

# TEXAS

## Benefits Available to Surviving Families of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty



### **The Texas Chapters of C.O.P.S.**

Benefits deemed current as of  
84 (R) Texas Legislature  
2015

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## PSOB Survivor Death Benefits

**Provider:** US DOJ - BJA - Public Safety Officers Benefits Program

**Amount:** \$339,881 for officers killed on or after October 1, 2015

**Summary:** A unique partnership 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) Programs provide 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 PSOB Office at the Bureau of Justice Assistance is honored to review the nearly 700 claims submitted each year on behalf of America's fallen and catastrophically disabled public safety heroes and their loved ones.

**Contact:** US DOJ - BJA - Public Safety Officers Benefits Program website  
(888) 744-6513

US DOJ - BJA - Public Safety Officers Benefits Program  
810 7th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20531

## Social Security Benefits

**Provider:** United States Social Security Administration

**Amount:** Varies

**Summary:** One-time death benefit payment plus monthly death benefits

**Contact:** United States Social Security Administration website  
(800) 772-1213

United States Social Security Administration  
Contact Local Office. See Website

## Chapter 615—State Death Benefit Payment

**Provider:** State of Texas

**Amount:** \$500,000

**Summary:** For deaths occurring on or after September 1, 2015, the state shall pay

\$500,000 to the eligible surviving spouse. If there is no spouse, this amount will be divided equally among surviving children. If there is no eligible surviving spouse or children, the benefit will be paid in equal shares to surviving parents.

**Contact:** [www.ers.state.tx.us](http://www.ers.state.tx.us)  
 (512) 867-7711  
 Toll Free: (877) 275-4377

Texas Employees Retirement System  
 P. O. Box 13207  
 Austin, TX 78711-3207

Physical Address:  
 200 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Austin, TX 78701

### **Details & Applicable Instructions:**

Death benefits are provided for survivors of Law Enforcement Officer Art. 6228f, V.C.S. entitled "Survivors of Law Enforcement Officers".

There is a possible monthly payment paid by the State of Texas for the eligible surviving minor children until they reach 18:

- \$400 each month; if there is one surviving child.
- \$600 each month; if there are two surviving children.
- \$800 each month; if there are three or more surviving children.

Additionally, the state will pay funeral expenses related to the deceased officer provided the *officer had not qualified for an annuity under an employees' retirement plan.*

## **Fleetwood Memorial Fund Death Benefit Payment**

**Provider:** Fleetwood Memorial Fund

**Amount:** \$10,000

**Summary:** The Foundation's purpose is to provide virtually instant no-strings-attached grants of \$10,000 to certified Texas Law Enforcement or Fire Protection Personnel who are injured in the performance of their duties or to the families of such personnel who are killed in the performance of their duties.

**Contact:** [Fleetwood Memorial Fund website](#)  
 (817) 261-8954

Fleetwood Memorial Fund  
 501 South Fielder Rd.

Arlington, Texas 76013

**Details & Applicable Instructions:**

Mr. W.I. Fleetwood established the Fleetwood Memorial Foundation in 1974 out of gratitude and respect for the men and women of Texas who dedicate their lives to the safety of the public. The Foundation's purpose is to provide virtually *instant no-strings-attached grants of \$10,000* to certified Texas Law Enforcement or Fire Protection Personnel who are injured in the performance of their duties or to the families of such personnel who are killed in the performance of their duties. These grants are designed to provide immediate financial relief to meet unexpected expenses until insurance or more permanent sources of funds can be arranged. Funds are available for education expenses to re-educate qualified personal if they are unable to return to their normal duties after an accident. Educational funds for college are also available to the dependent children of deceased Peace and Fire personnel.

The Fleetwood Foundation has provided over 400 grants to qualified recipients totaling nearly \$1,500,000 since inception in 1974. Application for Fleetwood grants may be made **by any Texas law enforcement or fire protection agency, on behalf of qualified personnel injured or killed in the performance of their duty.**

[National Rifle Association Line of Duty Death Benefit](#)

**Provider: National Rifle Association (NRA)**

**Amount:** \$35,000

**Summary:** The Line of Duty Death Benefit (\$35,000) is paid to the survivor of any current NRA Member, who is a public law enforcement officer, and is killed in the line of duty.

