To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics: Submit written request to PO Box 1700, Jackson, MS 39215. Office: (601) 576-7960. www.msdh.state.ms.us

**STATE DEATH BENEFITS**
In 1999, the governor signed into law a bill that authorizes a one-time state death benefit when a law enforcement officer, while engaged in the performance of the officer’s law enforcement duties, is accidentally or intentionally killed or receives accidental or intentional bodily injury that results in the loss of the officer's life, provided that the killing is not the result of suicide and that the bodily injury is not intentionally self-inflicted. As of July 1, 2014, this benefit is $100,000. The payment shall be made to the beneficiary that was designated in writing by the law enforcement officer, signed by the officer, and delivered to the employer during the officer's lifetime. If no such designation is made then the payment shall be made to the officer's surviving child or children and spouse in equal portions, and if there is no surviving child or spouse, then to the officer’s parent or parents. If a beneficiary is not designated and there is no surviving child, spouse or parent, then the payment shall be made to the officer's estate.

To access forms visit www.dps.state.ms.us

**EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**
The Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship Program offers scholarships to the spouses and children (natural, adopted or stepchildren) of full-time Mississippi law enforcement officers and the spouses and children of full-time Mississippi firemen/firefighters who were fatally injured or totally disabled from injuries which occurred while performing official duties.

Under the program, the amount of assistance available is tuition plus the average cost of a dormitory room plus required fees plus applicable course fees. The Scholarship does not include books, food, school supplies and materials, school dues or fees for extracurricular activities. Recipients are entitled to 8 semesters of scholarship assistance; however, children are only entitled to the Scholarship until the age of 23.

To be eligible, the surviving spouse or child must be a current legal Mississippi resident and be enrolled as a full-time student at a Mississippi state-supported college or
university. There are no service/repayment requirements for this Scholarship. There is no application priority date for this Scholarship Program. For more information contact the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship at http://riseupms.com/state-aid/mleof/

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**
Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Mississippi with 5 or more employees. Compensation for disability or in death cases shall not exceed 66 2/3% of the average weekly wages for the state per week. There is a maximum burial allowance of $5,000. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if 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 contact the Workers' Compensation Commission at PO Box 5300, Jackson, MS 39296. Office: (866) 473-6922. www.mwcc.state.ms.us

**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.
The Mississippi State Troopers Association provides death benefits in addition to the above outlined benefits. The member’s beneficiary receives $5,000 resulting from death caused by accident or natural causes. Visit [www.mstroopers.com](http://www.mstroopers.com) for more information.

The state police memorial is located at Mississippi Department of Public Safety, 1900 East Woodrow Wilson Drive, Jackson, MS 39216.

**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.