

WEST VIRGINIA



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

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

The West Virginia Fire, EMS AND Law-Enforcement Officer Survivor Benefits Act

In the event a firefighter, EMS, or law-enforcement provider dies in the performance of his or her duties or as a result of the performance of his or her duties, the department chief, within 30 days from the date of death shall submit certification of the death to the Governor's Office. Upon receipt of the certification from the certified fire, EMS, or law-enforcement program, the state shall, from moneys from the State Treasury, General Fund, pay to the certified fire, EMS, or law enforcement program the sum of \$100,000 in the name of the beneficiary of the death benefit. Within five days of receipt of this sum from the state, the fire, EMS, or law enforcement program certified by the state shall pay the sum as a benefit to the surviving spouse or designated beneficiary.

For more information contact the **Office of the Governor** at 304-558-2000 / 888-438-2731. Reference the **West Virginia Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement Officer Survivor Benefits Act**.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

West Virginia Code Chapter 18B. Higher Education § 18B-10-7.

Each state institution of higher education shall waive tuition and fees for surviving children and spouses after the recipient has exhausted all other sources of student financial assistance dedicated solely to tuition and fees that exceed other grant assistance that are available to him or her, excluding student loans. Contact your institution's financial aid office to apply. Contact the **West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission** for information. <http://www.wvhepc.edu/>

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>

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.

Revised 2026

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 WEST VIRGINIA - 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.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.kidschancewv.com/>

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Spousal benefit is 70% of the employee's average weekly wages. Minimum and maximum amounts apply. Upon remarriage, spousal benefit is terminated. Children are considered dependent until age 18, age 25 if full-time student at an accredited school, or longer to an invalid child if incapable of self-support. Benefits must be applied for through your department.

For more information contact the **Workers' Compensation Commission** at 304-558-5838 or visit <https://www.wvinsurance.gov/Workers-Compensation>

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 the individual systems listed below.

WEST VIRGINIA CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC RETIREMENT BOARD (Various list of retirement system contact information) <http://www.wvretirement.com/>

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.

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

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

FUNERAL BENEFITS

Workers' Compensation- Any law enforcement, safety or emergency worker that is killed while carrying out official duties may be entitled to funeral expense reimbursement. To apply, the employer or supervisor of the deceased must submit a written request and Attach verification of funeral expenses (official documentation from the funeral service provider) to the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. Funds provided may be up to but will not exceed \$10,000 and will be directed to the funeral service provider. For more information call the **WV Department of Homeland Security** at (304) 558-2930

[https://www.wvinsurance.gov/Portals/0/pdf/pol_leg/IB_22-05.pdf?ver=2022-03-14-080614-973#:~:text=4\(a\).-,West%20Virginia%20Code%20%C2%A723%2D4%2D4\(a\),and%20further%20provides%20that%20the](https://www.wvinsurance.gov/Portals/0/pdf/pol_leg/IB_22-05.pdf?ver=2022-03-14-080614-973#:~:text=4(a).-,West%20Virginia%20Code%20%C2%A723%2D4%2D4(a),and%20further%20provides%20that%20the)

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.

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.

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. FOP West Virginia State Lodge <https://fopofva.com/>

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>.

WEST VIRGINIA CHIEF'S OF POLICE ASSOCIATION <https://www.wvchiefs.org/>

WEST VIRGINIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION <https://www.wvsheriff.org/>

WEST VIRGINIA TROOPERS' ASSOCIATION <http://www.wvtroopers.org/>

OTHER BENEFITS TO ASK YOUR AGENCY ABOUT:

City life insurance?

Private life insurance?

County & Local Jurisdiction Benefits?

Real estate tax relief?