

KENTUCKY



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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Kentucky Revised Statute 61.315 There is a one-time payment of \$80,000 for line of duty deaths in Kentucky.

- a. To surviving spouse, if no surviving child.
- b. To surviving children and a surviving spouse, the payment shall be apportioned equally among the surviving children and the spouse.
- c. If no surviving spouse, the payment shall be made to the surviving children, eighteen (18) or more years of age.
- d. For surviving children less than eighteen (18) years of age, (a) Pay thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to the surviving children. (b) Hold forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) in trust divided into equal accounts at appropriate interest rates for each surviving child until the child reaches the age of eighteen (18) years.
- e. If no surviving children, then equally to parents of the deceased.

For more information, call the **Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training – Justice Program Administrator** at (502) 782-3639. Visit <https://justice.ky.gov/Departments-Agencies/ols/Pages/lodd.aspx> for application and instructions.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Kentucky Revised Statute 164.2841 and 164.2842 provides free tuition at state supported schools for survivors of a law enforcement officer killed in the line-of-duty. Contact your school's Office of Financial Aid for more information and application.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS – provides financial assistance of up to \$2,000 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.

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.

Educational assistance through the PSOE A 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 A benefits.

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation

In 2004, the foundation developed an educational scholarship program for law enforcement personnel including telecommunicators and their survivors or dependents. The foundation awards 25 scholarships annually – \$5,000 for survivors of fallen officers and \$1,500 to other dependents and as well to, currently employed peace officers and telecommunicators. For more information visit www.klemf.org or call 859-622-8081.

KIDS CHANCE OF KENTUCKY The applicant must be the natural, adopted, step-child or full dependent of a worker killed or permanently injured in a compensable work-related accident during the course and scope of employment with a Kentucky based employer and entitled to receive benefits under the Kentucky Workers' Compensation Act. The applicant must be between the ages of 16 and 25 at the time of the application and demonstrate substantial financial need. Academic achievement, aptitude and community service of the applicant are considered.

For additional details or to apply, email Kids Chance of Kentucky at info@kidschanceky.org or visit <http://www.kidschanceky.org/>

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Kentucky Revised Statute 342.750 For deaths occurring in 2021 the following schedule of weekly benefits applies:

- a. Widow or widower with no children-50% of average weekly wage of deceased
- b. Widow or widower with children living in the home-45% of the deceased average weekly wage plus 15% for each child
- c. Widow or widower with children not living in home-40% of average weekly wage of deceased plus 15% for each child
- d. One child, no widow or widower-50% of average weekly wage of deceased
- e. More than one child, no widow or widower-50% of average weekly wage of deceased for the first child with an additional 15% of average weekly wage of deceased for each additional child

The above is subject to the maximum of 75% of the average weekly wage of the deceased. Spouse receives a 2-year lump sum upon remarriage and weekly benefits are discontinued. Children qualify until the age of 18, or 22 if in college. Other dependent family members may qualify.

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Call the **Kentucky Labor Cabinet-Workers' Compensation Division** at (502) 564-5550 Visit <https://labor.ky.gov/comp/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

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:

Kentucky Retirement System (KRS) <https://kyret.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

In 2018, **Kentucky Revised Statute 61.702** was amended to ensure full and timely hospital and medical insurance benefits for the spouse and dependents of a member of the Kentucky Retirement Systems who died as a direct result of an act in line of duty or duty-related injury.

Contact the **Kentucky Retirement System** at <https://kyret.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx> for more information.

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Workers' Compensation A lump sum will be paid to the deceased estate to be used for burial expenses. 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/> 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.

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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.

Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office 573-346-4911, email 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.

The Kentucky Claims Commission, Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) may help when there are no other immediate resources available if the loss is related to a crime. For more information, call 502-782-8255. Forms can be found at http://kycc.ky.gov/newstatic/info.aspx?static_id=158&menuid=20

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation

Once the Kentucky monument was completed in 2000, the organization's mission evolved to include a service-oriented focus assisting members of the law enforcement community. At the time of a line of duty death, the next of kin will be presented a onetime donation of \$10,000. If an officer passes away while currently employed by a Kentucky agency due to an off-duty accident, illness or medical event, the foundation provides a onetime donation of \$5,000. Emergency and medical assistance to officers and their families in crisis due to an extended family illness, weather related catastrophes or loss of home is provided with a donation of "up to" \$2500. All these donations require a request from the leadership of the officer's current agency of employment. For more information visit www.klemf.org or call, [859-622-8081](tel:859-622-8081).

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE <https://kypolicechiefs.org/>

KENTUCKY PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION <http://www.kentuckypeaceofficers.org/>

KENTUCKY STATE POLICE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION <https://ksppa.com>

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KENTUCKY STATE POLICE FOUNDATION <https://kspfoundation.org/>

KENTUCKY STATE LODGE-FOP <https://kystatefop.com/>

NRA MEMBERS <https://home.nra.org/>

SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC www.sspba.org

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/about/>

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:

City life insurance?

Private life insurance?

County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?

Retirement Benefits?

Real estate tax relief?