

# LOUISIANA



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

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### STATE DEATH BENEFITS

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There is a one-time death benefit in Louisiana. The sum of \$250,000 shall be paid to the surviving spouse or, if not survived by a spouse, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the surviving child or children or, if not survived by a spouse nor a child or children, then the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the named beneficiary listed on the officer's designation form.

Contact the **Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor Benefit Review Board** by calling (225) 326-6127 or visit

<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BoardMembers.aspx?boardId=937>

### EDUCATION BENEFITS

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**Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:1681.1** provides free tuition at state-supported schools for survivors of a law enforcement officer killed in the line-of-duty.

A. Any child of a police officer, deputy sheriff, or adult probation and parole officer within the division of probation and parole of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections who was or is killed or permanently disabled after January 1, 1973, in the course and scope of the performance of his duties as such, which child is otherwise eligible and meets all of the entrance requirements of a college or university, shall be admitted to such college or university without the payment of any fees or other charges for tuition, books, reference manuals, and other aids to instruction required for any required course and, for full-time students only, room and board as long as such child meets the academic standards and complies with the rules and regulations of such college or university required for attendance therein.

B.(1) A scholarship awarded to a student pursuant to this Section shall be provided for the time period required for the student to earn one undergraduate degree or one vocational or technical certificate or diploma.

Contact your school's Office of Financial Aid for more information and application or visit the **Board of Regents** at <https://regents.la.gov/>.

**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, 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.

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

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

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.

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 LOUISIANA** provides scholarships to dependents of those killed on the job as determined by Workers' Compensation criteria. Applicants must be between the ages of 16-25 and demonstrate a substantial need.

For more information and application details, visit the **Louisiana Bar Association** at <https://raisingthebar.org/kids-chance-scholarship-program/>

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

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Benefit to surviving spouse only is 32 1/2% of employee's wage and to surviving spouse with child(ren) is 65% of employee's wage. A maximum burial allowance of \$8,500 is also allowed. As of August 1, 2020, payments continue for spouses after remarriage. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if physically or mentally disabled, or until age 23 if fulltime students. 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.

NOTE: Sheriff's departments in Louisiana do not pay Workers' Compensation premiums. They provide their own form of insurance.

For more information contact the **Office of Workers' Compensation Administration, Louisiana Department of Labor Office:** (225) 342-7582. [www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net)

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

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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

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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)

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## 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:

**Louisiana Municipal Police Employee Retirement System (LAMPERS)** <http://www.lampers.org>

**Louisiana State Police Retirement System (LSPRS)** <http://lsprs.org/>

**Louisiana Sheriff's Pension & Relief Fund (LSPRF)** <https://www.lsprf.com>

**Louisiana State Employees Retirement System (LASERS)** <http://lasersonline.org>

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## HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

### Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1665.2 (G)

**G.(1)** The employer of a law enforcement officer who suffers death as a result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official duties as an officer, or arising out of any activity while on or off duty in his capacity as a law enforcement officer in the protection of life or property shall provide and pay for health insurance coverage for the law enforcement officer's surviving spouse for two years following the death of the law enforcement officer and pay for health insurance coverage for the law enforcement officer's child, stepchild, or adopted child who is either: **(i)** Under the age of eighteen. **(ii)** Under the age of twenty-three and enrolled in and regularly attending a secondary school or is a full-time student at an accredited college or university. **(iii)** Physically or mentally disabled.

**(3)** If health insurance coverage is offered by the employer to active members, the health insurance provided to a surviving spouse or child pursuant to this Subsection shall be equal in coverage to that offered to active members.

Contact the benefits department of your agency for more information

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## FUNERAL BENEFITS

**Workers' Compensation** A maximum burial allowance of \$8,500 is allowed. 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

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<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

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### 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](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.

**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.

**LOUISIANA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL** <http://www.lleom.com/#/home>

**LOUISIANA STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION** <https://www.latroopers.org/>

**SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC** [www.sspba.org](http://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>.

**Louisiana Property Tax / Homestead Tax Exemption** – Contact your local assessor's office for the application and list of required documents. You must apply annually.

### OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:

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City life insurance?  
Private life insurance?  
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?  
Retirement Benefits?

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