**Contact:** National Rifle Association (NRA) website  
(800) 672-3888

National Rifle Association (NRA)  
11250 Waples Mill Road  
Fairfax, VA 22030

**Details & Applicable Instructions:**

A \$35,000.00 insurance benefit to the widow or survivors of any NRA-member law enforcement officer who is killed in the line of duty. Coverage is automatic for all law enforcement officers who are NRA members. Contact the NRA to file a line of duty death benefit claim.

## National Sheriffs' Association Death Benefits

**Provider:** National Sheriffs' Association

**Amount:** \$3,000 - \$25,000

**Summary:** The National Sheriffs' Association provides free accidental death or dismemberment for its members.

**Contact:** National Sheriffs' Association website  
(703) 836-7827

National Sheriffs' Association  
1450 Duke St  
Alexandria, VA 22314

### **Details & Applicable Instructions:**

NSA members (excluding Auxiliary and Retired Paid-Up-For-Life members) receive Free Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance, with a \$25,000 benefit for the Sheriff or Chief of Police whose agency/department is a current policyholder in the NSA endorsed law enforcement liability insurance program, a \$10,000 benefit amount for Sheriffs and a \$3,000 benefit amount for others. Coverage is subject to the terms and conditions of the group policy held by NSA.

## The 100 Club

**Provider:** The 100 Club

**Amount:** Varies

**Summary:** Established in 1953, the 100 Club benefits cover Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Chambers, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Liberty, Madison, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker, Waller, and Washington Law Enforcement Peace Officers and any State or Federal Law Enforcement Officer located and discharging duties in those counties and, further, brings financial aid to the families of those officers losing their lives in the line of duty.

**Contact:** The 100 Club website  
(713) 952-0100

The 100 Club  
5555 San Felipe St Suite 520  
Houston TX 77056-2733

## The 100 Club of Central Texas

**Provider:** The 100 Club of Central Texas

**Amount:** Varies

**Summary:** The 100 Club of Central Texas was established in 1983. The Club provides financial, legal and emotional support to families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Area of coverage includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Hays and Caldwell Counties.

**Contact:** The 100 Club of Central Texas website  
(512) 345-3200

The 100 Club of Central Texas  
3200 Steck Avenue, Suite 240  
Austin, Texas 78757

## Woodmen of the World 1st Responders Benefit

**Provider:** Woodmen of the World

**Amount:** \$10,000

**Summary:** Woodmen of the World will pay a \$10,000 fraternal death benefit if a qualified member is killed while performing his or her duties as a non-military first responder. To be eligible for this benefit, an individual must be a good standing benefit member. First Responders include firefighters, EMT/paramedics, police or a person performing a supporting role to such individuals.

**Contact:** Woodmen of the World website  
(800) 225-3108

Woodmen of the World  
Woodmen Tower  
1700 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

## Burial with Uniform

**Summary:** If a Texas law enforcement officer dies and is to be buried in the individual's uniform, the employing governmental entity shall provide the uniform at no cost. Contact your agency.

## Dignity Memorial Funeral Benefits

**Provider: Dignity Memorial Funeral, Cremation, & Cem.**

**Summary:** Provides dignified and honorable tributes, at no cost, for career and volunteer law enforcement officers who fall in the line of duty.

**Contact:** Dignity Memorial Funeral, Cremation, & Cem. website  
(800) 344-6489

Dignity Memorial Funeral, Cremation, & Cem.  
Visit website for list of participating locations.

**Details & Applicable Instructions:**

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.

## Free Burial Vault

**Provider: Wilbert Funeral Services**

**Amount:** Varies

**Summary:** At no charge to the family, we donate a customized Wilbert Stainless Steel Triune® burial vault when traditional burial is chosen. If the choice is cremation, we offer a choice from four high-quality urns, as well as a Stainless Steel Triune urn vault if the cremated remains are to be buried.

