LOUISIANA

Death benefits available to the surviving families of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

There is a one time death benefit in Louisiana. The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000) shall be paid to the surviving spouse or, if not survived by a spouse, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the surviving child or children or, if not survived by a spouse nor a child or children, then the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the named beneficiary listed on the officer’s designation form or, if there is no beneficiary designation form at the time of the death, and no surviving spouse nor a child or children, then the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the officer’s estate. In addition, if the officer is survived by a dependent child or children, the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) shall be paid for each of the dependent children, such sums to be paid to the duly appointed and qualified tutor or the legal representative of the child or children.

Contact the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen’s Survivor Benefit Review Board by calling (225) 326-6127 or visit http://ag.state.la.us/.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Louisiana Act 40 SB 90 provides free tuition at state-supported schools for survivors of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.

Contact your school’s Office of Financial Aid for more information and application or visit the Board of Regents at

For more information, visit the Board of Regents at https://regents.la.gov/.

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.

Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) // (573) 346-4911 // copsn@nationalcops.org
ConcernsOfPoliceSurvivors.ORG
This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

Revised 2020
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 LOUISIANA** provides scholarships to dependents of those killed on the job as determined by Workers’ Compensation criteria. Applicants must be between the ages of 16-25 and demonstrate a substantial need.

For more information and application details, visit the Louisiana Bar Association at https://www.raisingthebar.org/kids-chance-scholarship-program/kids-chance-scholarship-guidelines

**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION**

Benefit to surviving spouse only is 32 1/2% of employee’s wage and to surviving spouse with child(ren) is 65% of employee’s wage. A maximum burial allowance of $8,500 is also allowed. As of August 1, 2020, payments continue for spouses after remarriage. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if physically or mentally disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students. 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.

NOTE: Sheriff’s departments in Louisiana do not pay Workers’ Compensation premiums. They provide their own form of insurance.

For more information contact the Office of Workers’ Compensation Administration, Louisiana Department of Labor, 1001 N. 23rd Street, room G28, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (mailing address P. O. Box 94040, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9040. Office: (225) 342-7582. www.laworks.net

**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.
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:

Louisiana Municipal Police Employee Retirement System (LAMPERS) http://www.lampers.org
Louisiana State Police Retirement System (LSPRS) http://lsprs.org/
Louisiana Sheriff’s Pension & Relief Fund (LSPRF) https://www.lsprf.com
Louisiana State Employees Retirement System (LASERS) http://lasersonline.org

HEALTH BENEFITS

Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1665.2 (G)

G.(1) The employer of a law enforcement officer who suffers death as a result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official duties as an officer, or arising out of any activity while on or off duty in his capacity as a law enforcement officer in the protection of life or property shall provide and pay for health insurance coverage for the law enforcement officer's surviving spouse for two years following the death of the law enforcement officer.

(2)(a) The employer of a law enforcement officer who suffers death as a result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official duties as an officer, or arising out of any activity while on or off duty in his capacity as a law enforcement officer in the protection of life or property shall provide and pay for health insurance coverage for the law enforcement officer's child, stepchild, or adopted child who is either: (i) Under the age of eighteen. (ii) Under the age of twenty-three and enrolled in and regularly attending a secondary school or is a full-time student at an accredited college or university. (iii) Physically or mentally disabled.

(b) The employer shall provide and pay for the health insurance provided pursuant to this Paragraph for two years following the death of the law enforcement officer or until the child no longer meets the qualifications provided in this Paragraph, whichever comes first.

(3) If health insurance coverage is offered by the employer to active members, the health insurance provided to a surviving spouse or child pursuant to this Subsection shall be equal in coverage to that offered to active members.

(4)(a) The surviving spouse shall have the option to decline the health insurance coverage provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. (b) The surviving parent or legal guardian of each child, stepchild, or adopted child of the deceased law enforcement officer shall have the option to decline the health insurance coverage provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection for the child.

Contact the benefits department of your agency for more information.

FUNERAL BENEFITS

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION A maximum burial allowance of $8,500 is allowed. 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.

LOUISIANA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION Burial Benefits are available to the families of deceased officers who are members of the Louisiana Peace Officers Association. Please contact the Association for more information about how to apply for this benefit. http://www.lpoanews.com/Contact.aspx

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.

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 Crime Victims Reparations Fund is regarded as the "payer of last resort" if your loss was caused by a crime. To see if you qualify, to apply, or for more information, call the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice at (225) 342-1500 or visit http://www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/cvr.asp

LOUISIANA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL http://www.lleom.com/#/home

LOUISIANA STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION https://latroopers.org/site.php
SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC  www.sspba.org

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.

Louisiana Property Tax / Homestead Tax Exemption – Contact your local assessors office for the application and list of required documents. You must apply annually.

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