

KANSAS

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 1000 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612. Office: (785) 296-1400. www.kdheks.gov/vital.

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

There is no one-time benefit available.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Kansas Statute 75-4364

The 1996 Kansas legislature established the opportunity for dependents of public safety officers who died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty to enroll in Kansas institutions of post-secondary education without payment of tuition or fees. Enrollment without payment of tuition and fees means that an eligible student will be allowed to enroll without payment of tuition or any mandatory fees required of all students at the time of enrollment. The student will be responsible for *other charges* associated with the student's academic program and living costs. *Dependent* is defined to include a birth child, adopted child or stepchild or any child other than the foregoing who was actually dependent in whole or in part on a public safety officer and who is related to the public safety officer by marriage or consanguinity. Persons, who can establish that they were dependents of deceased public safety officers, *even if the deaths preceded the effective date of the legislation*, are eligible. Acceptable forms of documentation include, among others, birth and death certificates, news reports, and obituaries. Enrollment without charge of tuition or fees will be possible for eligible individuals beginning with the fall 1996 enrollment period. Each eligible individual may qualify for tuition and fee waiver only for a total of eight semesters of undergraduate instruction or the equivalent thereof. Enrollment without charge of tuition or fees under this statute will be possible at Kansas educational institutions which mean public institutions such as: area vocational schools, area vocational-technical schools, community colleges, the municipal university, Regents institutions and technical colleges. The program is jointly administered by both the Kansas Board of Regents and the State Board of Education, depending upon the educational institution selected by the individual. An interested, qualifying individual would need to complete the information on the Documentation Guide and submit it to the Director Admissions at the selected university. There is no age limitation for the individuals specified but they must have been a dependent at the time of the line-of-duty death. Admissions office should be able to provide a Documentation Guide.

For more information contact the Kansas Board of Regents, 1000 SW Jackson ST, Suite 520, Topeka, KS 66612. Office: (785) 296-3421. www.kansasregents.org.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Kansas.

Benefit is 66 2/3% of employee's wages for spouse or spouse and child(ren). *Total maximum payable is \$200,000 excluding dependent children.* Benefits are subject to UI and Social Security benefit offsets. There is also a maximum burial allowance of \$5,000.

Surviving spouse receives a lump sum equal to 100 weeks of compensation upon remarriage and weekly benefits cease. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if physically or mentally disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students.

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.

For more information visit Division of Workers' Compensation of the Kansas Department of Human Resources, www.dol.ks.gov. or call (785) 296-4000.

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 (800) 784-2611 or visit www.nationalcops.org/chap.htm for information on a chapter in your area.**

A memorial to law enforcement officers is located on the northwest grounds of the Capitol in Topeka, KS.

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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