**Contact:** Wilbert Funeral Services website  
800-323-7188

Wilbert Funeral Services  
2913 Gardner Road  
Broadview, IL 60155

**Details & Applicable Instructions:**

Wilbert Funeral Services and Wilbert Licensees are honored to provide families of firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel who have died in the line of duty with a tribute worthy of their valor and sacrifice. At no charge to the family, we donate a customized Wilbert Stainless Steel Triune® burial vault when traditional burial is chosen.

If the choice is cremation, we offer a choice from four high-quality urns, as well as a



Stainless-Steel Triune urn vault if the cremated remains are to be buried. Each burial vault or urn vault is customized with a Wilbert Legacy Series print depicting the hero's profession (if available) or a Legacy Custom Series print that is personalized with photos.

As a final tribute, a WilbertWay® graveside service is provided at no charge to the family, if permitted by the cemetery. This service includes the display of the personalized vault cover carapace at the graveside, adding to the commemoration of the fallen hero. The final sealing and lowering of the vault is also part of the WilbertWay service.

With gratitude to our fallen first responders and their families, Wilbert and Wilbert Licensees extend our contribution to honor heroic lives, sacrificed in valiant service to neighbor and community.

## United States Armed Forces Veterans Pension

**Provider: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Summary:** Many law enforcement officers are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and a number of survivor's benefits are available to the spouse and children of a deceased veteran. Included in these benefits are: a death pension, funeral expenses, life insurance, and burial plot allowance.

**Contact:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website  
(800) 827-1000

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Contact your local office using the link above.

## Texas Pension Benefits

**Provider: Varies.**

**Some examples are: Texas Municipal Retirement System, Houston Police Officers' Pension Fund, and Austin Police Retirement System.**

**Amount:** Varies

**Summary:** In Texas, police officers in big cities have their own *municipal retirement systems*. All the different police pension systems offer death benefits and in general differentiate between on-duty and off-duty deaths.

**Contact:** The Benefits Assistance Officer of your agency for specific information.

**Details & Applicable Instructions:**

Prompt notification of death should be made, and to expedite the filing of this claim, the following information should be furnished:

- (1) Sworn statement by the surviving spouse making application for the death benefits, giving the name of the deceased spouse, the date of death, name and ages of all minor children involved together with the address of the surviving spouse and children.
- (2) Certified copies of the investigative reports relating to the fatal injury (if available).
- (3) Certified copies of death certificate.
- (4) Certified copy of the Coroner's Report if any.
- (5) Affidavits from any witnesses detailing the facts of the fatal injury (if available).
- (6) Sworn statement from the head of the employing agency stating that at the time of the fatality the deceased officer was employed full time as a Law Enforcement Officer and that the deceased was on duty at the time of the fatal accident, and that death was the result of risk or hazard inherent in his employment.
- (7) Certified copy of the marriage license showing marriage between the surviving spouse and the deceased.
- (8) A statement from a responsible physician, who has examined the surviving female spouse, as to whether or not she is pregnant.
- (9) Sworn statements from two substantial persons who are qualified to say that they had known the deceased a number of years intimately enough to know whether either has been married previously, and the names and the approximate ages of their children, if any.
- (10) Certified copies of court orders granting divorce for either the deceased or the surviving spouse, if any.
- (11) Certified copies of Birth Certificates for minor children involved.
- (12) If a guardianship is involved, certified copies of all guardianship papers.

For deaths occurring **after September 1, 2001**, the surviving spouse and minor children of an officer killed in the line of duty who had not qualified for an annuity under an employees' retirement shall receive a monthly annuity from the State.

## Health Insurance Benefits

### **Details & Applicable Instructions:**

The surviving spouse and surviving dependents of Texas law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty are entitled to purchase continued health insurance benefits at the rate paid by current employees (ref. SB872/2009). The surviving spouse is entitled to continue to purchase health insurance coverage until the earlier of the date the surviving spouse becomes eligible for federal Medicare benefits.

Surviving dependent minor children are entitled to continue health insurance coverage until the dependent reaches the age of 18 years; or becomes eligible for group health insurance through another employer.

Surviving dependents who are not minor children are entitled to continue health insurance coverage until the earlier of the date the dependent becomes eligible for group health insurance through another employer; or the date the dependent becomes eligible for federal Medicare benefits.

