STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Currently there is no one time death benefit in South Carolina.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

South Carolina State Statute 59-111-110
College tuition is not charged for 4 years at a state supported college, university, vocational or technical school for all children.

Spouses are not eligible for state assistance under this law.

To apply, speak to the financial aid office of the school you wish to attend. More information can be found on the South Carolina Commission of Higher Education website https://www.che.sc.gov/Students.FamiliesMilitary/PayingForCollege/FinancialAssistanceAvailable/ScholarshipGrantGuidelines,RegsLegislation.aspx

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS – provides financial assistance of up to $1,500 per semester to surviving children and surviving spouses of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, according to C.O.P.S. criteria, who wish to pursue a course of study beyond high school. Since there is a tuition-free education benefit available in your state, you must first apply for and be denied by the state or the institution to be eligible for the C.O.P.S. scholarship.

How to Apply: https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/scholarship

The Public Safety Officers’ Education Assistance (PSOEA) Program provides financial assistance, for the purpose of seeking higher education, to the spouses and eligible children of local police, fire, and emergency public safety officers who have been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

Educational assistance through the PSOEA Program is available after the Public Safety Officers’ Benefit (PSOB) death or disability claim process has been completed and benefits have been awarded. Call (888) 744-6513 or visit https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/benefits/ or more information.

KIDS CHANCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA – To be eligible for a scholarship grant, applicants must have a parent who has been killed or seriously injured as a result of a work related incident that meets the criteria of the Workers’ Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need. Applicants must be under 25 years of age.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.) // (573) 346-4911 // cops@nationalcops.org
CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG
This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

Revised 2020
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Workers’ Compensation Act South Carolina General Statutes Section 42-9-290
If a worker dies because of work-related injuries, the workers’ dependents, or parents if there are no dependents, must file a claim within two years of the death to claim benefits. Death benefits are available for 500 weeks of compensation at 66 2/3 of weekly wage with a maximum weekly benefit of $866.67. Two-year lump sum payable to spouse upon remarriage and weekly benefits cease. Children receive benefits beyond age 19 if disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students.

For questions about your claim email the South Carolina Workers’ Compensation Commission at claims@saf.sc.gov, call (803) 896-5800 or visit https://wcc.sc.gov/.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS’ BENEFITS (PSOB) PROGRAM

A unique effort of the U.S. Department of Justice; local, state, tribal, and federal public safety agencies; and national organizations, the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death and education benefits to survivors of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders, and disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

The claim has two parts (A&B) that require the agency and family to fill out online. Visit psob.gov for additional filing information.

If you need assistance filing this claim, contact the National C.O.P.S. office at (573) 346-4911 or cops@nationalcops.org

STATE LIFE INSURANCE & RETIREMENT

Check with your agency to see if you are eligible for State Life Insurance or death benefits from a Retirement system. You can also visit: Police Officers Retirement System (SCPEBA) https://www.peba.sc.gov/pors

HEALTH BENEFITS

The state will pay the premium for spouses and dependents of officers that were covered by the state health and dental insurance for one year. After the 12-month period, a spouse or dependent may elect to continue the coverage with some employers paying part of the premium.

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

**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION** pays a maximum amount for funeral expenses of $12,000. See Workers’ Compensation section above.

**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 at [https://www.dignitymemorial.com/](https://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 [https://www.wilbert.com/](https://www.wilbert.com/) or call (888) WILBERT.

**ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

**PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**

**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 professionals, and local peer-support organizations to provide assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. provides Hands-On Programs, training for law enforcement, National Police Week registration/accommodations, scholarships, counseling and so much more to surviving families and co-workers.

For complete information, visit [concernsofpolicesurvivors.org](http://concernsofpolicesurvivors.org); email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org) or call (573) 346-4911. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST.

**SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT**

Spouses, children, or parents may be eligible for Social Security Benefits. To apply for benefits, call (800) 772-1213 to speak to a Social Security representative or visit your local Social Security Office. You cannot report a death or apply for survivors benefits online. Visit [https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html](https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html) for more information.

The South Carolina Crime Victim Compensation Program may provide benefits to family members that have lost their officer due to a crime. Awards may be granted for things such as mental health counseling, funeral expenses, lost wages, etc. that aren’t covered by other sources.

For application instructions, visit the South Carolina Department Crime Victim Compensation at [http://www.sova.sc.gov/index.html](http://www.sova.sc.gov/index.html)

**SOUTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION** [https://www.sheriffsc.org/](https://www.sheriffsc.org/)

**SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION** [https://www.scpolicechiefs.org/](https://www.scpolicechiefs.org/)

**CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)** // (573) 346-4911 // [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG
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Revised 2020
SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION
https://wwwsspbaorg/gen/chapters/South_Carolina_Division_14jsp

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE or other labor/fraternal groups may provide a one-time death benefit to family members of a deceased member officer. Contact your local lodge for information.

SOUTH CAROLINA FOP https://scfoporg/

The 100 Club https://the100cluborg/

South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers' Association https://wwwscleoaorg/law-enforcement-memorial

First Responders Children's Foundation provides financial support to children who have lost a parent in the line of duty as well as families enduring significant financial hardships due to tragic circumstances. They also provide annual education scholarships to children of fallen heroes. For more information, call (646) 822-4236 or visit https://1strcforg.

Real Estate Tax Abatement Surviving spouses are exempt from real estate tax on their primary residence and up to one acre of land on which it resides as long as the spouse owns the residence in fee or for life. Abatement terminates upon remarriage.

For more information or for the application, contact the South Carolina Department of Revenue at (803) 898-5700 or visit https://dorscgov/tax/exempt-property

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:
City life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?