

MASSACHUSETTS

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 150 Mount Vernon Street 1st Fl., Dorchester, MA 02125-3105. Office: (617) 740-2600. www.mass.gov

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

A \$300,000 killed-in-line-of-duty benefit shall be a one-time award payable to the family of a firefighter, public prosecutor, police officer, or corrections officer who, while in the performance of his duties and as a result of incident, accident, or violence, is killed or sustains injuries which are the direct and proximate cause of his death.

This benefit shall be in addition to amounts payable under Sec. 100 and shall be payable to the family of the deceased public safety employee in a manner determined by the state board of retirement. As used in this section, the word family shall mean the surviving spouse or, if there is no surviving spouse, the child or children, or, if there is no surviving child, the parent or parents. The board, at its discretion, may purchase life insurance for the purpose of paying said benefit.

This benefit shall not be taxable by the commonwealth. This act shall apply in the case of a death occurring on or after January 1, 1993. Contact the State Board of Retirement or your Benefits Assistance Officer.

Payment of Funeral and Burial Expenses - M.G.L. 41 Sec.100G 1/4. Any city operating under a Plan D or Plan E charter, by the affirmative vote of a majority of its city council or any other city, by a majority vote of its city council with the approval of its mayor, and any town, by a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting, shall pay the reasonable expense, not exceeding \$15,000, of the funeral and burial of any firefighter while in the performance of his duty and as a result of an accident while responding to or returning from an alarm or fire or any emergency or as the result of an accident involving a fire department vehicle, which the firefighter is operating or in which he is riding or while at the scene of a fire or any emergency is killed or sustains injuries which result in his death, or of any police officer who while in the performance of his duty and as the result of an assault on his person, or a result of an accident while responding to an emergency while in the performance of his official duty or as result of an accident involving a police department vehicle which he is operating or in which he is riding is killed or sustains injuries which result in his death. No payment shall be

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made under this section in the absence of adequate documentation that such expense has actually been incurred. The provisions of this section shall become effective in a city or town when accepted by such city or town.

In those cities or towns which accept the provisions of this section, the provisions of section one hundred G shall not be applicable.

For more information, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue at (617) 887-6367.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

M.G.L. 69 Sec. 7E

Scholarships are available for children of police officers who have died in the performance of duty. All M.S.P., and all Municipal Police, who are permanent members of said department, and who die in the performance of duty.

Amount of benefit is equal to the amount of tuition charged by the institution attended.

The child must have graduated from a high school within the Commonwealth. Child must qualify for entrance and benefit only applicable to: Lowell Technological Institute, SE Massachusetts Technical Institute, University of Massachusetts, and any state college and any regional community college. As long as recipient remains a student in good standing at such institute, but in no event shall any student receive such scholarship aid for more than 4 years.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Massachusetts.

Benefit is 66 2/3% of employee's wages for a spouse or a spouse with child(ren). Dependent surviving spouses receive benefits during periods when they are not fully self-supporting and benefits cease upon remarriage. Total maximum payable may not exceed 250 times the State's Average Weekly Wage in effect at time of injury. There is also a maximum burial allowance of \$4,000.

Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if disabled, or regardless of age if full-time students. Additional \$6 will be added per child if weekly benefits are below \$150.

To receive workers' compensation benefits the surviving spouse must take the initiative and file a workers' compensation claim through a workers' compensation attorney to

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receive any compensation. The determination as to whether the claim will be paid will be determined by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

For more information contact the Department of Industrial Accidents, 1 Congress Street Suite 100, Boston, MA 02111-2017. Office: (617) 727-4900.

<http://www.mass.gov/lwd/workers-compensation/>

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.

REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

M.G.L. 59 Sec.5, cl (42) & (43)

For MSP and Municipal officers; killed in line of duty. Payable to surviving spouse, exemption of real estate taxes, *providing real estate if owned and occupied by such surviving spouse as a domicile*. Payable to surviving minor children including adopted children, exemption of real estate taxes, providing real estate is owned and occupied by such children as their domicile.

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 (573) 346-4911, or visit <https://www.nationalcops.org/localchapters.html> 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 800-343-4464 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 (800) 323-7188.