OKLAHOMA

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 PO Box 53551, Oklahoma City, OK 73152. Office: (405) 271-4040. www.ok.gov/health

STATE DEATH BENEFITS
No one-time benefit is available.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
Children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty may attend any Oklahoma state college or university tuition free. The waiver of tuition is limited to a period of five (5) years. For more information contact the Oklahoma Higher Education Commission, 655 Research Parkway STE 200, Oklahoma City, OK 73104. Office: (405) 225-9100. www.okhighered.org.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
Workers’ Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Oklahoma. Benefit is 70% of the State’s Average Weekly Wage for spouse with child(ren). Lump Sum Death Benefits are payable as follows:

• Spouse: $100,000
• Up to $10,000 for funeral expenses
• Spouse and One (1) Child: Spouse $100,000; Child: $25,000 to be placed in trust at the Court’s discretion.
• Spouse and Two (2) or more children: Spouse $100,000; Children: Divide $50,000 equally to be placed in trust for each child at the Court’s discretion.
• No spouse, one or more children: Children: $25,000 per child, up to a maximum of $150,000, divided equally to be placed in trust for each child at the Court’s discretion.
• No dependents or heirs-at-law: A maximum of $8,000 for funeral expenses.

Two-year lump sum payable to spouse upon remarriage and weekly benefits cease. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond 18 if disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students. For more information contact the Workers’ Compensation Court, 1915 North Stiles AVE, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Office: (405) 522-8600. www.owcc.state.ok.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.

For eligible members, the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System pays a death benefit of $4,000. A monthly pension not to exceed the accrued retirement benefit or normal disability benefit is paid to the spouse until the children reach the age of 18.

House Bill 1035 was signed into law on May 3, 1993. This new law allows surviving spouses to remarry and keep their pension. Once a surviving spouse starts receiving retirement benefits, that spouse will continue to receive the benefit until their death.

Upon the death of any member prior to retirement, a monthly pension shall be paid which shall be in an amount as provided below:

1. If the member was not retired and death occurred as the direct result of the performance of the member’s duties as an officer, an amount equal to the monthly payments which would have been received by the member had the member been totally disabled.

The pension should be paid:

1. To the surviving spouse provided the surviving spouse was married to the member continuously for the thirty-six months immediately preceding the member’s retirement date, provided surviving spouse of a member who died while in, or as a consequence of, the performance of the member’s duty for the employer, shall not be subject to the thirty-six month marriage requirement for survivor benefits. Upon remarriage of the surviving spouse, benefits would not be changed.

2. If there is no eligible surviving spouse or upon the death of a spouse, to the person having the care and custody of any surviving child or children of said member for such time as such
child or children are under the age of eighteen (18) years; or

3. If there be no surviving spouse or children under the age of eighteen (18), to the dependent parent or parents of said member, for life.

In addition to the pension above provided for, if said member leaves a surviving spouse and one or more children under the age of eighteen (18) years, One Hundred Dollars ($100) a month shall be paid from said Fund for the support of each surviving child to the person having the care and custody of such children during such time as said spouse remains alive and until each child reaches the age of eighteen (18).

Your surviving spouse and eligible dependents have 60 days to notify OSEEGIB they wish to continue insurance coverage. Your surviving spouse may continue insurance coverage as long as premiums are paid. A surviving spouse will pay the primary member rate, and retirement system contributions will not apply. Your surviving dependent children may continue coverage until:
- They reach age 25
- They qualify for other group coverage
- They get married

Surviving dependent children who elect self coverage will have an account set up as a member, but will continue to pay the child premium rate. Dependent children can also continue life insurance.

For additional information members may contact the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System, 421 NW 13th ST, STE 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73103. (405) 522-4931.

**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.

The Oklahoma State Lodge of the FOP will pay a death benefit of $500. For more information on benefits available contact their website at [www.okfop.org](http://www.okfop.org).
For benefits offered by the **Oklahoma State Troopers Association** visit their website at [www.ostaonline.org](http://www.ostaonline.org).

An **Oklahoma Law Enforcement Memorial** is located at The Department of Public Safety State Headquarters, 3600 N. King Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. For more information visit their website at [www.oklemem.com](http://www.oklemem.com).

**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.