Survivors may elect to continue coverage at any level of benefits currently offered by the employing entity to dependents of an active employee. Eligible survivors who are entitled to continued coverage are entitled to purchase the coverage at the group rate for that coverage that exists at the time of payment.

**Contact the Benefits Assistance Officer at your agency to continue group health insurance coverage.**

## Texas Workers' Comp

### **Provider: Varies**

**Summary:** Will pay up to \$2,500 for funeral expenses which can be paid directly to the funeral home handling the burial arrangements. Payment will be computed by multiplying the employee's average weekly wage by 75.

**Contact:** Benefits Assistance Officer of your agency for specific information.

### **Details & Applicable Instructions:**

Workers' Compensation coverage is elective for employers in Texas.

Workers' Compensation shall pay the following death benefits when a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty:

- (1) Will pay up to \$2,500 for funeral expenses which can be paid directly to the

funeral home handling the burial arrangements.

(2) Payment will be computed by multiplying the employee's average weekly wage by 75.

(3) If the officer is survived by any minor children, Workers' Compensation will then mandatorily divide the payment, paying a portion each week to the child until the child reaches the age of 18, or marries, or beyond age 18 if disabled, or until the child reaches the age of 25 if full-time students. If there are two or more children, the weekly amount must equally be divided among them.

(4) At such time as all dependent children become of age or leave home, the surviving spouse will receive a weekly benefit thereafter.

(5) *If the Line of Duty Death occurs on or after September 1, 2015*, the surviving spouse will continue to receive the Workers' Compensation Benefit whether or not the surviving spouse chooses to remarry (ref. HB1094/2015). The minor child or children will receive the weekly benefit until reaching the maximum age.

(6) If the officer was single and had never been married, the parents (if living) or next of kin, if financially dependent upon the officer, are entitled to receive cash settlement under Workers' Compensation.

Workers' Compensation benefits are calculated based on the officer's average salary for the **13 weeks immediately prior to death**.

To file for Workers' Compensation, the officer's survivors, or their representative should contact the Industrial Accident Board. To file the claim, the following information will be needed:

- (1) Full name of the deceased and age.
- (2) Social Security number of the deceased.
- (3) Date and time of injury.
- (4) Description of injuries received.
- (5) Date and time of death.
- (6) Exact cause of death.
- (7) Hourly wage rate and weekly wage average of the deceased.
- (8) Full name and age of surviving spouse.
- (9) Full names, ages, dates of birth, and marital status of children.
- (10) Date of marriage and copy of marriage certificate.
- (11) Names, addresses, and dates of marriage and divorce or death of previous spouses if the deceased was married more than once.
- (12) Copy of the death certificate.
- (13) If the deceased was not married, then the name and the address of parents, if living, or next of kin.

Workers' Compensation benefits will begin approximately **two weeks** after the date of filing.

## Duty Weapon and Badge

**Summary:** On the death of a Texas law enforcement officer, the employing governmental entity shall provide, at no cost, the deceased individual's duty weapon, if any, and badge to the individuals designated beneficiary or to the estate if the individual did not designate a beneficiary. The governmental entity that employs the law enforcement officer shall provide the individual a form on which the individual may designate the individual's beneficiaries for the purposes of this benefit. Contact your agency.

## Education Assistance

### PSOB Education Benefits

**Provider:** US DOJ - Public Safety Officers Benefits Program

**Amount:** Varies

**Summary:** The 104th Congress of the United States enacted the Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance (FLEDA) Act in 1996 which sets forth the guidelines for educational assistance to the dependents of Federal law enforcement officials who are killed or disabled in the performance of their duties.

**Contact:** US DOJ - Public Safety Officers Benefits Program website

Toll Free (888) 744-6513

Website : <https://www.psob.gov/>

Email: [AskPSOB@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskPSOB@usdoj.gov)

US DOJ - Public Safety Officers Benefits Program

810 7th Street NW

Washington, DC 20531

## Texas Education Assistance

**Provider:** Texas Higher Education Commission

**Summary:** Children of peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty prior to September 1, 2000, are exempt from all dues, fees and charges, not including room or board, at any public college in Texas. This exemption covers 120 undergraduate semester credit hours.

