NORTH DAKOTA

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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Currently there is no one time death benefit in North Dakota.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

North Dakota Century Code 15-10-18.5 Free tuition is available in North Dakota institutions of higher education for surviving children of peace officers and fire fighters. To be eligible, the child must be age 21 or younger at the time of the death. Should a peace officer or fire fighter die as a direct result of injuries received in performance of official duties, the survivor, upon being duly accepted for enrollment into any North Dakota state-supported university, college, or technical or vocational school, must be allowed to obtain a bachelor's degree, or certificate of completion, for so long as the survivor is eligible, free of any tuition and fee charges, except those charged to retire outstanding bonds; provided, however, that the bachelor's degree or certificate of completion is earned within a forty five month or ten semester period or its equivalent; and further provided that tuition and fee charges may not include costs for aviation flight charges or expenses.

Contact the financial aid department of the school you plan to attend for more information or the **North Dakota State Board of Higher Education** at https://ndus.edu/sbhe

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 - 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 Workers' Compensation Act and that has resulted in demonstrated financial need. Applicants must be under 25 years of age.

For more information or to apply, visit https://www.kidschance.org/

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The eligible spouse or guardian of the dependent(s) of the deceased worker, may receive benefits at a rate of 2/3 of a deceased worker's weekly wage, up to 125% of the state's average weekly wage and up to $15 each week for each dependent child.
Surviving spouse receives a one-time first death award of $2,500, plus $800 for each dependent child.
Total death benefits including supplemental benefits may not exceed $400,000 over the lifetime of a claim. WSI pays all medical bills directly related to the compensable injury and death of a worker.

If the worker is not survived by a spouse or dependent(s), WSI will pay a lump sum of $20,000 in equal parts to any surviving non-dependent children. If the worker is not survived by nondependent children, the $20,000 will be paid in equal shares to the worker's surviving parents. If there are no surviving parents, this sum will be paid in equal shares to surviving brothers and sisters.

Claims must be filed within 2 years of death. For more information or to request forms, contact **North Dakota Workforce Safety & Insurance** by calling (800) 777-5033 or visit https://www.workforcesafety.com/workers/benefits-services/death-benefits

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:
North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS)
https://www.ndpers.nd.gov/active-members

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

If the surviving spouses is eligible for monthly benefits from the **North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS**), they may also be eligible for insurance under a NDPERS plan. See State Life Insurance & Retirement section above.

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Workers' Compensation pays a maximum amount for funeral expenses of $10,000. 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.

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.

NORTH DAKOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION http://ndsheriffsanddeputies.com/

NORTH DAKOTA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION https://www.ndpoa.org/

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.

NORTH DAKOTA FOP provides up to a $5,000 benefit to its members for a line of duty death benefit and has a scholarship program. Visit https://www.ndfop.org/ for more information.

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?
Real estate tax relief?