WISCONSIN

Death benefits available to the surviving families of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty

STATE DEATH BENEFIT / WORKERS' COMPENSATION

State Statue 102.475 Death benefit; law enforcement and correctional officers, fire fighters, rescue squad members, diving team members, national or state guard members and emergency management personnel.

1) SPECIAL BENEFIT: If the deceased employee is a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, fire fighter, rescue squad member, or diving team member, or if a deceased person is an employee or volunteer performing emergency management activities under Ch. 323 during a state of emergency or a circumstance described in s. 323.12 (2) (c), who sustained an accidental injury while performing services growing out of and incidental to that employment or volunteer activity so that benefits are payable under s. 102.46 or 102.47 (1), the department shall voucher and pay from the appropriation under s. 20.445 (1) (aa) a sum equal to 75 percent of the primary death benefit as of the date of death, but not less than $50,000 to the persons wholly dependent upon the deceased.

2) PAYMENTS TO DEPENDENTS
   a) If there are more than 4 persons who are wholly dependent upon the deceased employee an additional benefit of $2,000 shall be paid for each dependent in excess of 4.
   b) If there is more than one person who is wholly dependent upon the deceased employee, the benefits under this section shall be apportioned between such dependents on the same proportional basis as the primary death benefit.
   c) Notwithstanding sub. (1), if there are partial dependents of the deceased employee who are entitled to benefits under s. 102.48, they shall be entitled to such portion of the benefit determined under sub. (1) That their partial dependency.

3) ADDITIONAL DEATH BENEFIT FOR CHILDREN, STATE FUND
   a) Subject to any certificate filed under s. 102.65 (1), when the beneficiary under s. 102.46 or 102.47 (1) is the spouse or domestic partner under Ch. 770 of the deceased employee and is wholly dependent on the deceased employee for support, an additional death benefit shall be paid from the funds provided by sub. (2) For each child by their marriage or domestic partnership under Ch. 770 who is living at the time of the death of the employee and who is likewise wholly dependent on the deceased employee for support. That payment shall commence when primary death benefit payments are completed or, if advancement of compensation has been paid, when payments would normally have been completed. Payments shall continue at the rate of 10 percent of the surviving parent's weekly indemnity until the child's 18th birthday. If the child is physically or mentally incapacitated, payments may be continued beyond the child's 18th birthday but the payments may not continue for more than a total of 15 years.
   b) A child lawfully adopted by the deceased employee and the surviving spouse or domestic partner under Ch. 770, prior to the time of the injury, and a child not the deceased employee's own by birth or adoption but living with the deceased employee as a member of the deceased employee's family at the time of the injury shall for the purpose of this section be taken as a child by their marriage or domestic partnership under Ch. 770.
   c) If the employee leaves a spouse or domestic partner under Ch. 770 wholly dependent and also a child by a former marriage, domestic partnership under Ch. 770, or
adoption, likewise wholly dependent, aggregate benefits shall be the same in amount as if the child were the child of the surviving spouse or partner, and the entire benefit shall be apportioned to the dependents in the amounts that the department or the division determines to be just, considering the ages of the dependents and other factors bearing on dependency. The benefit awarded to the surviving spouse or partner shall not exceed 4 times the average annual earnings of the deceased employee.
https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/102/475/8/b for more information call the Wisconsin Workers Compensation Office at 608-266-1340 or visit https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc/

EDUCATION BENEFITS

At this time Wisconsin has no specific state educational benefit for children or spouses of officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

The PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' EDUCATION ASSISTANCE (PSOE) 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 PSOE Program is available after the Public Safety Officers’ Benefit (PSOB) death or disability claim process has been completed and benefits have been awarded.

Visit https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/ for more information and the application or call the PSOB Office toll-free at 1-888-744-6513 to discuss the requirements for receiving PSOE benefits.

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

KIDS CHANCE OF WISCONSIN - 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 Missouri Workers’ Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need.

For more information or to apply, visit https://kidschangeofwi.org/

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 https://psob.bja.ojp.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 the individual systems listed below. Wisconsin Retirement System Benefit 1-877-533-020 or benefits guide at https://etf.wi.gov/publications/et5103/direct

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.

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Workers Compensation Burial Benefit- 102.50 Burial expenses. In all cases in which the death of an employee proximately results from the injury, the employer or insurer shall pay the actual expense for burial, not exceeding $10,000. Wisconsin Workers Compensation Office at 608-266-1340 Reference https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/102/475/8/b

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/ 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/ 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 concernsofpolicewsurvivors.org; email 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#h6 for more information.

Victims Compensation Programs - There are victim/witness assistance programs located in each county of the state as well as the main office. Contact the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victims Services, 222 State Street, P.O. Box 7951, Madison, WI 53707. Office: (800) 446-6564 or visit their web site at https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs

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://1strcf.org.

American Police Hall of Fame offers compassionate programs for law enforcement families, yearly birthday and Holiday gifts for children, scholarships, summer camp funds and so much more. https://www.aphf.org/

The 100 Club https://the100club.org/

Wisconsin Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) https://wifop.org/index.html

Wisconsin Professional Police Association - A $500 death benefit is provided to the beneficiaries of its members who are killed in the line of duty. For more information contact the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, 813 Melbourne RD, Eagle, WI 53119. Office: 608-273-3840 https://wppa.com/

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial https://www.wlem.com/

Wisconsin Troopers Benevolent Foundation https://www.wisconsintrooper.org/

Wisconsin Chiefs of Police https://www.wichiefs.org/

Wisconsin Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Association https://wsdsa.org/