



# VIRGINIA

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

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## STATE DEATH BENEFITS

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Virginia's Line of Duty Act provides a one-time payment made to the beneficiary or beneficiaries. Amounts as follows: \$100,000 when a death occurs as the direct or proximate result of performing duty as of January 1, 2006, or after. The beneficiary of a deceased person whose death occurred on or before December 31, 2005, while in the line of duty as the direct or proximate result of the performance of his duty shall be entitled to receive the sum of \$75,000, which shall be paid by the nonparticipating employer or from the Fund on behalf of a participating employer, as applicable, in gratitude for and in recognition of his sacrifice on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth.

## EDUCATION BENEFITS

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**C.O.P.S.** offers a scholarship to surviving spouses and children up to \$1500 per semester. Visit <https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/scholarship> for the application.

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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.

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

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A. The surviving spouse and any child between the ages of 16 and 25 of an individual who was killed in the line of duty while employed or serving as a (i) law-enforcement officer, including as a campus police officer appointed under Article 3 (§ 23.1-809 et seq.) of Chapter 8, sworn law-enforcement officer, firefighter, special forest warden pursuant to § 10.1-1135, member of a rescue squad, special agent of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, state correctional, regional or local jail officer, regional jail or jail farm superintendent, sheriff, or deputy sheriff; (ii) member of the Virginia National Guard while serving on official state duty or federal duty under Title 32 of the United States Code; or (iii) member of the Virginia Defense Force while serving on official state duty, and any individual whose spouse was killed in the line of duty while employed or serving in any of such

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occupations, is entitled to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees at any public institution of higher education under the following conditions:

1. The chief executive officer of the deceased individual's employer certifies that such individual was so employed and was killed in the line of duty while serving or living in the Commonwealth; and

2. The surviving spouse or child is admitted to, enrolls at, and is in attendance at such institution and applies to such institution for the waiver. Waiver recipients who make satisfactory academic progress are eligible for renewal of such waiver.

B. Institutions that grant such waivers shall waive the amounts payable for tuition, institutional charges and mandatory educational and auxiliary fees, and books and supplies but shall not waive user fees such as room and board charges.

C. Each public institution of higher education shall include in its catalog or equivalent publication a statement describing the benefits available pursuant to this section

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title23.1/chapter6/section23.1-609/>

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## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Employer shall pay, or cause to be paid, compensation in weekly payments equal to 66 2/3 percent of the employee's average weekly wages, but not more than 100 percent of the average weekly wage of the Commonwealth as defined in § [65.2-500](#) nor less than 25 percent of the average weekly wage .

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title65.2/chapter5/section65.2-512/>

To those persons presumed to be wholly dependent upon the deceased employee as set forth in subdivisions A 1, A 2, and A 3 of § [65.2-515](#), for a period of 500 weeks from the date of death .

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## 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](https://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](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

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## RETIREMENT & PENSION

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Benefits may vary by department. Check with your agencies benefits department

## HEALTH BENEFITS

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Check with your agencies Human Resources Department for available health benefit information.

## FUNERAL BENEFITS

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If a work-related death occurs, workers compensation may pay the following benefits: Burial expenses up to \$10,000 Reasonable transportation expenses up to \$1,000. Compensation to dependents, as defined by law. Virginia Code §65.2-512. Death Benefits may cover funeral expenses or wage replacement to a spouse and/or dependent children under the age of 18 and under 23 years old if enrolled in an accredited educational institution. **A copy of the death certificate must be provided.** In claims of dependency upon the deceased worker, copies of marriage or birth certificate(s) for any dependents must be provided. Ph. 1-877-664-2566 email [questions@workcomp.virginia.gov](mailto:questions@workcomp.virginia.gov)

**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 @ [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://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 [www.wilbert.com](http://www.wilbert.com) or call (888) WILBERT

## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

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**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](http://concernsofpolicesurvivors.org); email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org) or call (573) 346-4911. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST.

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**Virginia Public Safety Foundation** provides immediate cash grant assistance to families of public safety officers killed in the line of duty with the goal of delivering this assistance as soon as possible following an officer's death. \$2,000 is given to each family providing reassuring financial support. VPSF also has a scholarship fund for the dependents of public safety officers killed in the line of duty. The fund provides reimbursement of education expenses for qualified applicants. Applicant must be spouse, life partner, child, or step child of a public safety officer killed in the line of duty who's death has been certified a line of duty death by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Adult survivors may request assistance within 5 years of the line of duty death. Child survivors must be under the age of 25 to request assistance. <https://www.vpsf.org/blank>

**HEROES, Inc.** We honor these fallen HEROES by assisting their spouses and children, beginning within 24 hours of the tragic loss and continuing indefinitely. Acting in strictest confidentiality, we offer financial assistance to ensure that housing and other basic needs are met. HEROES, Inc. offers financial and legal expertise free of charge — again, in confidence — to help the spouse make smart decisions, and stay on solid financial ground. No case is ever closed. HEROES, Inc. believes that spouses and children of fallen heroes have enough urgent concerns without having to worry about financial ones. So, acting in strictest confidentiality, we offer financial assistance to ensure that housing and other basic needs are met. We also offer other assistance and advice as needed. HEROES, Inc. offers financial and legal expertise free of charge — again, in confidence — to help the spouse make smart decisions, protect against loss, and stay on solid financial ground. No case is ever closed. Heroes Children Get The Additional Help They Deserve Twice a year, winter and summer, HEROES, Inc.® provides a cash gift to each dependent child under 21 years of age. This money helps the children do and have things they might not otherwise be able to enjoy. Additionally, each child receives a check on his or her birthday as a reminder that the absent parent is remembered and honored. There is only one requirement for the child: to acknowledge the gift with a personal thank-you letter. This is our means of staying in touch with the families. Scholarship Program Funds Are Available for Dependent Children of Fallen HEROES Our scholarship program provides an opportunity for the children of fallen HEROES to realize their dream of achieving an undergraduate degree. The program offers assistance with tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and many incidental costs. Scholarship recipients may attend colleges, universities, or trade schools of their choice. We make no distinction as to the type of schooling or course of study. The cities and counties that are served by this program are Arlington County Fairfax County Loudoun County Prince William Counties Cities: Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax. PH 202-638-6658

**Social Security Benefit:** United States Social Security Administration Summary: One-time death benefit payment plus monthly death benefits. The surviving spouse must request the lump sum, one-time benefit and may be able to receive full benefits at age 65 if born on or before January 1, 1940 (age gradually increasing to 67 for widows or widowers born January 2, 1940 or later). Reduced benefits may be available as early as age 60. Documents

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Required: Marriage Certificate; Certified Death Certificate Contact Information: Toll Free: (800) 772-1213 Website: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

**The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation** is committed to ensuring we never forget the events of 9/11 and the sacrifices that were made and continue to be made by our first responders in the line of duty. Through the *Fallen First Responder Home Program*, Tunnel to Towers aims to pay off the mortgages of fallen law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty that leave behind young children. The Foundation's goal is to ensure stability and security to these families facing sudden, tragic loss. <https://tunnel2towers.org/>

**American Police Hall of Fame** Offers compassionate programs for law enforcement families, yearly birthday and Holiday gifts for children, scholarships, summer camp funds and so much more. <https://www.aphf.org>

**OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:**

City life insurance?

Private life insurance?