To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics: Submit written request to PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164. Office: (651) 201-5000. www.health.state.mn.us

STATE DEATH BENEFITS
LAWS OF MINNESOTA FOR 1990 Sec. 4 (299A.44)

On certification to the governor by the commissioner of public safety that a public safety officer employed within this state has been killed in the line of duty, leaving a spouse or one or more eligible dependents, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall pay $100,000 from the public safety officer’s benefit account, as follows:

(1) To the spouse if there is no dependent child;
   “Dependent child” means a person who is unmarried and who was either living with or was receiving support contributions from the public safety officer at the time of death, including a child by birth, a stepchild, an adopted child, or a posthumous child, and who is:

   * under 18 years of age; or
   * over 18 years of age and incapable of self-support because of physical or mental disability; or
   * over 18 years of age and a student as defined by United States Code, title 5, section 8101.

(2) If there is no spouse, to the dependent child or children in equal shares;

(3) If there are both a spouse and one or more dependent children, one-half to the spouse and one-half to the child or children, in equal shares; or

(4) If there is no surviving spouse or dependent child or children or children, to the parent or parents dependent for support on the decedent, in equal shares; or

(5) If there is no surviving spouse, dependent child, or dependent parent, then no payment may be made from the public safety officer’s benefit fund.
EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
Minnesota does have an educational benefit for dependent children less than 23 years of age and the surviving spouse of a public safety officer killed in the line of duty on or after January, 1973. They are eligible to receive up to a baccalaureate degree at a Minnesota public post-secondary institution, or a private college or university located in Minnesota. The amount of the award is the actual tuition and fees at public institutions, and for private institutions, the lesser of (i) the actual tuition and fees charged by the institution or (ii) the highest tuition and fees charged by a public institution in Minnesota. This benefit does not extend to colleges outside of Minnesota.

If a public safety officer is killed in the line of duty in Minnesota, and the spouse or dependents leave the state, there is nothing that would prevent any of them from returning to Minnesota to attend a public or private college within the state.

For more information contact the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55108. Office: (651) 642-0533.

Surviving spouses and children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty may also apply for scholarships through the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association, www.mnlema.org

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
Workers’ Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Minnesota. Benefit for spouse only is 50% of employee’s wage and 66 2/3% for spouse with child(ren). Benefits are subject to Social Security benefit offsets. There is a maximum burial allowance of $15,000. Surviving spouse with no child(ren) will receive benefits for 10 years. Surviving spouse with child(ren) receives benefits until last child is no longer dependent plus 10 years. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if disabled or until age 25 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 contact the Workers’ Compensation Division of the State Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155. Office: (651) 284-5005. www.dli.mn.gov/workcomp.asp
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
ACTIVE (not terminated from employment)

Line of Duty Death: Spouse is eligible for 60 percent of average salary rate (AS) in effect during the last six months preceding death. Dependent children up to age 18, or full-time students between age 18 and 23, are eligible for 10 percent of AS. Maximum benefit payable per family is 80 percent and the minimum benefit payable is 60 percent of AS.

Non Duty Death: If the member is vested, a spouse is eligible for 50 percent of average salary rate (AS) in effect during the last six months preceding death. Dependent children are eligible for 10 percent of AS. Maximum benefit payable per family is 70 percent and the minimum benefit payable is 50 percent of AS. If the member is not vested, a refund of employee contributions is payable to the beneficiary.

DEFERRED (terminated from employment and not collecting a benefit - usually because member is not yet old enough to collect)

Member dies before age 50: Refund of member contributions to beneficiary.

Member dies after age 50: Spouse eligible for 100 percent joint and survivor annuity the member would have qualified for on the date of death. Dependent child benefits are not payable.

DISABILITY BENEFIT RECIPIENT

There are four types of disability; 1) Regular 2) Regular-Total and Permanent 3) Duty 4) Duty-Total and Permanent.

For all types of disability except “duty-total permanent” a survivor annuity is payable according to option selected on Disability Application, i.e. Single-Life, 25 percent, 50 percent, 75 percent or 100 percent survivor option. In addition, dependent children are eligible for 10 percent of AS. Maximum benefit payable per family is 70 percent and the minimum benefit payable is 50 percent of AS.
If the member was receiving a “duty-total permanent disability” and dies of their disabling condition, the spouse is eligible for 60 percent of average salary rate (AS) in effect during the last six months preceding disability effective date. Dependent children are eligible for 10 percent of AS. Maximum benefit payable per family is 80 percent and the minimum benefit payable is 60 percent of AS. Benefits also include any cost of living type increases granted on the disability benefit.

If the member was receiving a “duty-total permanent disability” and the death is not related to the disabling condition, the spouse is eligible for 50 percent of average salary rate (AS) in effect during the last six months preceding disability effective date. Dependent children are eligible for 10 percent of AS. Maximum benefit payable per family is 70 percent and the minimum benefit payable is 50 percent. Benefits also include any cost of living type increases granted on the disability benefit.

RETIREMENT BENEFIT RECIPIENTS

Survivor annuity paid according to the option elected on Retirement Application.

*Submitting certified copies of your spouse’s and children’s birth records and your marriage record now would save your survivors some inconvenience in the event of your death prior to retirement.*

Members of the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota may obtain additional information by contacting PERA, 60 Empire DR, STE 200, St. Paul, MN 55103. (651) 296-7460.

Members of the Minnesota State Retirement System may obtain additional information by writing or calling MSRS, 60 Empire DR, STE 300, St. Paul, MN 55103. (651) 296-2761.

Some pension benefits in Minnesota are tax-exempt. Check with your Pension Fund Administrator and your tax preparer.

**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](http://www.nationalcops.org/chap.htm) for information on a chapter in your area.
MPPOA  

CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS BOARD  
Minnesota does have a Crime Victim Reparations Board that will provide benefits to victimized public safety officers. Such benefits will vary from claim to claim, but might include reasonable expenses for funeral, burial or cremation, medical bills, contributions of money, etc. Claims would be filed with the Crime Victim Reparations Board and would be reviewed for possible payments. Contact the Crime Victims’ Reparaton Board, 445 Minnesota ST Suite 2300, Saint Paul, MN 55101. Office: (651) 201-7300. [www.dps.mn.gov](http://www.dps.mn.gov)

100 CLUB  
There is a statewide private organization called the Minnesota 100 Club. This organization of private citizens provides an immediate contribution of up to $3,500 to the family of a public safety officer killed in the line of duty. This donation is usually delivered within 24 to 48 hours of the tragedy. The Minnesota 100 Club has been known to provide the same benefit to public safety officers who have been seriously injured and disabled in the line of duty. Contact the Minnesota 100 Club, PO Box 18784, Minneapolis, MN 55418. [www.minnesota100club.com](http://www.minnesota100club.com)

STATE MEMORIAL  
The State Memorial for officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty is located in St. Paul at the State Capitol grounds. For further information contact the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association, 614 Aqua Circle, Lino Lakes, MN 55014. Office (763) 542-8645.

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](http://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](http://www.wilbert.com) or call (888) WILBERT.