Indiana

State Death Benefits

Indiana Code IC 36-8-8-20
Indiana Special Death Benefit – $150,000 (effective until July 1, 2020) • Indiana Special Death Benefit – $225,000 (effective after June 30, 2020).

This benefit is paid by the Indiana Public Retirement System. For more information, contact them at (888) 526-1687 or visit https://www.in.gov/inprs/.

Education Benefits

Indian Code Section 1. 1C 20-12-19.5-1
The children of regular paid law enforcement officers, regular paid firefighters, volunteer firefighters, county police reserve officers, and city police reserve officers who have been killed in the line of duty shall not be required to pay tuition or other required fees at any state supported college, university, or technical school, so long as the children are under the age of 23 and are full-time students pursuing a prescribed course of study.

The surviving spouse of the same public safety officials who have been killed in the line of duty may not be required to pay tuition or other required fees at any state supported college, university, or technical school, so long as the surviving spouse is pursuing a prescribed course of study at the institution towards an undergraduate degree.

This benefit is available to the surviving spouses and children of public safety officials listed who are killed in the line of duty before, on, or after July 1, 1993.

At the time of enrollment, you must tell the appropriate department at the state supported college, university, or technical school that you are the surviving spouse or child as described above.

Contact the CVO Fee Remission Program - Indiana Commission for Higher Education at (888) 528-4719 or visit secure.in.gov/che/

Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) – 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 contact C.O.P.S. for financial assistance.

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
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 INDIANA** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides scholarships for children (ages 16-25) of workers that have been killed or seriously injured in a compensable work-related accident or occupational disease. Scholarships are awarded once a year and students may apply every year for which they are eligible. Annual scholarships are determined based on the student’s financial need.

For more information or to apply, call (812) 375-9800, email Scholarships@kidschancein.org or visit [https://www.kidschancein.org/scholarships/](https://www.kidschancein.org/scholarships/)

**HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS**

If the employer of a public safety officer who dies in the line of duty after June 30, 2018, offers health coverage for active employees, the employer shall offer to provide and pay for health coverage under the plan covering active employees for the surviving spouse and each natural child, stepchild, and adopted child of the public safety officer. Provides that health coverage for a surviving child continues: (1) until the child becomes 18 years of age; (2) until the child becomes 23 years of age, under certain circumstances; or (3) during the entire period. Contact your agency’s benefits office for more information.

**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION**

Workers’ Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Indiana.

The benefit is 66 2/3% of the employee’s wage if survived by a spouse or a spouse and child(ren) for a maximum period of 500 weeks. There is also a maximum **burial allowance of $7,500.**
Children receive benefits beyond 21 if physically or mentally disabled. Two-year lump sum payable upon remarriage in cases where there are no children or the remainder of compensation, whichever is smaller.

To receive workers' compensation benefits the surviving spouse must take the initiative and file a workers' compensation claim through a workers' compensation attorney to receive any compensation. The determination as to whether the claim will be paid will be determined by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

Contact the Workers' Compensation Board of Indiana, 402 W. Washington Street, Room W196, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Office: (317) 232-3808. https://www.in.gov/wcb/

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:
Public Employees’ Retirement Fund (PERF) https://www.in.gov/inprs/  

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 pays a maximum burial benefit of $7,500. 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.

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.
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.

Indiana Crime Victims Compensation may help cover expenses if your officer was killed due to a crime. Applications are available online, by contacting your local law enforcement agency or the Victim Services department of your county prosecutor's office. Applications for benefits must be filed no later than 180 days after the crime occurred. For more information, visit the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute at https://www.in.gov/cji/2333.htm.

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 www.instatefop.org to find your local lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police.

The 100 Club https://the100club.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:
City life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Retirement Benefits?
Real estate tax relief?

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