STATE DEATH BENEFITS

112.19 Florida Statutes:
Law enforcement, correctional, and correctional probation officers; death benefits.

(1) As used in this section, the term:
(a) “Employer” means a state board, commission, department, division, bureau, or agency, or a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state, which employs, appoints, or otherwise engages the services of law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officers.
(b) “Law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer” means any officer as defined in s. 943.1014 or employee of the state or any political subdivision of the state, including any law enforcement officer, correctional officer, correctional probation officer, state attorney investigator, or public defender investigator, whose duties require such officer or employee to investigate, pursue, apprehend, arrest, transport, or maintain custody of persons who are charged with, suspected of committing, or convicted of a crime; and the term includes any member of a bomb disposal unit whose primary responsibility is the location, handling, and disposal of explosive devices. The term also includes any full-time officer or employee of the state or any political subdivision of the state, certified pursuant to chapter 943, whose duties require such officer to serve process or to attend a session of a circuit or county court as bailiff.
(c) “Insurance” means insurance procured from a stock company or mutual company or association or exchange authorized to do business as an insurer in this state.
(d) “Fresh pursuit” means the pursuit of a person who has committed or is reasonably suspected of having committed a felony, misdemeanor, traffic infraction, or violation of a county or municipal ordinance. The term does not imply instant pursuit, but pursuit without unreasonable delay.

(2)(a) The sum of $75,000 must be paid as provided in this section when a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer, while engaged in the performance of the officer’s law enforcement duties, is accidentally killed or receives accidental bodily injury which results in the loss of the officer’s life, provided that such killing is not the result of suicide and that such bodily injury is not intentionally self-inflicted.
(b) The sum of $75,000 must be paid as provided in this section if a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer is accidentally killed as specified in paragraph (a) and the accidental death occurs:
1. As a result of the officer’s response to fresh pursuit;
2. As a result of the officer’s response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency;
3. At the scene of a traffic accident to which the officer has responded; or

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4. While the officer is enforcing what is reasonably believed to be a traffic law or ordinance. This sum is in addition to any sum provided for in paragraph (a).

(c) If a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer, while engaged in the performance of the officer’s law enforcement duties, is unlawfully and intentionally killed or dies as a result of such unlawful and intentional act, the sum of $225,000 must be paid as provided in this section.

(d) Such payments, pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), whether secured by insurance or not, must be made to the beneficiary designated by such law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer in writing, signed by the officer and delivered to the employer during the officer’s lifetime. If no such designation is made, then the payments must be paid to the officer’s surviving child or children and to the officer’s surviving spouse in equal portions, and if there is no surviving child or spouse, then to the officer’s parent or parents. If a beneficiary is not designated and there is no surviving child, spouse, or parent, then the sum must be paid to the officer’s estate.

(e) Such payments, pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), are in addition to any workers’ compensation or retirement plan benefits and are exempt from the claims and demands of creditors of such law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer.

(j) Any payments made pursuant to paragraph (a), paragraph (b), or paragraph (c) shall consist of the statutory amount adjusted to reflect price level changes since the effective date of this act. The Bureau of Crime Prevention and Training shall by rule adjust the statutory amount based on the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the United States Department of Labor. Adjustment shall be made July 1 of each year using the most recent month for which data are available at the time of the adjustment.

For more information, call the Florida Department of Financial Services at (877) 693-5236 or visit https://www.myfloridacfo.com/

Florida Statute 112.193 Law enforcement, correctional, and correctional probation officers’ commemorative service awards.—

(1) (b) “Law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer” means any full-time, part-time, or auxiliary officer as defined in s. 943.10(14).

(2) Each employer that employs or appoints law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officers may present to each such employee who retires under any provision of a state or municipal retirement system, including medical disability retirement, or who is eligible to retire under any such provision but, instead, resigns from one employer to accept an elected public office, one complete uniform including the badge worn by that officer, the officer’s service handgun, if one was issued as part of the officer’s equipment, and an identification card clearly marked “RETIRED.”

(3) Upon the death of a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer, the employer may present to the spouse or other beneficiary of the officer, upon request, one complete uniform, including the badge worn by the officer. However, if a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer is killed in the line of duty, the employer may present, upon request, to the spouse or other beneficiary of the officer the

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officer’s service-issued handgun, if one was issued as part of the officer’s equipment. If the employer is not in possession of the service-issued handgun, the employer may, within its discretion, and upon written request of the spouse or other beneficiary, present a similar handgun. The provisions of this section shall also apply in that instance to a law enforcement or correctional officer who died before May 1, 1993. In addition, the officer’s service handgun may be presented by the employer for any such officer who was killed in the line of duty prior to this act becoming a law.

(4) Each uniform, badge, service handgun, and identification card presented under this section is to commemorate prior service and must be used only in such manner as the employer prescribes by rule. The provisions of this section shall also apply in that instance to a law enforcement officer who died before May 1, 1993.

Contact the Human Resources / Benefits Coordinator in your department for more information.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

112.19 Florida Statutes: Education fees will be waived for spouses and dependent children of the fallen officer with age and or time limits. The child or spouse may attend a state career center, a state community college, or a state university.

Contact the Florida Department of Higher Education by calling (850) 245-0505 or visit http://www.fldoe.org/.

