

# INDIANA



## DEATH BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

---

### STATE DEATH BENEFITS

---

**Indiana Code IC 36-8-8-20-** \$225,000 line-of-duty death benefit to surviving spouse or, if no surviving spouse, to surviving children if EOW is after July 1, 2020 or a \$150,000 line of duty benefit if EOW is before July 1, 2020. Death must have occurred as a direct result of personal injury or illness resulting from any action public safety officer is obligated or authorized to perform.

**Public Law 104-** An additional death benefit of \$15,000 (for deaths occurring on or after June 30, 2026 is paid to the heirs or estate of the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund. Supplemental Group Life Insurance may also apply if purchased previous to the fatality.

<https://www.in.gov/inprs/my-fund/police-firefighters/>

For more information, contact the Indiana Public Retirement System at (888) 526-1687 or visit [www.in.gov/inprs](http://www.in.gov/inprs)

### EDUCATION BENEFITS

---

**Indian Code Section 1. 1C 20-12-19.5-1** The Tuition and Fee Exemption for Children and Spouses of Public Safety Officers provides up to 100% of tuition and regularly assessed fees for up to 124 semester credit-hours at Indiana public colleges and universities at the undergraduate resident tuition rate. The maximum amount that an eligible applicant is exempt from paying for a semester hour is an amount equal to the cost of an undergraduate semester credit hour at the state educational institution in which the eligible applicant enrolls. Children must be under the age of 32 years old when first applying and becomes eligible for exemption.

At the time of enrollment, you must tell the appropriate department at the state supported college, university, or technical school that you are the surviving spouse or child as described above.

Contact the **Indiana Commission for Higher Education** at (888) 528-4719 or visit

<https://secure.in.gov/che/state-financial-aid/state-financial-aid-by-program/children-and-spouse-of-public-safety-officers/>

**CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS** – provides financial assistance of up to \$2,000 per semester with a maximum lifetime amount of \$16,000 to surviving children and surviving spouses of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, according to C.O.P.S. criteria,

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

CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG

This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

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>

**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.

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 PSOEA benefits.

**KIDS CHANCE OF INDIANA** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides scholarships for children (ages 16-25) of workers that have been killed or seriously injured in a compensable work-related accident or occupational disease. Scholarships are awarded once a year and students may apply every year for which they are eligible. Annual scholarships are determined based on the student's financial need.

For more information or to apply, call (812) 375-9800, email [Scholarships@kidschancein.org](mailto:Scholarships@kidschancein.org) or visit <https://www.kidschancein.org/scholarships/>

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

---

**Workers' Compensation** coverage is compulsory for employers in Indiana. The benefit is 66 2/3% of the employee's wage if survived by a spouse or a spouse and child(ren) for a maximum period of 500 weeks. There is also a maximum burial allowance of \$10,000. Children receive benefits beyond 21 if physically or mentally disabled. Two-year lump sum payable upon remarriage in cases where there are no children or the remainder of compensation, whichever is smaller. To receive workers' compensation benefits the surviving spouse must take the initiative and file a workers' compensation claim through a workers' compensation attorney to receive any compensation. The determination as to whether the claim will be paid will be determined by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

For more information, contact the **Workers' Compensation Board of Indiana Office:** (317) 232-3808. <https://www.in.gov/wcb/>

## **PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS (PSOB) PROGRAM**

---

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

CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG

This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

Revised 2026

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](mailto: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:

**Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF)** <https://www.in.gov/inprs/>

---

## HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

**IN Code § 5-10-18-4 (2024)** If the employer of a public safety officer who dies in the line of duty after December 31, 2017, offers health coverage for active employees, the employer shall offer to provide and pay for health coverage under the plan covering active employees for the surviving spouse and each natural child, stepchild, and adopted child of the public safety officer. Provides that health coverage for a surviving child continues: (1) until the child becomes 18 years of age; (2) until the child becomes 23 years of age, under certain circumstances; Contact your agency's benefits office for more information.

---

## FUNERAL BENEFITS

**Workers' Compensation** pays a maximum burial benefit of \$10,00. See the 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/> 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 **CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)** // (573) 346-4911 // [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG

This information is compiled by National C.O.P.S.

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.

Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office 573-346-4911, email [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org) or visit <https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/local-chapters> for information on a chapter in your area. 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> for more information.

**Indiana Crime Victims Compensation** may help cover expenses if your officer was killed due to a crime. Applications are available online. For more information, visit the **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute** at <https://www.in.gov/cji/2333.htm> or call (800) 353-1484

**FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE** or other labor/fraternal groups may provide a one-time death benefit and/or education benefits to family members of a deceased member officer. Visit [www.instatefop.org](http://www.instatefop.org) to find your local lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police.

**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>.

**OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:**

City life insurance?

Private life insurance?

County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?

Retirement Benefits? Real estate tax relief?