ALABAMA

Death Benefits Available to the Surviving Families of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics: Submit written request to PO Box 303017, Montgomery, AL 36130-3017. Office: (334) 206-5300. www.adph.org

STATE DEATH BENEFITS
The Alabama State Board of Adjustment determines the amount of this payment.

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Alabama law provides for a one-time death benefit payment of $100,000 for the survivors of peace officers and firemen killed in the line of duty, adjusted on January 1 of each year to reflect any increase in the previous year in the consumer price index. The compensation shall be paid to the dependent spouse for the benefit of the spouse and any dependent children or, if none, to other dependents as designated by statute and in the exercise of the discretion of the awarding authority. All claims for compensation shall be presented to the awarding authority within one year from the date of death. For more information, contact the Alabama State Board of Adjustment Office at (334) 242-7175. Or visit their website: www.bdadj.alabama.gov

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
Under Alabama Law Act 82-277, payment of tuition and textbooks costs in a state junior college, technical college or university is made for the dependent children under 21 (natural or adopted) and spouses, if not remarried, of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. The spouse must utilize the benefit within 5 years of the death. A letter from the agency head, together with a certified copy of the marriage license, death certificate, and a birth certificate(s) of child/children are required. For more information or to obtain application forms, contact the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Office at (334) 242-1998. Or visit their website: http://www.ache.state.al.us/

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
Workers’ Compensation coverage is compulsory for Alabama employers. Workers’ Compensation benefits are payable to the beneficiaries of an officer for a period of five hundred (500) weeks following the death of an officer in the line of duty.

Benefits include a maximum $6,500 burial expense payment. For death claims, multiply the employee’s average weekly earnings prior to the accident by 50% if the employee has one dependent, or by 66 2/3% if the employee has two or more dependents. Death
benefits are subject to maximum ($794/week) and minimum ($218/week) in effect on date of injury. If the deceased employee, at the time of his or her death, has no dependents, then within 60 days of his or her death, the employer shall pay a one-time lump sum payment of $7,500 to the deceased worker’s estate.

In order to file for Worker’s Compensation benefits, the below listed forms/certificates are needed:
Marriage License
Certified copy of Death Certificate.
Certified copy of minor child(ren) Birth Certificates.
Physician’s Statement.

For more information, contact the Alabama Worker’s Compensation Division office at (334) 242-2868. Or visit their website: [https://labor.alabama.gov/wc/workers-compensation.aspx](https://labor.alabama.gov/wc/workers-compensation.aspx)

**STATE LIFE INSURANCE - INTESTATE**

State life insurance benefits paid to the beneficiaries in this matter are based on double annual salary figures calculated at double indemnity rate.

**Descent and Distribution** - There are many and material variances from Uniform Probate Code. Distinction between real and personal property has been abolished (43-8-1). Estate of decedent not effectively disposed of by will in excess of share of surviving spouse, or all such property if no surviving spouse, passes as follows, each class of which member is living taking to exclusion of subsequent classes:

1. Issue of decedent in equal shares if all issue of same degree of kinship to decedent, but by representation (see infra) if of equal degree;
2. Parent or parents equally;
3. Issue of parents or either of them by representation;
4. In equal shares to more remote paternal and maternal kindred in following manner:
   a. Grandparent or grandparents equally,
   b. Issue of grandparents in equal shares if all issue of same degree of kinship to decedent, but by representation if of unequal degree;
5. If no paternal or maternal kindred on one side, entire estate to relatives on other side;
6. To state.

Except where estate could pass to state, heir must survive decedent five days. Issue of person means all lineal descendants of all generations. For representation, estate is divided into **as many shares as there are surviving heirs** in nearest degree of kinship and deceased persons in same degree who left issue surviving decedent, each surviving heir in nearest degree receiving one share and share of each deceased person in same degree being divided among issue of such deceased heir in same manner.
Surviving Spouse takes intestate share as follows: All if no surviving issue or parent of decedent; first $100,000 plus one-half of balance if decedent is survived by parent or parents and no surviving issue; first $50,000 plus one-half of balance if decedent is survived by issue of all whom are also issue of surviving spouse. If estate is located in two or more states, surviving spouse’s share may not exceed in aggregate amounts allowable under Alabama law. (43-8-41). Person who is divorced from decedent or whose marriage has been annulled is not surviving spouse. (43-8-252). Surviving spouse who feloniously and intentionally kills decedent is not entitled to any intestate share. (43-8-253).

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS
PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
Established in 1984, 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 professional, and local peer-support organizations to provide assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. has become a “lifeline” to police survivors nationwide. Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office at (573) 346-4911 or visit https://www.nationalcops.org/localchapters.html for information on a chapter in your area.

ALABAMA PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND
Membership in the Alabama Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund entitles death benefits to officers' survivors in the form of a one-time $2,500 death benefit payment for death from any cause plus, in the case of line-of-duty death, the return of all contributions during membership. Forms can be obtained from the Alabama Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund, 514 South McDonough Street, PO Box 2186, Montgomery, AL 36102. Office: (334)242-4079.

ALABAMA PEACE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
The Alabama Peace Officers' Association offers survivors of deceased active members a $500 death benefit for death from any cause. Survivors of active members killed in the line of duty receive a $10,000 benefit. For more information, contact the Alabama Peace Officers' Association, 940 Pelham Street, Montgomery, AL 36104. Office: (334) 269-4328. Or visit their website: http://www.alabamapeaceofficers.org/

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
The Alabama State Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) or other labor/fraternal groups may provide a one-time death benefit to family members of a deceased member officer. Contact your local FOP Lodge for information. You can find a list of all Alabama FOP lodges at the Alabama State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police website: http://alabamastatefop.org/alabama-state-lodge/local-lodges
ALABAMA CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION 15-23-1.
Victims of violent crime are often reduced to bereft and destitute circumstances as a result of the criminal acts perpetrated against them, that the financial or economic resources of such victims and their dependents are in many instances distressed or depleted as a result of injuries inflicted upon them by violent criminals. The ALABAMA CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND intends to provide a means whereby victims of violent crime and their dependents may be provided compensation in the amount of actual expenses incurred as a direct result of criminal acts of other persons. For more information, contact the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission, PO Box 231267, Montgomery, AL 36123. Office: (334) 290-4420. Or visit their website: www.acvcc.state.al.us/

SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
The PBA member’s beneficiary will receive their base salary for one if year they are killed accidentally or intentionally while performing their law enforcement duties (maximum payout: $60,000). The beneficiary will receive $5,000 if it is not an occupational death or if you are a retired or reserve member. Any active Southern States PBA member in good standing and dues current will receive this benefit. For more information contact the Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc., 2155 GA-42, McDonough, GA 30252. Office: (770) 389-5391. www.sspba.org.

FUNERAL AND CREMATION BENEFITS
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 their website: www.dignitymemorial.com and look under Public Servants for details. You may also call (800) 343-4464 and speak with a representative 24/7.

Wilbert Funeral Services, Inc. provides complimentary burial vaults and related services for fallen law enforcement officers. For more information, visit www.wilbert.com or call (800) 323-7188.