

TENNESSEE

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 421 5th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37243. Office: (615) 741-1763. www.health.state.tn.us/vr

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-210 authorizes an annuity of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00), in annual installments of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for five (5) years, to the estate of any emergency responder killed in the line of duty.

To be eligible for compensation, each of the following criteria must be met:

1. The deceased person must have been an emergency responder pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-210(a)(1), which means a firefighter, volunteer rescue squad worker or law enforcement officer;
2. The deceased emergency responder must have been killed in the line of duty as defined by Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-210(a)(3);
3. The deceased emergency responder must have been current in any required training and physical exams at the time the death occurred; and
4. The application must be filed no later than three (3) years after the date of death.

To receive compensation conferred by this statute, the executor, an applicant who is an administrator or other appropriate representative of the estate of an emergency responder who was killed in the line of duty must apply to the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

THE DEPENDENT CHILDREN SCHOLARSHIP ACT

The Dependent Children Scholarship Act was established to provide aid for a Tennessee resident who is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer, fireman, or an emergency medical service technician who has been killed or totally and permanently disabled while performing duties within the scope of such employment. The scholarship may be awarded to full-time undergraduate students for a maximum of four (4) academic years or the period required for the completion of the program of study. The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation administers the program. Dependent surviving children may receive a scholarship except to the extent the dependent child receives educational benefits or scholarship aid from other sources. The corporation requires a dependent child to also apply to other government programs of student grant assistance for which, in the judgment of the corporation, the dependent child is eligible.

To apply, you must be accepted for admission in any institution in the state of Tennessee offering post-secondary vocation or undergraduate education that *has been authorized to enroll students receiving grants of financial assistance from the corporation under the Tennessee Student Assistance Program*. Applications must be accompanied by certain required paperwork from the institution.

To the extent funds are available; the corporation shall award a scholarship to any eligible applicant for full-time post-secondary undergraduate or vocational study at an eligible educational institution. *If funds are insufficient to provide scholarships to all eligible applicants, awards shall be based on the financial need of the student as determined by guidelines established by the corporation*. Except as provided by other scholarship or educational aid programs, the scholarship award shall include tuition and other required fees and allowances for books, supplies, and room and board.

The duration of a scholarship award shall be four (4) academic years of the period required for the completion of the appropriate course of study, whichever is less. Provided, however, a scholarship recipient enrolled in an undergraduate degree program which requires more than four (4) academic years for completion may apply to the corporation during the fourth year for an extension of the scholarship award to the fifth year, in which event duration of the award shall not exceed five (5) years. Payment of scholarships is made directly to the recipient in approximately equal installments at the beginning of each academic term upon receive by the corporation of evidence that the recipient is officially enrolled in an eligible educational institution.

For more information contact the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, 404 James Robertson Parkway Suite 1510, Nashville, TN 37243. Office: (615) 741-1346.
www.tn.gov/tsac

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers with 5 or more employees in Tennessee; however, waivers are allowed.

Benefit is 50% of employee's wage for spouse and 66 2/3% of employee's wages for spouse with child(ren). Spouse receives benefits until remarriage. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if disabled, or until age 22 if full-time students. Maximum burial allowance is \$7,500. 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 more information contact the Workers' Compensation Division, State Department of Labor, 220 French Landing Drive, Nashville, TN 37243. Office: (615) 741-6642.

www.tn.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.**

The Tennessee State Fraternal Order of Police provides an insurance program for only F.O.P. members upon death from any cause. The program began in 1988 with a basic benefit of \$1,000 paid to the surviving spouse or family member. The lodge has now increased the benefit to \$1,500. For information contact the Tennessee State FOP Lodge, PO Box 8, Tipton, TN 38071-0008. Office: (901) 840-2683. www.tnstatefop.com

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.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS PO BOX 3199 CAMDENTON, MO 65020
OFFICE-(573) 346-4911 FAX-(573) 346-1414
WWW.NATIONALCOPS.ORG COPS@NATIONALCOPS.ORG



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