**Contact:** Texas Higher Education Commission website

(512) 427-6101

Texas Higher Education Commission  
 P.O. Box 12788  
 Austin, TX 78711-2788  
 Phone: (512) 427-6101  
 Fax Number: (512) 427 – 6510

Physical Location:  
 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
 1200 E. Anderson Lane  
 Austin, Texas 78752  
 Website: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/>

### **Details & Applicable Instructions:**

#### **Texas Education Code Article 54.204**

Children of peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty *prior to September 1, 2000*, are exempt from all dues, fees and charges, not including room or board, at any public college in Texas. This exemption covers 120 undergraduate semester credit hours.

A child must apply initially for the exemption before (s)he reaches 21 years of age, or age 22 if eligible to participate in a school district's special education program. (S)he must meet the entrance requirements of the college and maintain a scholastic average adequate to be in good standing. Must contact Angela Crowder at (512) 427-6344 or (800) 242-6344.

#### **Government Code 615.0225**

For line-of-duty deaths that occur *on or after September 1, 2000*, education benefits are expanded. Eligible survivors include a **surviving spouse as well as surviving children** provided the children were claimed as dependents on the income tax return filed with the IRS by the deceased officer in the year preceding the year of death. Survivors must be enrolled as full-time students to be eligible.

Eligible survivors are **exempt from tuition and fees** until receipt of a bachelor's degree or **200 hours** of course credit, whichever occurs first. Additionally, if the student elects to reside in housing provided by the institution of higher education and qualifies to reside in that housing, the student will be **exempt from charges** for food and housing. If no school housing is available, the student will be paid the equivalent amount for food and housing. The student shall also be **reimbursed the cost of textbooks**. If applying through this code, send information directly to the school.

## C.O.P.S. Scholarship

**Provider: Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)**

**Summary:** Provides educational assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

**Contact:** Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) website  
(573) 346-4911

Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)  
P.O. Box 3199  
Camdenton, MO 65020

## Fraternal Order of Eagles Financial Assistance

**Provider: Fraternal Order of Eagles**

**Summary:** Through their Memorial Foundation, the Eagles provide financial assistance for surviving children of full-time law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty who were also active members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at the time of their death.

**Contact:** Fraternal Order of Eagles website  
(614) 883-2200

Fraternal Order of Eagles  
1623 Gateway Circle  
S. Grove City, OH 43123

## Knights of Columbus Scholarship

**Provider: The Knights of Columbus**

**Summary:** Scholarships are available to children of members of the Order, who, as a result of criminal violence, lost their lives or became totally and permanently disabled while in the lawful performance of their duties as full-time law enforcement officers.

**Contact:** The Knights of Columbus website  
(909) 343-0460

The Knights of Columbus  
15808 Arrow Blvd. Suite A  
Fontana, CA 92335

## Purple Heart Educational Benefits

**Provider: Military Order of the Purple Heart**

**Summary:** Membership restricted to "Purple Heart" recipients. Educational benefits for surviving children available. 2.5 GPA required.

## Survivors' Education Law Enforcement Trust Scholarship

**Provider: The IACP Foundation**

**Amount:** \$1000 to \$2500

**Summary:** The SELECT program supports the continuing education needs of dependent family members by helping to defray educational costs for undergraduate or graduate studies. Application deadline for 2018 is June 1.

**Contact:** [The IACP Foundation website](#)  
800-843-4227 x367

The IACP Foundation  
515 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2357

### **Details & Applicable Instructions:**

One of the most rewarding of the IACP Foundation's programs is the Survivors' Education Law Enforcement Trust (SELECT) scholarship program, which was established to recognize the contribution made by law enforcement officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. The SELECT program supports the continuing education needs of dependent family members by helping to defray educational costs for undergraduate or graduate studies.

Through the generosity of our donors, three scholarships are available for award for the 2012-2013 academic year: The Dave Cameron Memorial Scholarship (\$1000), the Charles and Claire Blauer Scholarship (\$1000), and the IACP Foundation Scholarship (\$2500).