NORTH DAKOTA
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 600 E Boulevard, Dept. 301, Bismarck, ND 58505. Office: (701) 328-2360. www.ndhealth.gov

STATE DEATH BENEFITS
There is no one-time benefit available.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
15-10-18.5
Free tuition is available in North Dakota institutions of higher education for surviving children of emergency medical service personnel, peace officers, and fire fighters. To be eligible, the child must be age 21 or younger at the time of the death. Should a peace officer or fire fighter die as a direct result of injuries received in performance of official duties, the survivor, upon being duly accepted for enrollment into any North Dakota state-supported university, college, or technical or vocational school, must be allowed to obtain a bachelors degree, or certificate of completion, for so long as the survivor is eligible, free of any tuition and fee charges, except those charged to retire outstanding bonds; provided, however, that the bachelors degree or certificate of completion is earned within a forty-five-month, or ten-semester period, or its equivalent; and further provided that tuition and fee charges may not include costs for aviation flight charges or expenses.

For more information contact the North Dakota University System - State Board of Higher Education, 10th Floor State Capitol, 600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept. 215, Bismarck, ND 58505. Office: (701) 328-2960. www.ndus.nodak.edu

Legislation was recently passed which will allow the Workers’ Compensation Bureau to establish a scholarship fund for surviving dependent children and spouses. The total fund shall not exceed $10,000 per year, for no more than five years.

For more information contact the North Dakota Workers’ Compensation Bureau, 1600 E Century AVE Suite 1, Bismarck, ND 58503. Office: (800) 777-5033. www.workforcesafety.com
WORKERS' COMPENSATION
Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in North Dakota. Benefits are 66 2/3% of the employee's wage for a spouse only or a spouse with child(ren) until remarriage. 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 North Dakota Workers' Compensation Bureau, 1600 E Century AVE #1, Bismarck, ND 58503. Office: (701) 328-3800. www.workforcesafety.com

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. For more information, contact the Benefits Coordinator at your agency.

North Dakota pays the premium for regular (non-temporary) employees who work more than 20 hours per week. Temporary employees who work a minimum of 20 hours per week and at least 20 weeks each year may purchase health insurance or the employing agency may pay the premium subject to budget authority.

RETIREMENT/PENSION
Many cities and counties have their own benefits programs for law enforcement officers employed by those political subdivisions. Individual pension and retirement programs, including disability programs, may also be provided by these governmental units. Check with your police department for pension benefits that may be available to you and your family.

Law enforcement officers employed by the State of North Dakota may be under either the North Dakota Highway Patrolmen's Retirement System or the general state retirement system. You may wish to contact the North Dakota Employees Retirement System for any details concerning benefits available to state peace officers under either the North Dakota Highway Patrolmen's Retirement System or the general state employee retirement system. For more information, contact the Public Employees Retirement System, 400 E Broadway Avenue Suite 505, Bismarck, ND 58501. (Mailing: PO Box 1657, Bismarck, ND 58502. Office: (701) 328-3900.)
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 at (573) 346-4911 or visit https://www.nationalcops.org/localchapters.html for information on a chapter in your area.

North Dakota dedicated their new law enforcement memorial in May 1994. It is located on the State Capitol Grounds in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The North Dakota Peace Officers Association: offers financial and scholarship assistance. For more information contact the NDPOA at 1210 9th ST SW, Jamestown, ND 58401. Office: (701) 952-0208. www.ndpoa.org

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.