CALIFORNIA
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 997410, Sacramento, CA 95899. Office: (916) 445-2684. www.cdph.ca.gov

STATE DEATH BENEFITS
No one-time benefit available.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
In 1970, Assembly Bill 338 was passed by the 1970 California Legislative Session. Known as the Alan Pattee Scholarship Act, this legislation amended Section 68121 of the California Education Code. Under this Act, no fees or tuition of any kind shall be required of or collected by the Regents of the California State University from any surviving child, natural or adopted, of a public safety official in the State of California who is killed in the line of duty. The Trustees of the California State University may enter into agreements with other universities or colleges located within the state whereby qualified students from campuses of the California State University may attend the other universities or colleges without payment of some or all fees or tuition or both. Further, the trustees may enter into agreements with public colleges and universities in other states whereby qualified students from the California State University may attend the other college or university without payment of any tuition fee charged by that institution. The waiver of fees and tuition is handled by the state-supported college or university the surviving child plans to attend. When applying, the student must make the college or university aware of the fact that he or she is a surviving child of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty and qualifies for tuition-free education under Section 68121 of the Education Code known as the Alan Pattee Scholarship Act. EFFECTIVE August 2003, non-California residents who are California survivors may attend a California school at the IN-STATE tuition rate and apply for both the Alan Pattee Scholarship and the LEPD grant. Effective 1/1/2001, Governor Davis signed AB1850 which provides surviving spouses the same benefit that their (surviving) children receive. This consists of TUITION FREE education throughout the University of California, Hastings College of Law, and California State University systems. In addition to tuition-free education from the state, scholarships are available under Section 4709 of the Labor Code for persons who were dependents of peace officers or law enforcement officers at the time of death. Dependents must have been natural or adopted children or a dependent spouse. Any officer, who is killed in the performance of duty or who dies or is totally disabled as a result of an accident or
an injury caused by external violence or physical force, incurred in the performance of duty, when the death, accident, or injury is compensable shall be entitled to a scholarship at any one of the institutions of collegiate grade located in California if the institution offers a two-year junior college or four-year college course and is accredited or is a candidate for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This program is known as the Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents (LEPD) program and is administered by the California Student Aid Commission. For more information contact the California Student Aid Commission, PO Box 419026, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. Office: (888) 224-7268. www.csac.ca.gov

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

Death benefits are payments to a spouse, children or other dependents if an employee dies from a work-related injury or illness. This includes reasonable burial expenses, not exceeding $5,000 for injuries before Jan. 1, 2013 and $10,000 for injuries on or after Jan. 1, 2013. The amount of the death benefit depends on the number of total and/or partial dependents. In the case of one or more totally dependent minors, after payment of amounts specified below, death benefits will continue until youngest minor’s 18th birthday (disabled minors receive benefits for life). Death benefits are paid at the total temporary disability rate, but not less than $224.00 per week. The period within which to commence proceedings for the collection of death benefits is one year from death where death occurs within one year of date of injury (DOI); or one year from date of last furnishing of any benefits or one year from death where death occurs more than one year from DOI. No such proceedings may be commenced more than 240 weeks from the DOI.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Burial expenses</th>
<th>1 total dependents</th>
<th>2 or more total dependents</th>
<th>3 or more total dependents</th>
<th>1 total plus 1 or more partial dependents</th>
<th>1 or more partial dependents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For injuries on or after Jan. 1, 2013</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$290,000</td>
<td>$320,000</td>
<td>$250,000 plus four times annual support for partial dependents not to exceed $290,000.</td>
<td>Eight times annual support not to exceed $250,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For injuries prior to Jan. 1, 2013</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$290,000</td>
<td>$320,000</td>
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For more information visit [State of California - Department of Industrial Relations, Workers' compensation benefits](#).
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.

RETIREMENT/PENSION
Individual cities and municipalities are responsible for providing retirement and pension plans for law enforcement officers. Contact your local agency’s Benefits Assistance Officer.

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.

Because We Can – Because We Care, offers equine therapy at no charge for law enforcement personnel who have suffered a disability due to their service. The program also offers horseback riding lessons at no charge for children of law enforcement personnel who have become disabled or fallen in the line of duty. For more information visit: www.bwc2.org or call (818) 640-7952.

