STATE DEATH BENEFITS

A one time payment is given for line of duty deaths that are certified by the Commissioner of Public Safety. The amount for 2018 was $166,664.80. This amount is adjusted by the Consumer Price Index on October 1 of each year and is payable as follows:

1. If there is no dependent child, to the spouse;
2. If there is no spouse, to the dependent child or children in equal shares;
3. If there are both a spouse and one or more dependent children, one-half to the spouse and one-half to the child or children, in equal shares;
4. If there is no surviving spouse or dependent child or children, to the parent or parents dependent for support on the decedent, in equal shares; or
5. If there is no surviving spouse, dependent child, or dependent parent, to the public safety officer's estate.

(b) If there are both a spouse and one or more dependent children under age 18, the spouse, at the spouse's discretion, may spend a maximum of one-third of a child's share on medical or dental treatment for the child or the child's education. Expenditures under this paragraph on behalf of a child do not diminish the shares of any other children. In addition, a spouse, at the spouse's discretion, may expend money from a child's share to pay state and federal taxes on any interest accrued on the share.

Visit the Commissioner's Office at https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/co/programs/public-safety-officer-benefit-program/Pages/default.aspx for more information and to apply for the benefit.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

The Public Safety Officer's Survivor Grant Educational benefits through the Minnesota Office of Higher Education are available for the surviving spouse and dependent children less than 23 years of age (age extended to 30 years of age for those who served on active military duty for at least 181 consecutive days and were honorably discharged or released) and the surviving spouse following certification by the commissioner of public safety for the one-time monetary death benefit.

The college/university should request payment from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. See https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?PageID=145 for more information and 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.
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 MINNESOTA/IOWA - Scholarships are available to qualifying students whose parents have been disabled or fatally injured while working for Minnesota or Iowa employers. Each scholarship recipient is eligible for up to $10,000 per year and can receive scholarships annually through graduation from a two-year or four-year college, university or vocational school.

Scholarships are provided through the SPF Foundation. Call (952) 838-2009 or visit https://www.sfmfoundation.com/apply/ for more information or to apply.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Workers’ Compensation is payable as follows:

**Spouse, no dependent child.** If the deceased employee leaves a dependent surviving spouse and no dependent child, there shall be paid to the spouse weekly workers’ compensation benefits at 50 percent of the weekly wage at the time of the injury for a period of ten years, including adjustments.

**Spouse, one dependent child.** If the deceased employee leaves a surviving spouse and one dependent child, there shall be paid to the surviving spouse for the benefit of the spouse and child 60 percent of the daily wage at the time of the injury of the deceased until the child is no longer a dependent as defined in subdivision 1. At that time there shall be paid to the dependent surviving spouse weekly benefits at a rate which is 16-2/3 percent less than the last weekly workers’ compensation benefit payment, as defined in subdivision 8a, while the surviving child was a dependent, for a period of ten years, including adjustments.

**Spouse, two dependent children.** If the deceased employee leaves a surviving spouse and two dependent children, there shall be paid to the surviving spouse for the benefit of the spouse and children 66-2/3 percent of the daily wage at the time of the injury of the deceased until the last dependent child is no longer dependent. At that time the
dependent surviving spouse shall be paid weekly benefits at a rate which is 25 percent less than the last weekly workers' compensation benefit payment, as defined in subdivision 8a, while the surviving child was a dependent, for a period of ten years, including adjustments. **Orphans.** If the deceased employee leaves a dependent orphan, there shall be paid 55 percent of the weekly wage at the time of the injury of the deceased, for two or more orphans there shall be paid 66-2/3 percent of the wages. **Parents.** If the deceased employee leaves no surviving spouse or child entitled to any payment under this chapter, but leaves both parents wholly dependent on deceased, there shall be paid to such parents jointly 45 percent of the weekly wage at the time of the injury of the deceased. In case of the death of either of the wholly dependent parents the survivor shall receive 35 percent of the weekly wage thereafter. If the deceased employee leaves one parent wholly dependent on the deceased, there shall be paid to such parent 35 percent of the weekly wage at the time of the injury of the deceased employee. The compensation payments under this section shall not exceed the actual contributions made by the deceased employee to the support of the employee's parents for a reasonable time immediately prior to the injury which caused the death of the deceased employee.

Call the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry at (800) 342-5354 or visit http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workers-compensation/work-comp-benefits-general-information 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/ 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:


**MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MSRS) (State Patrol)**
[https://www.msrs.state.mn.us/state-patrol-plan](https://www.msrs.state.mn.us/state-patrol-plan)

### HEALTH BENEFITS

If the spouse or dependents were covered by the officer’s insurance at the time of death or was/were eligible, or afterward becomes eligible to be a dependent of the employer’s group health plan, the employer is responsible to the officer’s contribution to the health plan.
Coverage continues for a spouse until the age of 65 and for dependents until the age of 26. Talk to your agency’s Benefits Coordinator for more information.

**FUNERAL BENEFITS**

**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION** A reasonable expense of the employee’s funeral and burial up to $15,000 will be paid. See Workers’ Compensation section above for contact details.

**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. You cannot report a death or apply for survivors benefits online. Visit https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html for more information.

The **Crime Victims Reparations Board** provides financial help to victims and their families for losses incurred as a result of the crime. Visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs at https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/help-for-crime-victims/Pages/crime-victims-reparations.aspx to see if you qualify or to apply.

**MINNESOTA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE** https://www.mnfop.com/

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**CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)** // (573) 346-4911 // copsn@nationalcops.org

CONCERNSOFPOLICESPERSURVIVORS.ORG

This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

Revised 2020
MINNESOTA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION  https://mnlema.org/

The MINNESOTA 100 Club - All line-of-duty deaths in the state of Minnesota are covered; Initial presentations of $10,000 for line of duty death; monetary gifts at Christmas for two years for kids under 18. For more information, visit  https://mn100club.com/

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

MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (MPPOA)  
https://www.mppoa.com/index.php

WILLS FOR HEROES  https://www.mnbar.org/about-msba/related-organizations/wills-for-heroes/

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?