To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics: Submit written request to 1903 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699. Office: (919) 733-3000. www.vitalrecords.nc.gov

**STATE DEATH BENEFITS**

*Law Enforcement Officer’s Death Benefit Act*

(G.S. Chapter 143, Art. 12A)

Monetary
- $50,000 maximum total benefit.
- $20,000 upon death, then $10,000 annually for three years.

Eligibility
- Full-time law enforcement officer.
- Killed in the line of duty.
- Benefits from other sources are not affected by nor interfere with this Act.
- Benefits Payable to: (listed in order of priority)

Benefits Payable
- Spouse (Must have been married at least 6 months prior to incident. Contact the NC Industrial Commission regarding possible remarriage penalties)
- Children.
- Parents

Benefits are exempt from State and local taxes.


*Separate Insurance Benefits Plan for State and Local governmental Law Enforcement Officers*

(G.S. Chapter 143, Art. 12F).

Monetary
- A group life insurance benefit for active duty officers of no more than $5,000.
- A group life insurance benefit for former officers of no more than $4,000.
- An accidental line-of-duty death benefit of no more than $2,100.

Eligibility
- All law Enforcement officers employed by State or Local governments.
- Former law enforcement officers previously employed by State or Local governments more years of service or who are receiving a disability retirement allowance or benefits from the Disability Income Plan.
Is separate and apart from the TSERS and LGERS (membership in either system is not a prerequisite).

Must have been a member 6 months prior to death, or if an actively employed officer and death results from an accident at any time after employment.

No dues or contributions-funded through costs of court assessed in criminal cases.

Benefits Payable to:
- Surviving spouse or estate if no beneficiary is named, or to another person if the officer specifies in writing to the Board of Trustee.
- Benefits are non-forfeitable and exempt from levy, sale, garnishment, or from any State or Local taxes.

To file a claim, contact the Member Services Section of the Retirement Systems Division of the Department of State Treasurer, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603. Office: (919) 508-5176. www.nctreasurer.com

**EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

North Carolina General Statutes – Chapter 115B.

The constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina and the community colleges as defined in G.S. 115D-2 shall permit any person who is the survivor of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker killed on or after October 1, 1997, as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty to attend classes for credit or noncredit purposes without the required payment of tuition. Section 115B-1 defines survivor as any person whose parent or spouse was a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a volunteer firefighter, or a rescue squad worker, killed while in active service or training for active service or died as a result of a service-connected disability, and at the time of active service or training was a North Carolina resident. The term does not include the widow or widower of such person if the widow or widower has remarried. The financial aid offices of the North Carolina institutions shall waive the tuition when proof of survivor status has been submitted.

**ADDITIONAL BENEFIT**

The North Carolina Bar Association offers scholarships to children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The scholarship is based on need and merit. The recipient must be under 27 years old and must be accepted or enrolled at an accepted vocational school or institute of higher education.

The scholarships are disbursed twice a year to qualifying children. The amount of the scholarship depends on the amount allotted from the North Carolina Bar Foundation Endowment Fund. A child may apply for and receive the scholarship more than once.
WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers with 3 or more employees in North Carolina; however, waivers are permitted. 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.

Workers' Compensation Act
(G.S. Chapter 97)

Monetary
- Weekly compensation payments equal to 66 2/3% of the average weekly wage of the deceased employee at the time of the accident with a minimum weekly benefit of $30 and a maximum benefit of $816 per week for a maximum period of 400 weeks.
- The maximum is updated annually and is based on average weekly wages in North Carolina.
- $10,000 maximum burial expenses are also provided

Special Situations
- Spouse unable to support self because of physical or mental disability which existed when employee dies, shall receive compensation for lifetime or until remarriage.
- Dependent child receives compensation beyond the 500-week limit until 18 years old.

Eligibility
- Death must be accidental and work related.
- Employee or his representative must give written notice within 30 days of occurrence of accident, including full details.
- Claim must be filled within two years of occurrence of accident which caused death.

Filing requirements for those employees who become disabled and then die as a result of this injury differ from the general rule, and can be found in G.S. 97-38.

Benefits Payable to: (listed in order of priority)
- Dependents
- Next of kin as defined by G.S. 97-40.
All compensation is exempt from creditors’ claims and state taxes. To file a claim, contact the North Carolina Industrial Commission, 4340 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4340. Office: (919) 807-2501. www.ic.nc.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
Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS)
Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS)
(G.S. Chapter 135) and G.S. Chapter 128) Amended 2009

Explanation
  o TSERS applies to law enforcement officers employed by the State. (Includes Highway Patrol, SBI, ALE, DMV, etc.)
  o LGERS applies to law enforcement officers employed by cities and counties. (Includes Sheriff Departments, City Police, etc.)

Monetary
  o MAXIMUM payment in Lump Sum.
  o Specifically, the payment shall be equal to the highest salary during 12 months in a row during the 24 months prior to death.

Eligibility
  o A law enforcement officer
  o Has contributed 6% of the officer's salary for at least one year.
  o An officer who has died within 180 days from last day of actual service shall be deemed to be in service at the date of the officer's death.

Survivor's Alternate Benefit
  o If the officer named only one beneficiary and the officer was 50 with 15 years of service, or was 55 with 5 years of service, or had 30 years of service, then that beneficiary has the option of receiving a refund of the member's accumulated contributions, or
  o The principal designated beneficiary may elect to receive in lieu thereof, a monthly life-time benefit, providing the officer had 15 years of service as a law enforcement officer and was killed in the line of duty. For details on the reduced retirement allowance and the calculation of benefits, contact the Member Services Section of the Retirement Systems Division of the Department of State Treasurer.
Benefits Payable to:
  o Any named beneficiary.

Benefits are exempt from state or city taxes, or from levy and sale, garnishment, attachment or any other process.

To file claim, contact the Member Services Section of the Retirement Systems Division of the Department of State Treasurer, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603. Office: (919) 508-5176. www.nctreasurer.com

**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 North Carolina State Lodge of the **Fraternal Order of Police** provides a life insurance policy for their member which pays a basic benefit of $3,000 for a death by natural causes. An additional benefit of $3,000 in the event of an accidental death, and another $3,000 in the event of line of duty death. i.e.: Natural -$3,000; Accidental - $6,000; Line of Duty - $9,000.

If a member dies for any reason, the death benefit claims form must be filled out and submitted along with the death certificate (with a raised seal) and sent to the State Office for processing. A copy of the police report if, an accidental or line of duty death, must be attached.

For more information contact: North Carolina State Fraternal Order of Police, 1500 Walnut Street, Cary, NC  27511-5927. Office: (919) 461-4939. www.ncfop.org

The **North Carolina Law Enforcement Officers’ Association** provides a $2,500 benefit for officers killed in the line of duty. Annual membership dues must be current and only active association members are considered eligible for this benefit. Designated beneficiaries may file a claim by contacting the Association.

The **North Carolina State Law Enforcement Officers’ Association** provides a $1,000 survivor benefit to the beneficiaries of active duty sworn law enforcement officers in good standing with dues paid.

Contact: North Carolina Law Enforcement Officers’ Association, PO Box 41368, Raleigh, NC 27629. Office: (919) 876-0687. www.ncleoa.org
Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc.
The PBA member’s beneficiary will receive their base salary for one year if they are killed accidentally or intentionally while performing their law enforcement duties (maximum payout: $60,000). The beneficiary will receive $5,000 if it is not an occupational death or if you are a retired or reserve member. Any active Southern States PBA member in good standing and dues current will receive this benefit. Effective December 1, 2007, there is also a benefit clause which covers death due to heart or circulatory malfunction.


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.