

WASHINGTON

DEATH BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY



To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics: Submit written request to contactCHS@doh.wa.gov

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Under Washington law, all full-time law enforcement officers and commissioned state troopers participate in the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' (LEOFF) or Washington State Patrol Retirement System (WSPRS) retirement systems. The survivor benefit amount is \$239,000 (adjusted annually). The benefit will be paid to beneficiaries of members and duty-disability retirees of LEOFF and WSPRS "where death occurs as a result of injuries sustained in the course of employment." This is a separate benefit that has no effect on any other benefits payable from LEOFF and WSPRS.

The Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) has created a beneficiary form that pertains only to the \$214,000 benefit. When a covered employee or retiree dies, the beneficiary is to notify DRS. DRS will provide the beneficiary with an Application for Death Benefit. Upon receipt of the application and death certificate, DRS submits the documents and necessary information to the Department of Labor and Industries for determination whether the covered employee's or retiree's death is a result of injuries sustained in the course of LEOFF or WSPRS-covered employment. For more information contact the Department of Retirement System, PO Box 48380, Olympia, WA 98504. Office: (360) 664-7000. www.drs.wa.gov

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

28B.15.380 Exemption from payment of fees at state universities.

The board of regents at Washington state universities may exempt the following class of persons from the payment of general tuition fees, operating fees, or service and activities fees exempt for individual instruction fees: Children after the age of nineteen years of any law enforcement officer or fire fighter who lost his life or became totally disabled in the line of duty while employed by any public law enforcement agency or full time volunteer fire department in this state. Contact your local police department or state university for specific details on entrance requirements.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Immediate cash payment equal to 100% of the state's average monthly wage; amount adjusted annually. Spouse receives 60% of employee's wages with an additional 2% per child, up to a total of 70%. Minimum and maximum amounts apply and are adjusted annually. Children are considered dependent until age 18, age 23 if a full-time student at an accredited school, or longer if disabled. Upon remarriage, spouse receives lump-sum settlement of 24 times the monthly compensation rate or 50% of the remaining annuity value, whichever is less, and benefits terminate. Spouse may elect not to take lump-sum payment, in which case pension payments resume if the remarriage ends in death or divorce. In addition, medical bills related to firefighter's work-related injuries or death are paid. For more information contact Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, P.O. Box 44000 (Mailing Address), Olympia, WA 98504-4000. Office: (360) 902-5800. www.lni.wa.gov

HEALTH BENEFITS

Health benefits vary depending upon police department benefits. Spouses of state and county officers may elect to continue to participate in the same benefit program in effect at the time of the officer's death. Contact the Benefits Coordinator at your agency.

RETIREMENT/PENSION

Individual cities and municipalities are responsible for providing retirement and pension plans for law enforcement officers. Contact your local agency's Benefits Assistance Officer.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Established in 1984, 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 professional, and local peer-support organizations to provide assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. has become a "lifeline" to police survivors nationwide. **Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office (800) 784-2611 or visit www.nationalcops.org/chap.htm for information on a chapter in your area.**

FUNERAL AND CREMATION BENEFITS

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 @ 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 www.wilbert.com or call (888) WILBERT.



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