

INDIANA

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 2 N Meridian ST, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Office: (317) 233-1325. www.state.in.us

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

SURVIVOR BENEFITS (IC 36-8-8-14.1)

Death Benefit (IC 36-8-8-16) - Your heirs or estate are entitled to receive a one-time death benefit of \$12,000 upon your death for funeral expenses. Line of Duty Death Benefit (IC 36-8-8-20) - In case you die in the line of duty, a special death benefit (effective 01/01/98) will be paid to your surviving spouse, or your surviving children. A special death benefit of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for a fund member who dies in the line of duty before January 1, 1998, and one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for a fund member who dies in the line of duty after December 31, 1997, shall be paid in a lump sum by the Indiana public retirement system from the pension relief fund established under IC 5-10.3-11 to the following relative of a fund member who dies in the line of duty: (1) To the surviving spouse. (2) If there is no surviving spouse, to the surviving children (to be shared equally). (3) If there is no surviving spouse and there are no surviving children, to the parent or parents in equal shares. (d) The benefit provided by this section is in addition to any other benefits provided under this chapter.

Survivor Benefit Checklist:

- (1) Properly completed survivor benefit application;
- (2) Copy of marriage certificate;
- (3) Affidavit stating member was actually married to spouse at the time of death;
- (4) Survivor(s) birth certificate(s);
- (5) Death certificate of deceased member.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Section 1. 1C 20-12-19.5-1

The children of regular paid law enforcement officers, regular paid firefighters, volunteer firefighters, county police reserve officers, and city police reserve officers who have been killed in the line of duty shall not be required to pay tuition or other required fees at any state supported college, university, or technical school, so long as the

children are under the age of 23 and are full-time students pursuing a prescribed course of study.

The surviving spouse of the same public safety officials who have been killed in the line of duty may not be required to pay tuition or other required fees at any state supported college, university, or technical school, so long as the surviving spouse is pursuing a prescribed course of study at the institution towards an undergraduate degree.

This benefit is available to the surviving spouses and children of public safety officials listed who are killed in the line of duty before, on, or after July 1, 1993.

At the time of enrollment you must tell the appropriate department at the state supported college, university, or technical school that you are the surviving spouse or child as described above.

POLICE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The Police Corps is administered by the Office of the Police Corps and Law Enforcement Education (OPCLEE), within the Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice, in partnership with participating States that have submitted an approved State Plan. Information can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/opclee

The Police Corps awards scholarships and reimburses educational expenses to students who agree to work in a State or local police force for at least four years. Students must pursue an undergraduate or graduate degree in a course of study which, in the judgment of the State or local police force to which the participant will be assigned, includes appropriate preparation for police service. Police Corps funds cover education expenses (including tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation, room and board, and miscellaneous expenses) up to \$7,500 per academic year, with a limit on total payments to any student of \$30,000.

Police Corps scholarship funds are also available to dependent children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty if the death occurred within the state after that state was approved to participate in the Police Corps program. In Indiana, the death must have occurred since April 1997. These scholarships may be applied to any course of study, without any service or repayment obligation.

Police Corps participants are selected on a competitive basis by each State under regulations prescribed by OPCLEE.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Indiana.

The benefit is 66 2/3% of the employee's wage if survived by a spouse or a spouse and child(ren) for a maximum period of 500 weeks. There is also a maximum burial allowance of \$7,500.

Children receive benefits beyond 21 if physically or mentally disabled. Two-year lump sum payable upon remarriage in cases where there are no children or the remainder of compensation, whichever is smaller.

To receive workers' compensation benefits the surviving spouse must take the initiative and file a workers compensation claim through a workers' compensation attorney to receive any compensation. The determination as to whether the claim will be paid will be determined by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

Contact the Workers' Compensation Board of Indiana, 402 W. Washington Street, Room W196, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Office: (317) 232-3808. www.in.gov/wcb/

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.

TAX WITHOLDING

If you do not make an election regarding tax withholding, PERF may be required to withhold income taxes that would apply to both the refunds and benefits. When applying for any of the 1977 Fund benefits, make sure you complete the tax withholding statement form.

These rules are complex, so if you need additional information, you should obtain IRS Publication 575; or, if you need further assistance, you should contact your local IRS office or tax consultant.

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 (800) 784-2611 or visit www.nationalcops.org/chap.htm 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 @ 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 or call (888) WILBERT.



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