STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 5-144. Death benefits for state employees, state officers and members of General Assembly. If any state employee, state officer or member of the General Assembly serving with compensation or remuneration sustains an injury while acting within the scope of his employment, which injury is not the result of his own willful or wanton act, and dies as a result of such injury, and a spouse and a dependent child or children under eighteen years of age survive him, the Comptroller, upon the recommendation of the appointing authority, and with the approval of the Attorney General, shall draw his order on the Treasurer for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, payable in equal monthly installments over a period of not less than ten years to such employee’s or officer’s or member’s spouse, provided any such payments shall terminate on the death or remarriage of such spouse within said ten-year period, and the Comptroller, upon the recommendation of the appointing authority and with the approval of the Attorney General, shall also draw an order on the Treasurer for monthly payments of fifty dollars for each dependent child under eighteen years of age, payable to such spouse or the guardian of such child or children until such child or children reach eighteen years of age. If such employee or officer or member leaves a spouse and no child or children under eighteen years of age, the Comptroller, upon the recommendation of the appointing authority and with the approval of the Attorney General, shall draw an order on the Treasurer for the sum of fifty thousand dollars payable in equal monthly installments over a period of not less than ten years, to such spouse, provided any such payments shall terminate on the death or remarriage of such spouse within such ten-year period. If such employee or officer or member leaves no spouse and no child or children under eighteen years of age but leaves a parent or parents dependent upon him, the Comptroller, upon recommendation of the appointing authority and with the approval of the Attorney General, shall draw an order on the Treasurer for the sum of fifty thousand dollars, payable to such employee’s or officer’s or member’s parent or parents in equal monthly installments over a period of not less than ten years, provided, on the death of one such parent, the surviving parent shall continue to receive the entire monthly payments under the provisions of this section and provided such payments shall cease on the death of both such parents during such ten-year period. As used in this section and section 5-145, the appointing authority for members of the General Assembly shall be the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives. The appointing authority for state officers shall be the Governor.

For more information, visit https://www.osc.ct.gov/, call (860) 702-3300 or email comptroller.lembo@ct.gov.
EDUCATION BENEFITS

Connecticut General Statutes CGS §§10a-77(d), 10a-99(d), and 10a-105(e).

The University of Connecticut, Connecticut State University, and the community-technical colleges must waive tuition for the dependent children of paid and volunteer police officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty. Contact the Registrar’s Office of the school you will be attending for application instructions.

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 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/ 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 CONNECTICUT - 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 Connecticut Workers’ Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need.

For more information or to apply, visit https://www.kidschanceofct.org/

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

Connecticut provides health insurance coverage for the surviving spouse and dependent children of any law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. Children’s coverage terminates at age 18; remarriage will not terminate spousal coverage. The group medical plans offered to survivors are the same plans that are available to state retirees. Currently, available plans range from no cost to nominal cost. For more information contact Office of State Comptroller, State of Connecticut, 55 Elm ST, Hartford, CT 06106. Office: (860) 702-3300. www.osc.ct.gov

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
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 7-433b. Survivors’ benefits for firemen and policemen.

Maximum cumulative payment.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general statute, charter or special act to the contrary affecting the noncontributory or contributory retirement systems of any municipality of the state, or any special act providing for a police benefit fund or other retirement system, the survivors of any uniformed or regular member of a paid fire department or any regular member of a paid police department whose death has been suffered in the line of duty shall be eligible to receive such survivor benefits as are provided for in the Workers’ Compensation Act, and, in addition, they shall receive such survivor benefits as may be provided for in the retirement system in which such department member was a participant at the time of his death; provided such pension benefits (1) shall not terminate upon the remarriage of the spouse of such member, and (2) shall be adjusted so that the total weekly benefits received by such survivors shall not exceed one hundred per cent of the weekly compensation being paid, during their compensable period, to members of such department at the maximum rate for the same position which was held by such deceased at the time of his or her death. Nothing contained in this subsection shall prevent any town, city or borough from paying money from its general fund to any such survivors, provided total weekly benefits paid shall not exceed said one hundred per cent of the weekly compensation.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general statute, charter or special act to the contrary affecting the noncontributory or contributory retirement systems of any municipality of the state, or any special act providing for a police or firemen benefit fund or other retirement system, the cumulative payments, not including payments for medical care, for compensation and retirement or survivors benefits under section 7-433c shall be adjusted so that the total of such cumulative payments received by such member or his dependents or survivors shall not exceed one hundred per cent of the weekly compensation being paid, during their compensable period, to members of such department in the same position which was held by such member at the time of his death or retirement. Nothing contained in this subsection shall prevent any town, city or borough from paying money from its general fund to any such member or his dependents or survivors, provided the total of such cumulative payments shall not exceed said one hundred per cent of the weekly compensation.

Contact the State of Connecticut Workers’ Compensation Commission at (800) 223-9675 or visit https://wcc.state.ct.us/ for more information.

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:

Connecticut State Employees Retirement System
https://www.osc.ct.gov/empret/tier1summ/tier1summ.htm#CONNECTICUT

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Revised 2020
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 up to $4,000 burial benefit. 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.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)
(573) 346-4911
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The HUNDRED CLUB OF CONNECTICUT
A charitable, non-profit, tax exempt organization which provides financial assistance to families of police officers, correctional officers and firefighters who have died in the line of duty. When a line of duty death occurs, the spouse/family is given an initial grant of $10,000. The Club provides computers to children as well as educational scholarships to colleges and other services the family might need. Visit http://www.hundredclubofct.org/

CONNECTICUT STATE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE http://www.ctstatefop.org/

The POLICE ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT https://www.ctpac.com/

CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION https://www.cpcanet.org/

SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC www.sspba.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?