

MASSACHUSETTS



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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

MA General Laws Part 1 Title IV Chapter 32 Section 100a- Killed in the line of duty benefit shall be a one-time payment of \$300,000 to the family of a deceased public safety employee who, while in the performance of his duties and as a result of incident, accident or violence, was killed or sustained injuries which were the direct and proximate cause of his death. This benefit is nontaxable by the commonwealth. The word "family" shall mean the surviving spouse of such deceased public safety employee or, if there is no surviving spouse, the child or children of such deceased public safety employee or, if there is no surviving child, the parent of such deceased public safety employee.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/> for more information.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Public Service Grant Program Established for students who have experienced the loss of a parent and/or spouse who is killed or missing in the line of public service duty in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. An eligible institution is defined as a public or independent college or university in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and is authorized by the Commonwealth to offer undergraduate degree programs.

For a student attending a Massachusetts public college or university, the award shall be equal to the cost of the institution's fulltime annual tuition charges. For a student attending a Massachusetts Independent College or University, the award shall be equal to the fulltime annual tuition charge at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. For more information or to apply, call the **Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Office of Student Financial Assistance** at (617) 391-6070 or visit <https://www.mass.edu/osfa/programs/publicservice.asp>

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.

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 MASSACHUSETTS - 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 Massachusetts Workers' Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.kidschanceofma.org/>

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The benefits are paid to the spouse or child of an employee who has died as the result of a work-related injury/illness. The surviving spouse may be eligible for a weekly benefit equal to two-thirds (2/3) of the deceased worker's average weekly wage, up to the maximum of the SAWW in place at the time of their injury/illness. The surviving spouse may be eligible for yearly cost of living adjustments (COLA) beginning two years after the date of the injury or illness. If the spouse remarries, \$60 a week is paid to each eligible dependent(s) child. The total weekly amount paid to dependent children cannot exceed the amount that would be paid to the surviving spouse. The benefits may continue for as long as they remain dependent (as determined by a 13 Judge) and do not remarry.

A child is eligible only if under age 18, a full-time student, or unable to work because of physical or mental disabilities.

For additional benefits, information or to apply visit the **Department of Industrial Accidents** at <https://www.mass.gov/workers-compensation-for-injured-workers> or call (617) 727-4900

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.

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.

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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:

Massachusetts state Retirement Board (MSRB) <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-state-retirement-board>

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

Health benefits vary depending upon agencies. Contact the Benefits Coordinator at your agency.

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Workers' Compensation Under Massachusetts law, worker's compensation shall pay the reasonable expenses of burial, not exceeding 8 times the average weekly wage in the commonwealth. See Workers' Compensation section above.

Massachusetts General Law MGL C.41, s.100G 1/4 Any city operating under a Plan D or Plan E charter, by the affirmative vote of a majority of its city council or any other city, by a majority vote of its city council with the approval of its mayor, and any town, by a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting, shall pay the reasonable expense, not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), of the funeral and burial of any police officer who while in the performance of his duty and as the result of an assault on his person, or a result of an accident while responding to an emergency while in the performance of his official duty or as result of an accident involving a police department vehicle which he is operating or in which he is riding is killed or sustains injuries which result in his death.

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.

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.

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.

MASSACHUSETTS VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION may help with expenses if your loss was related to a crime. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-victims-of-violent-crime-compensation> to see if you qualify or to apply.

MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ASSOCIATION (MPA) <http://www.masspolice.com/about/>

MASSACHUSETTS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE <http://www.massfop.org/index.cfm>

MASSACHUSETTS LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL FOUNDATION <https://mlemf.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>.

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:

City life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Retirement Benefits?
Real estate tax relief?

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