

# MISSISSIPPI



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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A one-time payment of \$100,000 is given for line of duty deaths. It is given to the beneficiary previously designated in writing by the officer. If there isn't a designated beneficiary, the payment shall be made to the surviving child or children and spouse in equal portions, and if there is no surviving child or spouse, then to the parent or parents. If a beneficiary is not designated and there is no surviving child, spouse or parent, then the payment shall be made to the covered individual's estate.

For more information, call the **Mississippi Department of Public Safety** at (601) 987-1212 or visit <https://www.dps.ms.gov/public-safety-planning/standards-and-training/Death-Benefits-Trust>

## EDUCATION BENEFITS

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**Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers & Firemen Scholarship** is available to spouses and children. The annual award covers the cost of tuition, including required fees, and the average cost of campus housing at any state-supported college or university within the state of Mississippi.

Contact the **Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid** by calling (800) 327-2980 or visit <https://www.msfinancialaid.org/law/> for more information and to complete an application.

**CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS** – provides financial assistance of up to \$2,00 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](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

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

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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 MISSISSIPPI-** Mississippi residents between the ages of 17 and 23 who have had a parent killed or permanently and totally disabled in an accident that is compensable under the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Act may apply for the scholarship. The scholarship is good for one year, but recipients may apply each year of school as long as they make satisfactory academic progress. In addition, applicants must demonstrate substantial financial need.

Visit the **Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission** at <https://mwcc.ms.gov/#/kidschance> for more information and to apply.

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

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An immediate lump sum payment of \$1,000 shall be paid to the spouse. Other benefits are paid as follows:

- a) Surviving spouse and no child of the deceased, 35% of the average wages of the deceased. An additional 10% will be added for each child. If the case of death or remarriage of the spouse, compensation to the children increases to 15%. The maximum payable amount is 66-2/3% of the deceased wages.
- b) If there are surviving children and no spouse, each child will be awarded 25% of the deceased officer's wages, not to exceed 66-2/3%.
- c) If there are no children or spouse, other dependents may be eligible.

Visit the Workers' Compensation Commission at <https://mwcc.ms.gov/#/home> for more information.

## **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 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

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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 System of Mississippi (PERS)**

<https://www.pers.ms.gov/Content/Pages/Retirement-Plans.aspx>

**Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System (MHSPRS)** There is a benefit plan for line of duty deaths of patrolman of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. Mississippi Code Ann. 25-13-13 See PERS above for the handbook.

## HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

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

## FUNERAL BENEFITS

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**Workers' Compensation** A reasonable expense of the employee's funeral and burial up to \$5,000 will be paid. See Workers' Compensation section above for contact details.

**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

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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.

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**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.

**MISSISSIPPI FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE** <http://www.msfpo.net/>

**MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION** <http://www.mleoa.com/>

**THE HUNDRED CLUB OF JACKSON** – Call (601) 622-6555 or visit <https://www.thehundredclubofjackson.org/> for benefit information.

**THE HUNDRED CLUB OF JONES COUNTY** – Visit <https://wellcarehub.site/> for benefit information.

**MISSISSIPPI POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**  
[https://www.sspba.org/gen/chapters/Mississippi\\_Division\\_16.jsp](https://www.sspba.org/gen/chapters/Mississippi_Division_16.jsp)

**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?