To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics: Submit written request to 111 N Sanders ST Room 6, Helena, MT 59604. Office: (888) 877-1946. www.dphhs.mt.gov

**STATE DEATH BENEFITS**

One Time Death Benefit Payment: A lump sum benefit is paid by the Municipal Police Officers' Retirement System (MPORS) only if either:

*The police officer dies leaving no surviving spouse or dependent children,

*The police officer dies after termination of employment and prior to age 50 with at least 10 years of service.

Amount: Member’s contributions plus interest on account at the time of disbursement. Continuing Survivor's Benefits: When a member of the MPORS dies while an active member of the retirement system, his survivor(s) receive a benefit equal to 50% of the member's final average salary (FAS) or 2.5% of the member's FAS for each year of service, whichever is more. These benefits are paid for life to the surviving spouse, split between the member's surviving dependent children for as long as one or more remain dependent. Benefits are subject to minimum benefit adjustments. For more information contact the Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration, PO Box 200131, Helena, MT 59620. Office: (406) 444-3154. www.mpera.mt.gov.

**EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

Statute Reference: 20-25-421(5), MCA. University tuition waivers for survivors of deceased law enforcement officers. The regents of the University System may waive tuition charges for qualified survivors of Montana firefighters or peace officers killed in the course and scope of employment.

For purposes of this subsection, a qualified survivor is a person who meets the entrance requirements at the state university or college of his choice and is the surviving spouse or child of any of the following who were killed in the course and scope of employment: a paid or volunteer member of a municipal or rural fire department; a law enforcement officer as defined in 7-32-201; or a full-time highway patrol officer.
At the time of application for enrollment, the prospective student should tell the school of their survivorship status and request a tuition waiver.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**
Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Montana; however, waivers are allowed.

Benefit for a spouse or a spouse with child(ren) is 66 2/3% of the employee's wage with a minimum weekly benefit of $354.00 or a maximum weekly benefit of $708.00. Spouse receives benefits for up to 500 weeks, unless the spouse remarries, then benefits will no longer be received. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if disabled, or until age 22 if full-time students or if they are enrolled in an accredited apprenticeship program.

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 Department of Labor and Industry, PO Box 8011, Helena, MT 59604. Office: (406) 444-6543. [www.erd.dli.mt.gov](http://www.erd.dli.mt.gov).

**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](http://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.