SOUTH DAKOTA

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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

There is no one-time benefit available at this time.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

South Dakota Law 13-55-22 provides for tuition-free attendance at South Dakota state supported universities and vocational schools for the surviving children of certain law enforcement officers and firefighters who die as a direct result of injuries received in the performance of official duties. Refer to SDCL 13-55-21, 13- 55-22 and 13-55B-1 for further explanations of benefits and requirements. Benefit applicant should contact the Admissions Office of the state-supported school where attendance is desired for assistance in filing for this benefit.

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 South Dakota - 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://kidschancesd.org/

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in South Dakota; however, waivers are allowed. If a work-related injury causes death, compensation is payable to the employee's spouse at the rate of 66.67 percent of the employee's average weekly wage (excluding overtime earnings).

If the spouse remarries, a lump sum equal to two years of compensation will be paid. If there are eligible surviving children of the employee, the compensation becomes payable to them two years after the date of remarriage. If the only survivors are children, the child or children receive compensation at the rate of 66.67 percent of the average weekly wage of the employee until age 18 (or age 22 if a full-time student). If a child is physically or mentally incapable of self-support, benefits will be paid for the life of the child. An additional $50 per month must be paid to each legally dependent child of the deceased employee from the date of the employee's death until that child reaches the age of 18 years. A deceased employee's dependents are each also entitled to $2,000 a year for up to five years if they are enrolled full-time at an accredited post-secondary educational institution in South Dakota.

For more information contact the **Division of Labor and Management, State Department of Labor, Kneip Building**: (605) 773-3681.
https://dlr.sd.gov/workers_compensation/survivor_benefits.aspx

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.

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

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

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Workers' Compensation pays a maximum amount for funeral expenses of $10,000 plus the cost of transporting the body if death occurs outside the community where the employee is to be buried. 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.

The Fraternal Order of Police South Dakota State Lodge- For more information on benefits available to survivors please visit https://www.southdakotafop.org/

South Dakota Peace Officers Association – For more information on benefits available to survivors please visit www.southdakotapoa.com.

Labor Union - Members of labor unions may be provided with life insurance. Contact appropriate local union office to determine what benefits may be provided.

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:
City life insurance?
Private life insurance?
County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?
Real estate tax relief?