OKLAHOMA

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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Per Oklahoma Statutes Title 85A, Section 47 Oklahoma state death benefits are paid through Workers' Compensation.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Oklahoma Statutes 70-14-134 - Children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty may attend any Oklahoma state college or university tuition free. The waiver of tuition is limited to a period of five (5) years.

For more information contact the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education at (405) 225-9100 or visit https://www.okhighered.org/index.shtml

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 (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. Call (888) 744-6513 or visit https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/benefits/ or more information.

KIDS CHANCE OF OKLAHOMA - 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 Workers' Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need. Applicants must be between 17 and 25 years of age.

For more information or to apply, visit https://www.kidschanceok.org/
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Oklahoma. Benefit is 70% of the State’s Average Weekly Wage for spouse with child(ren). Lump Sum Death Benefits are payable as follows:

- Spouse: $100,000
- Up to $10,000 for funeral expenses
- Spouse and One (1) Child: Spouse $100,000; Child: $25,000 to be place in trust at the Court’s discretion.
- Spouse and Two (2) or more children: Spouse $100,000; Children: Divide $50,000 equally to be placed in trust for each child at the Court’s discretion.
- No spouse, one or more children: Children: $25,000 per child, up to a maximum of $150,000, divided equally to be placed in trust for each child at the Court’s discretion.
- No dependents or heirs-at-law: A maximum of $8,000 for funeral expenses.

Two-year lump sum payable to spouse upon remarriage and weekly benefits cease. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond 18 if disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students.

For more information contact the Workers' Compensation Commission at (405) 522-3222 or visit https://www.ok.gov/wcc/

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 psob.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:

- Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System (OLERS) https://www.kers.state.ok.us/
- Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System (OPPRS) https://www.ok.gov/oppers/
- Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) https://www.opers.ok.gov/

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.

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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.

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Per Oklahoma Statutes Title 85A, Section 47 the employer shall pay the actual funeral expenses not to exceed $10,000.

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.

For complete information, visit concernsofpolicesurvivors.org; email cops@nationalcops.org or call (573) 346-4911. 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 Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation Program may provide benefits to family members that have lost their officer due to a crime. Awards may be granted for things such as mental health counseling, funeral expenses, lost wages, etc. that aren’t covered by other sources.
For application instructions, contact the Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation at (800) 745-6098 or visit https://www.okvictimscomp.com/

POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION www.sspba.org

OKLAHOMA STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION (405) 269-7517

CONCERNED OKLAHOMANS FOR THE HIGHWAY PARTOL SOCIETY (COHPS) http://www.cohps.org/about-cohps

OKLAHOMA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL http://www.oklemem.com/

OKLAHOMA SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION https://www.oklahomasheriffs.org/

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.

OKLAHOMA FOP http://www.okfop.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.

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:
City and private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Real Estate Tax Relief