

# **NEW YORK**

## **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 New York State Department of Health, Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower Building, Albany, NY 12237. Office: (212) 619-4530.  
[www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)

### **STATE DEATH BENEFITS**

Any death benefits that may be available are administered through the New York State Retirement System. They administer the payment of Ordinary Death Benefits, Accidental Death Benefits, and Disability Benefits.

### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

Memorial scholarships for families of deceased police officers and firefighters supplement.

Memorial scholarships provide financial aid to children or spouses of deceased police officers, correction officers, firefighters and volunteer firefighters of New York state who have died as the result of injuries sustained in the line of duty. This scholarship supplements the \$450 received through the Child of Police Officer-Firefighter-Correction Officer (CPF) award programs. Awards are made for full-time undergraduate study at approved colleges and other post secondary institutions in New York State. Note: Spouses are eligible for scholarship payments effective with the 1993-94 academic year.

You must be a New York State resident and attending an approved undergraduate program in New York State. The police officer, correction officer, firefighter or volunteer firefighter must have died as the result of injuries sustained in the line of duty as a member of a department in New York State.

The Memorial Scholarship award will be equal to the applicant's actual tuition cost or the State University of New York (SUNY) undergraduate tuition, whichever is less. Students attending institutions with tuition charges higher than the SUNY tuition charges may, if eligible, receive additional assistance through New York's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). *Memorial Scholarships also provide funds to meet the non-tuition costs of attending college.* At SUNY and CUNY (City University of New York State), the annual award would be equal to the non-tuition cost of attendance less any federal Pell Grant and any other federal and state-funded scholarships or grants. Non-tuition costs include room and board and an allowance for books, supplies and transportation. At a

private college, the award would be equal to the average of the non-tuition costs at SUNY colleges less any federal Pell Grant or other federal and state-funded scholarships or grants.

The annual filing deadline is May 1 of the academic year. The amount is paid for four years of full-time undergraduate study (or for five years in an approved five-year bachelor's program). For more information information or to receive an application, New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12255. Office: (888) 697-4372. [www.hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com)

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in New York.

Benefit is 66 2/3% of the employee's wage for spouse only or spouse with child(ren). *Payments are subject to Social Security benefit offsets.* Two-year lump sum payable to spouse upon remarriage and weekly benefits cease. Children receive benefits until age 18 or beyond age 18 if disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students. Funeral expenses are limited to amounts established in a fee schedule of charges and costs for funeral services established by the Chairperson of the New York Workers' Compensation Board. 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 New York State Workers' Compensation Board, 328 State ST, Schenectady, NY 12305. Office: (877) 632-4996. [www.wcb.ny.gov](http://www.wcb.ny.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](http://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](http://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](http://www.wilbert.com) or call (888) WILBERT.



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