ARIZONA

DEATH BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Currently, there is no one-time state death benefit available.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Arizona Revised Statute 15-1808

Tuition waiver for child or spouse of peace officer, correctional officer, fire fighter, emergency paramedic, national guard member or member of the United States armed forces killed in the line of duty; disabled national guard member; disabled United States armed forces member; definitions

A. The board of regents, after verification by the Arizona peace officers memorial board, by the Arizona fire fighters and emergency paramedics memorial board, by the adjutant general of the national guard or by the Arizona department of veterans’ services that a person is a child or a spouse of a peace officer, correctional officer, fire fighter, emergency paramedic, national guard member or member of the United States armed forces who was a resident of the state of Arizona or stationed in Arizona and who was killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the line of duty while traveling to or from duty, shall provide the person who qualifies under subsection B of this section and who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver scholarship at any university under the jurisdiction of the board. A district as defined in section 15-1401, after verification by the Arizona peace officers memorial board, by the Arizona fire fighters and emergency paramedics memorial board, by the adjutant general of the national guard or by the Arizona department of veterans’ services that a person is the child or the spouse of a peace officer, correctional officer, fire fighter, emergency paramedic, national guard member or member of the United States armed forces who was a resident of Arizona or stationed in Arizona and who was killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the line of duty while traveling to or from duty, shall provide the person who qualifies under subsection B of this section and who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver scholarship at any community college under the jurisdiction of the district.

B. The tuition waiver scholarships shall be limited to children who are thirty years of age or younger or a spouse who has not remarried and shall be limited for a spouse or for any one child to no more than sixty-four credit hours at Arizona community colleges and a total number of credits including any transfer credits from an Arizona community college equal to the number of credits required for a baccalaureate degree at Arizona universities for that student’s initially declared course of study.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)
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This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

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C. A member of the Arizona national guard who received a purple heart citation on or after September 11, 2001 or a former member of the Arizona national guard who was medically discharged from the Arizona national guard due to an injury or disability suffered during status under title 10, United States Code, in weekend training status, in annual training status or in response to a state of emergency declared by the governor is eligible for a tuition waiver scholarship provided for in this section.

D. The board of regents, after verification by the Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is a member or former member of the United States armed forces who received a purple heart citation, who was a resident of the state of Arizona or was stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the purple heart citation and whose disability rating determined by the United States department of veterans affairs is fifty per cent or more, shall provide the person who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver scholarship at any university under the jurisdiction of the board. A district as defined in section 15-1401, after verification by the Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is a member or former member of the United States armed forces who received a purple heart citation, who was a resident of the state of Arizona or was stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the purple heart citation and whose disability rating determined by the United States department of veterans affairs is fifty per cent or more, shall provide the person who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver scholarship at any community college under the jurisdiction of the district. A person who is convicted of a felony is ineligible for a tuition waiver scholarship provided for in this subsection.

E. For the purposes of this section:

1. "Correctional officer" means a person, other than an elected official, who is employed by this state or a county, city or town and who is responsible for the supervision, protection, care, custody or control of inmates in a state, county or municipal correctional institution, including counselors but excluding secretarial, clerical and professionally trained personnel.

2. "Emergency paramedic" means a person who has been trained in an emergency paramedic training program certified by the director of the department of health services or in an equivalent training program and who is certified by the director of the department of health services to render services pursuant to section 36-2205.

3. "Fire fighter" means a professional fire fighter who is a member of a state, federal, tribal, city, county, district or private fire department.

4. "Peace officers" means sheriffs of counties, constables, marshals, police officers of cities and towns, commissioned personnel of the department of public safety and police officers appointed by community college district governing boards or the Arizona board of regents who have received a certificate from the Arizona peace officer standards and training board, and other state, federal, tribal, city or county officers vested by law with a duty to maintain public order and make arrests.
Information on Arizona educational benefits for children and spouses may be obtained by contacting Arizona Peace Officers Memorial Board at https://www.azag.gov/outreach/law-enforcement/pomb.

**100 CLUB OF ARIZONA** provides undergraduate financial education assistance for spouses, children, and in some cases, grandchildren of active, retired or deceased public safety officers throughout the state. For more information or to apply, please visit https://the100club.org/ and click on Public Safety Resources.

**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](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 PSOEA 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/](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 PSOEA benefits.

**KIDS CHANCE OF ARIZONA** - To be eligible for a scholarship grant, applicants must have a parent who has been killed or seriously injured as a result of a work related incident that meets the criteria of the Arizona Workers’ Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need.

For more information or to apply, visit [https://www.azkidschance.org/](https://www.azkidschance.org/)

**HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS**

Spouses will remain on the agency’s health insurance coverage until they reach Medicare age or re-marry. Children are covered until the age of 18, 23 if attending school. Contact your agency for additional details.
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Arizona Revised Statute 23-1046

A. In case of an injury causing death, the compensation therefore shall be known as a death benefit and shall be payable in the amount, for the period, and to and for the benefit of the following:

1. Burial expenses, not to exceed $5,000 (five thousand dollars), in addition to the compensation.

2. To the surviving spouse, if there are no children, sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of the average monthly wage of the deceased, to be paid until such spouse’s death or remarriage, with two years’ compensation in one sum upon remarriage. To the surviving spouse if there are surviving children, thirty-five per cent of the average monthly wage of the deceased, to be paid until such spouse’s death or remarriage with two years’ compensation in one sum upon remarriage, and to the surviving children, an additional thirty-one and two-thirds per cent of the average monthly wage, to be divided equally among them until the age of eighteen years, until the age of twenty-two years if the child is enrolled as a full-time student in any accredited educational institution, or if over eighteen years and incapable of self-support when the child becomes capable of self-support. When all surviving children are no longer eligible for benefits, the surviving spouse’s benefits shall be paid as if there were no children. In the event of the subsequent death or remarriage of the surviving spouse, the surviving child’s or children’s benefits shall be computed pursuant to paragraph 3.

