

OKLAHOMA



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 not a one-time death benefit available.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Oklahoma Statutes 70-14-134 - Children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty may attend any Oklahoma state college or university tuition free. The waiver of tuition is limited to a period of five (5) years.

<https://law.justia.com/codes/oklahoma/title-70/section-70-14-134/>

For more information contact the **Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education** at (405) 225-9100.

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.

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

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

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KIDS CHANCE OF OKLAHOMA - 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 between 17 and 25 years of age. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.kidschanceok.org/>

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Oklahoma. Benefit is 70% of the State's Average Weekly Wage for spouse with child(ren). Lump Sum Death Benefits are payable as follows:

- Spouse: \$100,000
- Spouse and One (1) Child: Spouse \$100,000; Child: \$25,000
- Spouse and Two (2) or more children: Spouse \$100,000; Children: \$25,000

Two-year lump sum payable to spouse upon remarriage and weekly benefits cease.

Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond 18 if disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students.

For more information contact the **Workers' Compensation Commission** at (405) 522-3222 or visit <https://www.ok.gov/wcc/>

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 psob.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:

Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System (OLERS) <https://www.olders.state.ok.us/>

Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System (OPPRS) <https://www.ok.gov/opprs/>

Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) <https://www.opers.ok.gov/>

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

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

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FUNERAL BENEFITS

Per Oklahoma Statutes Title 85A, Section 47 the employer shall pay the actual funeral expenses not to exceed \$10,000.

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.

OKLAHOMA STATE TROOPERS' ASSOCIATION <https://ostatroopers.org/>

CONCERNED OKLAHOMANS FOR THE HIGHWAY PARTOL SOCIETY (COHPS)

<http://www.cohps.org/about-cohps>

OKLAHOMA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL <http://www.oklemem.com/>

OKLAHOMA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION <https://www.oklahomasheriffs.org/>

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OKLAHOMA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE <http://www.okfop.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?

Real estate tax relief?

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