Workers Compensation Florida Statutes Title XXXI 440.16 1 (C) The surviving spouse may be eligible to receive an education benefit for up to 1,800 classroom hours at a qualifying career center or community college. This benefit shall be in addition to other and shall terminate 7 years after the death of the deceased employee, or when the total payment in eligible compensation under has been received. To qualify for the educational benefit, the spouse shall be required to meet and maintain the regular admission requirements of, and be registered at, such career center or community college, and make satisfactory academic progress as defined by the educational institution in which the student is enrolled.

For more information call the Employee Assistance Office (EAO) at 1-800-342-1741 or visit https://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/WC/.

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

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The PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS’ EDUCATION ASSISTANCE (PSOE). 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 PSOE 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 PSOE benefits.

KIDS CHANCE OF FLORIDA - 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 Florida Workers’ Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need. Applicants must be between the ages of 16-25.

For more information or to apply, visit [https://kidschancefl.org/scholarship-info/](https://kidschancefl.org/scholarship-info/)

HEALTHCARE BENEFITS

Any political subdivision and State agency that employees LEOs, Correctional Officers, Correctional Probation Officers will pay entire health insurance premium for spouse, until remarried, children until age 25, or as long as a child is either a full, or part-time student. A catastrophic injury will result in the payment of entire health premium by the employer.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Workers’ Compensation is compulsory in Florida according to Florida Statutes Title XXXI Chapter 440 Section 16. The maximum benefit at this time is $150,000 and may be less.

If you have questions about your benefits, call the Employee Assistance Office (EAO) at 1-800-342-1741 or visit [https://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/WC/](https://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/WC/).

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: Municipal Police Officers’ and Firefighters’ Retirement Trust Funds Office Division of Retirement by calling (850) 488-6800 or by visiting [https://www.dms.myflorida.com/](https://www.dms.myflorida.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 requires the employer to pay actual funeral expenses not to exceed $7,500. See Worker’s 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.

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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.

FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION
Provides death or catastrophic disability benefits to the member, spouse or dependent children when the member is killed or suffers a catastrophic injury in the line of duty. Death benefit is a maximum of $50,000 and catastrophic injury benefit is a maximum of $30,000. Contact the PBA at 800-733-3722 or visit https://www.flpba.org/ for more information.

The 100 Club https://the100club.org/

THE HUNDRED CLUB OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC. provides a $10,000 lump sum plus more if needed. Educational assistance for the University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida International University, University of North Florida, Florida Atlantic University, University of Central Florida, and Broward College police or firefighter dependents. Call (954) 524-2911 or visit https://www.the100club.net/ for more information.

THE COLLIER COUNTY ONE HUNDRED CLUB provides $5,000 to $10,000 for the families of first responders injured or killed in the line of duty. Call (239) 262-0015 for more information.

THE HUNDRED CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, INC. provides assistance on a case by case determination of what is needed. Annual valor awards to officers and firefighters. Call (772) 569-2081 for information.

THE 200 CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE, INC. - Death benefits $10,000 per event; up to $3,500 annually for educational assistance for college; cash awards for heroism; $3,000+ in event of serious injury (covering agencies in Jacksonville, Duval County, and surrounding counties). Call (904) 384-7100 for information.

LEE COUNTY HUNDRED CLUB covers all sworn law enforcement officers in Lee County. Call (239) 334-9191 for information.

THE MANATEE COUNTY HUNDRED CLUB provides a death benefit and other benefits as needed. Call (941) 749-0005 for information.

100 CLUB OF MARTIN COUNTY – (772) 283-7422

THE TWO HUNDRED CLUB OF GREATER MIAMI, INC - $25,000 for spouse of fallen law or firefighting officer; $5,000 per dependent child at time of fatality. Additionally, the Club provides an annual birthday remembrance totaling $300 to each dependent child (defined

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as blood, adopted or de facto child) through their 17th birthday, and a $5,000 gift on their 18th birthday. Call (305) 443-8973 or visit http://www.200clubmiami.org/ for more information.

THE ONE HUNDRED CLUB OF MONROE COUNTY – Benefits as needed not to exceed $10,000. Call (305) 289-5820 for information.

COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC. - At time of a LOD death, $10,000.00 to surviving spouse or children, free professional assistant from members of committee as needed. Call (407) 622-6105 for details.

SARASOTA COUNTY HUNDRED CLUB - $5,000 lump sum plus more as needed. Call (941) 356-5592 for details.

THE HUNDRED CLUB OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY - Line-of-duty death benefits given as needed on a case-by-case basis. Call (954) 420-5599 for details.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY 100 CLUB Helps with emergency expenses (travel, hotel, etc.) at time of fatality or injury in the line of duty. Call (772) 462-3205 or visit https://www.100clubslc.org/ for more information.

GOLD SHIELD FOUNDATION, INC (TAMPA) - $5,000 at time of fatality for early financial assistance; undergraduate educational assistance (which includes tuition, books, room and board) at Florida rates regardless of where the student or spouse attends; $100 checks for children at Christmas until age 21. Covers Hillsborough, Pinellas, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Polk & Marion Counties plus MacDill AFB. Call (813) 969-0417 or visit https://goldshieldfoundation.com/ for more information.

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.

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

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:
City life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Retirement Benefits?
Real estate tax relief?