3. To a single surviving child, in the case of the subsequent death or remarriage of a surviving husband or wife, or if there is no surviving husband or wife, sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of the average monthly wage of the deceased, or if there is more than one surviving child, sixty-six and two-thirds per cent to be divided equally among the surviving children. Compensation to any such child shall cease upon death, upon marriage or upon reaching the age of eighteen years, except, if over eighteen years and incapable of self-support, when he becomes capable of self-support, or if over eighteen years of age and enrolled as a full-time student in any accredited educational institution, when the child reaches age twenty-two.

4. To a parent, if there is no surviving husband, wife or child under the age of eighteen years, if wholly dependent for support upon the deceased employee at the time of his death, twenty-five per cent of the average monthly wage of the deceased during dependency, with an added allowance of fifteen per cent if two dependent parents survive, and, if neither parent is wholly dependent, but one or both partly dependent, fifteen per cent divided between them share and share alike.

5. To brothers or sisters under the age of eighteen years, if there is no surviving husband or wife, dependent children under the age of eighteen years or dependent parent, the following shall govern:

(a) If one of the brothers or sisters is wholly dependent upon the deceased employee for support at the time of injury causing death, twenty-five per cent of the average monthly wage until the age of eighteen years.
(b) If more than one brother or sister is wholly dependent, thirty-five per cent of the average monthly wage at the time of injury causing death, divided among such dependents share and share alike.

(c) If none of the brothers or sisters is wholly dependent, but one or more are partly dependent, fifteen per cent divided among such dependents share and share alike.

B. If the deceased employee leaves dependents only partially dependent upon his earnings for support at the time of the injury, the monthly compensation shall be equal to such proportion of the monthly payments for the benefit of persons totally dependent as the amount contributed by the employee to such partial dependents bears to the average wage of the deceased at the time of the injury resulting in his death. The duration of compensation to partial dependents shall be fixed by the commission in accordance with the facts shown, and in accordance with the provisions of section 23-1047, but shall in no case exceed compensation for one hundred months.

C. In the event of death of a dependent before expiration of the time named in the award, the funeral expenses of such person, not to exceed eight hundred dollars, shall be paid.

How to File: Contact the Industrial Commission of Arizona by calling (602) 542-4661 for the Phoenix office or (520) 628-5188 for the Tucson office or visit https://www.azica.gov/

STATE LIFE INSURANCE - RETIREMENT

Check with your agency to see if you are eligible for State Life Insurance or death benefits from a Retirement system. You can also visit the individual systems listed below.

Arizona State Retirement System https://www.azasrs.gov/
National Association of State Retirement Administrators https://www.nasra.org/az
Public Safety Personnel Retirement System https://www.psprs.com/

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 offers a maximum benefit of $5,000 for burial expenses. See Workers’ Compensation section above.
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#h6 for more information.

THE 100 CLUB OF ARIZONA provides financial assistance to officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty in the state of Arizona, including city, county, state, federal & tribal agencies. The 100 Club provides a one-time death benefit of $15,000 and up to $6,000 for officers or firefighters seriously injured in the line of duty. The 100 Club additionally acts as a support organization and a clearinghouse for helpful information.

For additional information or to file a claim, visit https://www.100club.org/ or call (602) 485-0100.

Some local POLICE ASSOCIATION Chapters provide additional funding for law enforcement families involved in tragic events. We encourage contact with the APOA chapter in your local area for specific funding requests. Visit http://www.azpolice.org/ to find your local chapter.

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FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE or other labor/fraternal groups may provide a one-time death benefit and/or education benefits to family members of a deceased member officer. Visit https://azfop.org/ to find your local lodge of the Arizona Fraternal Order of Police.

The VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM provides financial assistance to victims of crime or others who may have experienced a financial loss as a direct result of a crime. The program covers expenses of physical harm, mental distress, and economic loss directly resulting from victimization. Eligibility to receive benefits from the program does not require the apprehension or conviction of an offender, and the compensation program is always the payer of last resort. All other sources of economic recovery must be exhausted before compensation benefits can be paid.

The CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM offers a variety of services to crime victims including information and referral services, personal advocacy and accompaniment services, emotional support and safety services, shelter and/or housing, as well as criminal and/or civil justice system services.

For more information on the Victim Compensation Program or the Crime Victim Assistance Program contact the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission at (602) 364-1147 or visit https://www.azcjc.gov/.

THE POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
The PBA member’s beneficiary will receive their base salary for one if year they are killed accidentally or intentionally while performing their law enforcement duties (maximum payout: $70,000). The beneficiary will receive $5,000 if it is not an occupational death or if you are a retired or reserve member. Any active PBA member in good standing and dues current will receive this benefit. Education scholarships may also be available.


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:
City life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Real Estate Tax Relief?