To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics: (877) 888-0248.  http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/ss/vitalstats.html

**STATE DEATH BENEFITS**

There is no one-time death benefit in Delaware. Insurance Benefit: Upon certification by the Insurance Commissioner that a claim under this chapter has been approved, the State Treasurer shall:

1. Pay to the beneficiary or beneficiaries as designated or determined pursuant to Section 6603(a) hereof of every covered person who dies in the line of duty prior to July 1, 1997, in the amount totaling $100,000 payable in annual installments with the maximum amount payable in any one calendar year being $20,000. For line of duty deaths at occur on or after July 1, 1997, the amount paid will be $150,000, payable in annual installments with the maximum amount payable in any one calendar year being $30,000. Installments shall terminate with the expiration of the beneficiary’s eligibility;

2. Unless any payment has been made pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section, pay to the beneficiary or beneficiaries as designated or determined pursuant to section 6603(b) hereof of a covered person as defined in paragraph a., b. or f. of section 6601(1) of this title who dies in the line of duty an amount totaling $25,000 payable in annual installments with the maximum amount payable in any one calendar year being $5,000. Installments shall terminate with the death of the last surviving beneficiary as determined pursuant to section 6603(b).

3. Pay, if neither subdivision (1) nor subdivision (2) of this section apply To the estate of a covered person, as defined in paragraph a., b. or f. of section 6601(1) of this title, who dies in the line of duty an amount not to exceed $5,000 to be used solely for expenses related to burial of such covered person.

**EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**
Upon certification by the Insurance Commissioner that a claim under this chapter has been approved, the State Treasurer shall:

Pay, for no more than 4 years, directly to the institution involved, the amount of the tuition of each dependent child of such covered person who dies in the line of duty so long as such child is enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a college or university. The term "tuition" means any amount required for enrollment or attendance of a student. Such term does not include any amount paid directly or indirectly for meals, lodging, transportation, extracurricular activities, supplies, equipment, clothing or personal or family expenses.

For information contact the State Insurance Commissioners Office at (302) 674-7300, or 841 Silver Lake BLVD. Dover, DE 19903. www.delawareinsurance.gov

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

In case of death, compensation shall be computed on the following basis and distributed to the following persons:

1. To the child or children if there is no surviving spouse entitled to compensation, 66 2/3% of the wages of the deceased, with 10% additional for each child in excess of 2, with a maximum of 80% to be paid to their guardian;

2. To the surviving spouse, if there are no children, 66 2/3% of wages provided that the minimum amount payable shall not be less than $15 per week;

3. To the surviving spouse, if there is 1 child, 66 2/3% of wages;

4. To the surviving spouse, if there are 2 children, 70% of wages;

5. To the surviving spouse, if there are 3 children, 75% of wages;

6. To the surviving spouse, if there are 4 or more children, 80% of wages;

7. If there is no surviving spouse or children, then to the parents, or the survivor of them, if actually dependent upon the employee for at least 50% of their support at the time of the worker’s death, 20% of wages;

8. If there is no surviving spouse, children or dependent parent, then to the siblings, if actually dependent upon the decedent for at least 50% of their support at the time of the worker’s death, 15% of wages for 1 sibling, and 5%
additional for each additional sibling, with a maximum of 25%, such compensation to be paid to their guardian.

(b) The wages upon which death compensation shall be based shall not in any case be taken to exceed the average weekly wage per week as announced by the Secretary of the Department of Labor for the last calendar year for which a determination of the average weekly wage has been made. However, the minimum amount payable to a surviving spouse entitled to compensation shall not be less than 22 2/9% of the said average weekly wage per week. Subject to § 2332 of this title, this compensation shall be paid during 400 weeks and in case of children entitled to compensation under this section, the compensation of each child shall continue after such period of 400 weeks until such child reaches the age of 18 years, or if enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited educational institution, until such child ceases to be so enrolled or reaches the age of 25 years, and in the case of a surviving spouse entitled to compensation under this section the compensation shall continue after such period of 400 weeks until the surviving spouse dies or remarries. Children are not entitled to compensation during the period that compensation is payable to their parent, except as provided in this section; provided, however, that the compensation for any child shall not be less than $10 per week unless the total maximum benefits are being paid.

(c) Compensation shall be payable under this section to or on account of any sibling only if and while such sibling is under the age of 18 years. Compensation shall be payable under this section to or on account of any child only if and while such child is under the age of 18 years, or if over 18 years and enrolled as a full-time student, until such time as such child ceases to be so enrolled or reaches the age of 25 years. Compensation shall be payable under this section to or on account of any child beyond the age of 18 years if and while mentally or physically handicapped and actually dependent upon the deceased for at least 50 percent of their support at the time of the worker’s death.

(d) Compensation shall be payable under this section to a surviving spouse: (1) If living with deceased at the time of death; (2) if receiving or had the right to receive support at the time of death; (3) if deserted prior to and continued at the time of death; otherwise, compensation shall be distributed to the persons who would be dependents in case there was no surviving spouse.

(e) Compensation payable to the surviving spouse shall be for the use and benefit of such surviving spouse and of the dependent children, and the Board may from time to time apportion such compensation between them in such way as it deems best. The Board may require payments to be made directly to a minor...
who has been injured and may also require payments to be made to the person caring for any dependent minor, when, in the opinion of the Board, the expense of securing the appointment of a guardian would be disproportionate to the amount of compensation payable to such minor.

(f) If the compensation payable under this section to or on account of any person shall for any cause cease, the compensation of the remaining persons entitled thereunder shall thereafter be computed at the same rate as would have been payable to the remaining persons had they been the only persons entitled to compensation at the time of the death of the deceased, which computation shall be based upon the rates in effect at the time of the death of the deceased.

(g) Should any dependent of a deceased employee die, or should the surviving spouse remarry, the right of such dependent or such surviving spouse to compensation under this section shall cease. However, 2 years’ indemnity benefits in 1 lump sum shall be payable to a surviving spouse upon remarriage.

If death results from the injury, the employer shall pay the reasonable burial expenses of an injured employee, not exceeding $3,500, but without deduction of any amount theretofore paid for compensation or medical expense, except that any bill for reasonable funeral expenses resulting from the death of an injured employee contracted for in an amount in excess of $3,500 may be approved by the Industrial Accident Board.

For more information contact the Delaware Department of Workers’ Compensation.  
**Wilmington location:** 4425 N Market ST, Wilmington, DE 19802. Office: (302) 761-8200.  
**Dover location:** 655 S Bay Road, Suite 2H, Dover, DE 19901. Office: (302) 422-1137.  
[www.dia.delawareworks.com](http://www.dia.delawareworks.com)

**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.

**STATE INCOME TAX**
Payments made under Insurance Code 6609 to a beneficiary shall not be subject to Delaware income taxes or Delaware estate taxes.
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.

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.