STATE DEATH BENEFITS

The Alabama State Board of Adjustment determines the amount of this payment. For 2019, Alabama law provides a one-time benefit payment of $124,331 for the survivors of peace officers and firemen killed in the line of duty. This amount is adjusted on January 1 each year to reflect any increase in the previous year in the consumer price index. The compensation shall be paid to the dependent spouse and any dependent children or, if none, to other dependents designated by statute and in the exercise of all discretion of the awarding authority. All claims for compensation shall be presented to the awarding authority within one year from the date of death.

How to File: http://bdadj.alabama.gov/ or call (334) 242-7175.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Under Alabama Law Act 82-277, payment of tuition and textbooks costs in a state junior college, technical college or university is made for the dependent children under 21 (natural or adopted) and spouses, if not remarried, of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. The spouse must utilize the benefit within 5 years of the death. A letter from the agency head, together with a certified copy of the marriage license, death certificate, and a birth certificate(s) of child/children are required.

How to File: https://ache.edu/ or call (334) 242-1998.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS – provides financial assistance of up to $1,500 per semester to surviving children and surviving spouses of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, according to C.O.P.S. criteria, who wish to pursue a course of study beyond high school. Since there is a tuition-free education benefit available in your state, you must first apply for and be denied by the state or the institution to be eligible for the C.O.P.S. scholarship.

How to Apply: https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/scholarship

The PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS’ EDUCATION ASSISTANCE (PSOEA) Program provides financial assistance, for the purpose of seeking higher education, to the spouses and eligible children of local police, fire, and emergency public safety officers who have been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.
Educational assistance through the PSOEА Program is available after the Public Safety Officers’ Benefit (PSOB) death or disability claim process has been completed and benefits have been awarded.

Visit https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/ for more information and the application or call the PSOB Office toll-free at 1-888-744-6513 to discuss the requirements for receiving PSOEА benefits.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Workers’ Compensation coverage is compulsory for Alabama employers. Workers’ Compensation benefits are payable to the beneficiaries of an officer for a period of five hundred (500) weeks following the death of an officer in the line of duty. Benefits include a maximum $6,500 burial expense payment. For death claims, multiply the employee’s average weekly earnings prior to the accident by 50% if the employee has one dependent, or by 66 2/3% if the employee has two or more dependents. Death benefits are subject to maximum ($920/week) and minimum ($253/week) in effect on date of injury. If the deceased employee, at the time of his or her death, has no dependents, then within 60 days of his or her death, the employer shall pay a one-time lump sum payment of $7,500 to the deceased worker’s estate.

In order to file for Worker's Compensation benefits, the below listed forms/certificates are needed:
Marriage License; Certified copy of Death Certificate; Certified copy of minor child(ren) Birth Certificates; Physician's Statement.

How to File: The claim must be filed by the employer.
https://labor.alabama.gov/wc/workers-compensation.aspx or call (800) 528-5166.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS’ BENEFITS (PSOB) PROGRAM

A unique effort of the U.S. Department of Justice; local, state, tribal, and federal public safety agencies; and national organizations, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death and education benefits to survivors of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders, and disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

The claim has two parts (A&B) that require the agency and family to fill out online. Visit https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/ for additional filing information. If you need assistance filing this claim, contact the National C.O.P.S. office at (573) 346-4911 or cops@nationalcops.org

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Workers' Compensation provides a maximum $6,500 burial expense payment. See Workers’ Compensation section above.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)
(573) 346-4911
COPS@NATIONALCOPS.ORG
CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG
This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

Revised 2020
DIGNITY MEMORIAL FUNERAL, CREMATION AND CEMETERY providers created the Public Servants Program for emergency service personnel. This program provides dignified and honorable tributes, at no cost, for career and volunteer law enforcement officers who fall in the line of duty. Visit their website for complete information at https://www.dignitymemorial.com/ and look under Public Servants for details. You may also call 800-344-6489 and speak with a representative.

WILBERT FUNERAL SERVICES, INC. provides complimentary burial vaults and related services for fallen law enforcement officers. For more information visit https://www.wilbert.com/ or call (888) WILBERT.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS INC., (C.O.P.S.), is a national, non-profit organization that works with law enforcement agencies, police organizations, mental health professionals, and local peer-support organizations to provide assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. provides Hands-On Programs, training for law enforcement, National Police Week registration/accommodations, scholarships, counseling and so much more to surviving families and co-workers.

Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office (800) 784-2611, email cops@nationalcops.org or visit https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/local-chapters for information on a chapter in your area. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT
Spouses, children, or parents may be eligible for Social Security Benefits. To apply for benefits, call (800) 772-1213 to speak to a Social Security representative or visit your local Social Security Office. You cannot report a death or apply for survivors benefits online. Visit https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html for more information.

ALABAMA PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND
Membership in the Alabama Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund entitles death benefits to officers' survivors in the form of a one-time $2,500 death benefit payment for death from any cause plus, in the case of line-of-duty death, the return of all contributions during membership. Forms can be obtained from the Alabama Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund, 514 South McDonough Street, PO Box 2186, Montgomery, AL 36102. Office: (334)242-4079. Website apoabf.state.al.us

ALABAMA PEACE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
The Alabama Peace Officers' Association offers survivors of deceased active members a $500 death benefit for death from any cause. Survivors of active members killed in the line of duty receive a $10,000 benefit. Contact the Alabama Peace Officers' Association, 940

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FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
or other labor/fraternal groups may provide a one-time death benefit to family members of a deceased member officer. Contact your local lodge for information.

The ALABAMA CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND intends to provide a means whereby victims of violent crime and their dependents may be provided compensation in the amount of actual expenses incurred as a direct result of criminal acts of other persons. Claims must be filed within one year of the incident, or good cause submitted in writing. Contact the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission, PO Box 231267, Montgomery, AL 36123. Office: (800) 541-9388. https://acvcc.alabama.gov/

SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
The PBA member’s beneficiary will receive their base salary for one year if they are killed accidentally or intentionally while performing their law enforcement duties (maximum payout: $60,000). The beneficiary will receive $5,000 if it is not an occupational death or if you are a retired or reserve member. Any active Southern States PBA member in good standing and dues current will receive this benefit.


The 100 Club: https://the100club.org/

First Responders Children’s Foundation provides financial support to children who have lost a parent in the line of duty as well as families enduring significant financial hardships due to tragic circumstances. They also provide annual education scholarships to children of fallen heroes. For more information, call (646) 822-4236 or visit https://1strcf.org.

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:
Life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Retirement benefits?
Real Estate Tax Relief?

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