MAINE

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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

In effect in 2020, if the Chief (Chief of the State Police) or the Commissioner of Corrections determines that a law enforcement or corrections officer died while in the line of duty, the State shall pay a benefit of $100,000. Beginning July 1, 2021 and annually thereafter, the benefit amount must be indexed to the Consumer Price Index whenever there is a percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index from July 1st to June 30th of the previous year.

Contact the Maine Department of Public Safety by calling (207) 624-7200 or visit https://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Children or spouses of Maine law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty may receive a tuition waiver to a Maine public college/university, community college, or the Maine Maritime Academy.

For more information and to apply, call the Finance Authority of Maine at (800) 228-3734 or visit https://www.famemaine.com/maine_grants_loans/tuition-waiver-program-public-servant/.

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/](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 MAINE** The Harvey Picker Horizon Scholarship Program was created to assist the children and spouses of workers who have died or suffered permanent disability due to a work-related injury.

Email MEMIC Workers’ Compensation Insurers at horizon@memic.com or call (800) 660-1306 and say “Horizon Scholarship” at the prompt. You may also visit [https://www.memic.com/workers/horizon-scholarship](https://www.memic.com/workers/horizon-scholarship)

**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION**
Worker’s Compensation pays a benefit equal to 2/3 of the officer’s gross average weekly wages for up to 500 weeks. A maximum amount applies.

Call the Maine Workers’ Compensation Board at (888) 801-9087 or visit [www.maine.gov/wcb](http://www.maine.gov/wcb) for more information.

**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/](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: [Maine State Retirement System (MSRS) https://www.mainepers.org/](https://www.mainepers.org/)

**HEALTH BENEFITS**
Health benefits vary depending upon police department benefits. Spouses of state and county officers may elect to continue to participate in the same benefit program in effect at the time of the officer’s death. Contact the Benefits Coordinator at your agency.

You may also check with the retirement system listed above.
**Funeral Benefits**

**Worker's Compensation** A maximum burial allowance of $4,000 is paid to the person who has paid or who is responsible for paying the burial expenses and an additional payment of $3,000 as incidental compensation is paid to the officer’s estate. 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/](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/](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](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](https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html) for more information.

The Maine Victims’ Compensation Program in the Attorney General's Office provides financial reimbursement for losses suffered by victims of violent crime and their families. For more information or to see if you qualify, call (800) 903-7882 or visit [https://www.maine.gov/ag/crime/victims_compensation/](https://www.maine.gov/ag/crime/victims_compensation/).

**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.
MAINE FOP  https://mainefop.com/fop-main

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

The 100 Club  https://the100club.org

MAINE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION  http://www.mslea.org/

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF POLICE  https://www.maineassociationofpolice.com/

MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION  http://www.mainechiefs.com/

MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION  http://www.mainesheriffs.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?