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

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
South Dakota Law 13-55-22 provides for tuition-free attendance at South Dakota state-supported universities and vocational schools for the surviving children of certain law enforcement officers and firefighters who die as a direct result of injuries received in the performance of official duties. Refer to SDCL 13-55-21, 13-55-22 and 13-55B-1 for further explanations of benefits and requirements. Benefit applicant should contact the Admissions Office of the state-supported school where attendance is desired for assistance in filing for this benefit.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in South Dakota; however, waivers are allowed.
If a work-related injury causes death, compensation is payable to the employee's spouse at the rate of 66.67 percent of the employee's average weekly wage (excluding overtime earnings). If the spouse remarries, a lump sum equal to two years of compensation will be paid. If there are eligible surviving children of the employee, the compensation becomes payable to them two years after the date of remarriage.
If the only survivors are children, the child or children receive compensation at the rate of 66.67 percent of the average weekly wage of the employee until age 18 (or age 22 if a full-time student). If a child is physically or mentally incapable of self-support, benefits will be paid for the life of the child.
An additional $50 per month must be paid to each legally dependent child of the deceased employee from the date of the employee's death until that child reaches the age of 18 years. A deceased employee’s dependents are each also entitled to $2,000 a year for up to five years if they are enrolled full-time at an accredited post-secondary educational institution in South Dakota. Worker’s compensation also provides up to $10,000 in burial expenses, plus the cost of transporting the body if death occurs outside the community where the employee is to be buried.
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 Fraternal Order of Police South Dakota State Lodge- For more information on benefits available to survivors please visit www.sodakfop.org.

South Dakota Peace Officers Association – For more information on benefits available to survivors please visit www.southdakotapoa.com.

Labor Union - Members of labor unions may be provided with life insurance. Contact appropriate local union office to determine what benefits may be provided.
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.