Military Order of the Purple Heart scholarship is a competitive scholarship program that awards approximately eighty (80) scholarships to Purple Heart recipients and their spouses, children, and grandchildren each year.
To be eligible to apply for a MOPH Scholarship, each applicant needs to be a member of one of the following categories: (1) a Purple Heart recipient who is also a member of MOPH, or (2) the spouse of a Purple Heart recipient who is a Member of MOPH, or (3) the direct lineal descendent (child, step-child, adopted child, grandchild or step-grandchild) of a Purple Heart recipient which is a Member of MOPH, or (4) the spouse, widow/widower, or direct lineal descendent as defined above of a service member killed-in-action or who died of wounds. If the Purple Heart recipient is listed as killed-in-action or died of wounds, supporting documentation must accompany the application. (Great-grandchildren are not eligible to apply. A MOPH Associate membership or membership in the MOPH Ladies Auxiliary does not by itself convey scholarship eligibility.)
A Purple Heart recipient who is not a member of the MOPH can become a member by applying online through the MOPH website: www.purpleheart.org. To be eligible to apply for the scholarship, the Purple Heart recipient must be a current member, a member at the time of his or her death, or documented as killed-in-action or as having died of wounds. If you do not know whether your lineal descendent was a member of MOPH before his or her passing, please contact MOPH Headquarters for assistance at (888) 668-1656 or (703) 642-5360 and ask for MOPH Membership.

In order to receive an MOPH Scholarship, applicants must meet the following three requirements: (1) be a graduate or upcoming graduate (current senior) of a high school or GED program, and (2) accepted by or enrolled as a FULL-TIME undergraduate student (carrying 12+ credit hours per semester) at an accredited U.S. college, university, or trade school at the time the scholarship is awarded, and (3) be able to demonstrate the capacity for advanced academic achievement or technical proficiency as demonstrated by maintaining at least a 2.75 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) based on an un-weighted 4.0 grading system. (The academic requirement of a 2.75 GPA may be waived for a Purple Heart recipient who is a member of the MOPH.) Graduate students and students going back to school to receive additional undergraduate degrees after successfully completing at least one prior undergraduate degree program are not eligible to apply.

An applicant may receive a maximum of two scholarships awarded in non-consecutive years. Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, books, incidental fees, room and board, and other direct costs associated with higher education. MOPH scholarship funds cannot be used for transportation expenses, summer school, to pay pre-existing educational loans, or to pay for a special program/research project.

For more information about the MOPH Scholarship Program, please visit the website, or contact the Scholarship Chairwoman Wendy Buckingham, (501) 804-9170, email: scholarshipchairwoman@purpleheart.org or Mr. Stewart McKeown at MOPH Headquarters (703)-642-5360 or Email: scholarship@purpleheart.org.

The Knights of Columbus. Scholarships are available to children of members of the Order, who, as a result of criminal violence, lost their lives or became totally and permanently disabled while in the lawful performance of their duties as full-time law enforcement officers. For more information, visit the Knights of Columbus website. Or contact the headquarters, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510. Office: (203) 752-4000.

Fraternal Order of Eagles Memorial Foundation provides financial assistance for surviving children of full-time law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty who were also active members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at the time of their death.
For more information, please contact Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1623 Gateway Circle, S. Grove City, OH 43123. Office: (614) 883-2200. www.foe.com

**National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA)** members (excluding Auxiliary and Retired Paid-Up-For-Life members) receive Free Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance, with a $10,000 benefit amount for the Sheriffs and a $3,000 benefit for others. Coverage is subject to the terms and conditions of the group policy held by NSA. For more information, please contact the NSA, 1450 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Office: (703) 836-7827. www.sheriffs.org

*If your officer was killed in Los Angeles, California, there is a book published by the Los Angeles Police Protective League 1308 W. Eighth ST, Los Angeles, CA 90017. Office: (213) 251-4554 www.lapd.com*

*If your officer was employed by the City of Oakland, you may be entitled to additional benefits. Contact the Oakland Police Officers Association, 555 5th Street, Oakland, CA 94607. Office: (510) 834-9670. www.opoa.org.*

*California has a Victim Assistance Program. This program can only be utilized if all other insurances, coverage, and money has been exhausted. For information, contact Victims Assistance, 1401 Lakeside #802, Oakland, CA 94612. Office: (510) 272-6180.*

**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.