

VERMONT

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 108 Cherry ST, Burlington, VT 05402. Office: (802) 863-7275. <http://www.vitalrec.com/vt.html>

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

The information that follows pertains to Vermont State Trooper benefits only. Data for local police officers must be provided by the local police or sheriff's agency.

A one-time line-of-duty death benefit is payable to the beneficiaries of all sworn personnel from the Vermont Department of Public Safety. Reserve officers and auxiliary troopers are eligible for Workers' Compensation death benefits only.

For information contact the Vermont State Police Headquarters, 103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671. Office: (802) 241-5000. www.vsp.vermont.gov

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

No education benefits available in Vermont.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Vermont; however, waivers are allowed. Benefit is 66 2/3% of employee's wage for a spouse only and 76 2/3% for a spouse with child(ren). Burial allowance is allowed. Spouse receives benefits until age 62 or remarriage. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if disabled or if full-time students. File the "First Report of Injury" form within the required 72 hours. Departments with an outside insurance carrier must, of course, also file a claim with the carrier. To receive workers' compensation benefits the surviving spouse must take the initiative and file a workers' compensation claim through a workers' compensation attorney to receive any compensation. The determination as to whether the claim will be paid will be determined by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

For information contact the Workers' Compensation Division of the State Department of Labor and Industry, 5 Green Mountain DR, PO Box 488, Montpelier, VT 05601. Office: (802) 828-2286. www.labor.vermont.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.

