

Chapter 615 Claim Application | E.R.S.

State Peace Officer Line of Duty Death Benefit Application Process

ERS Notification of LODD

Email: survivorbenefits@ers.texas.gov

Email Subject: Fallen Officer's Name

Use the email address of the person assisting the family with this application

Send

From: dani.storystinson@txspom.org ▾

To

survivorbenefits@ers.texas.gov

 ×

Cc

Bcc

Craig Story - LODD 01/13/2010

Use the fallen officer's name here

The email should include the:

1. Officer's Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Provide marital and dependent status, including:
 - a. Name of current LEGAL Spouse
 - b. Name of dependent childrenIf there is no Spouse, provide the Names of Adult Children, if applicable
If no Spouse or Adult Children, provide Names of Parents, if applicable
4. Contact information: Phone and email address, if you have it available
5. Last known Address

6. Agency
7. Agency POC, if available
8. End of Watch

See Example Below



Motors Officer Craig Story

DOB: 12/11/19745

Married with 1 child, 1 Prospective Child (Spouse is pregnant)

Danielle Story – Spouse

John Barrett Story – Child, 2.5 years

Danielle's email: Danielle.story@gmail.com

Danielle's Phone: 817-320-2544

4402 Woodridge Drive

Arlington, Texas

Arlington Police Department

Sgt. Thom Kiker, Email and phone

EOW: 01/13/2010

Advocate & Agency Support – Initial Application Communication

- The Survivor Benefits Team will send the packet documents needed based on the specific dynamics of the family and officer's life. This is not a set of one size fits all. Allow them to send the documents to the family and the agency. A matched set of documents goes to the agency and the family.
- The Authorization to Release Information (ERS 2.969) is where any authorized advocates should be listed and confirmed with the family. This list may include the agency person completing the documents on

behalf of the family and agency, a peer support person such as the local C.O.P.S. representative, or the C.O.P.S. region trustee.

- If you are not on this list, you will not receive a response with the information you are seeking. Only the ones on the list may reach out and expect to receive an update.
- Additionally, the advocates are included in email or paper form, as needed when there is a lack of documents or information.

Submitting Application and Documents

- Submit the documents in PDF format only. Please do not send photographed scans, photos, or other formats such as docx, xls, etc.
- Submit the completed application to the address requested on the application forms.
- Please do not send cloud storage links as a replacement for the PDF or paper copies of the necessary documents. The Survivor Benefits team cannot access these.
- Medical records are required for any medical deaths. Those records should be mailed or shipped by the family, or the agency, saved to a USB drive, or burned to CD. The SBT cannot request them from the healthcare facility or healthcare providers, nor can they access links to the medical records.
- The application may be submitted mostly or partially complete. However, the application will not go into review until the application is complete.
- The family may submit a copy of the Death Certificate, Marriage License, or Declaration of Informal Marriage.

Status Checking

- The agency poc (Victim's Services, Peer and Family Support, and HR) or the C.O.P.S. Advocate (chapter member or trustee) attempting to check the status of a claim must be listed on the Authorization of Release of Information form.
- When emailing the SBT use the Survivor Benefits email address rather than sending everything to Jennifer Fahey. She is not the only one on the team. You may, however, email a member of the team including

Jennifer, if she has requested something you can provide related to the specific claim.

- Also, when emailing the SBT, please put the fallen officer's name in the subject box, the example is shown above. If you are checking on multiple officer claims, then please send separate emails.
- When there is a string of emails related to a single officer, please always use the same email thread to make it easier for the SBT and you to track the communications and details.

Special Circumstances

- Related to the SPOUSE: The current, legal spouse is the only one who can stand as the spousal claimant. This does not include girl/boyfriends, fiancés, significant others who were living with the fallen officer, “word-of-mouth” common-law spouses, or unmarried mothers of the fallen officer's dependent child(ren). The only way one of the latter can be included is if they can provide a Declaration of Informal Marriage, or some other court-ordered document stating that they are legally bound to the fallen officer. The application, however, would be for the fallen officer's dependent children, if the child's parents were not legally married.
- Related to STEP-CHILDREN: Stepchildren can NOT be included/considered when the child's other biological or, non-custodial parent is paying child support or has been claiming the child(ren) as a dependent on their taxes.