams must have a Masters Level Mental Health Professional, (MHP), counselor, Social worker, Psychologist or Psychiatrist that serves as a clinical director. You can have a chaplain that has a counseling background as your clinical director.

What is the difference between Team Membership and Member Teams?

Team membership is available for CISM trained team members that allows all members the benefits as listed on our website?

Member Teams in the past were trained teams listed in the CISM Team Registry. Member teams will now be considered as Approved ICISF CISM Peer Support Teams.

Is Team Membership required to register my team?

No, membership in ICISF is not required when registering your team. However, membership in ICISF supports the organization and gives your team members access to all of the [member benefits](#).

I have completed the ICISF Core Courses (Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention). How do I get involved with a CISM Team?

ICISF has a listing of trained, registered CISM Peer Support Teams on our [website](#). However, the ICISF does not control who is listed on those teams. **The ICISF will forward your name to the team coordinator of a specific team in your area if you ask us.** It is up to the team to contact you if they are interested in adding additional team members.