

IDAHO

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 PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720. Office: (208) 334-5988. www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Beginning July, 2009, there is a state death benefit paid for the line-of-duty death of any certified peace officer, detention officer, or correctional officer in the employ of the state or a political subdivision of the state.

The sum of \$100,000 will be disbursed to a surviving spouse, with or without dependent children. In the event there is no surviving spouse, the sum of \$100,000 will be disbursed evenly to surviving dependent children under the age of 21. In the event there is *neither a surviving spouse nor surviving dependent children under the age of 21*, the sum of \$40,000 will be disbursed to the surviving parent or parents of the slain officer, to be split equally between the natural or adopted parents of the slain officer.

The death benefit provided in this section shall not be subject to state income taxes, and shall not affect, nor be affected by, any death benefit payments as may be provided under chapter 13, title 59, Idaho code.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Idaho Statutes, Title 33, Education, Chapter 43, Scholarships

Any dependent of a full-time or part-time public safety officer, employed by or volunteering for the state of Idaho or for a political subdivision of the state of Idaho, which public safety officer is or was a resident of the state of Idaho at the time such officer was killed or disabled in the line of duty shall be admitted to attend any public institution of higher education or public professional-technical college within the state of Idaho without the necessity of paying tuition and fees therefore. Said dependents shall be provided by the institution or college with books, equipment and supplies necessary for the pursuit of the dependent's chosen program of enrollment not to exceed the actual cost therefore, or \$500, whichever is less, per quarter, semester, intensified semester, or like education period. Said dependent shall be provided with the institution or college's published normal on-campus residential facility housing and meals program for each month the dependent is enrolled full time under this statute and continues to actually reside in such on-campus residential facility. Provided however, that the educational benefits provided for in this section shall not exceed a

total of 36 months or 4 nine-month periods; provided further that such educational benefits *shall not extend beyond 10 years following the date the dependent receives a high school diploma, a high school equivalency diploma, a special diploma, or a certificate of high school completion, or beyond the date such dependent turns 30 years old, whichever comes first.*

The dependent shall be required to meet the educational qualifications as such institution of higher education or professional-technical college has established for other prospective students. Application for eligibility under this section shall be made to the state board of education and board of regents of the University of Idaho. The board shall verify the eligibility of the dependent and communicate such eligibility to the dependent and the affected institution or college. The scholarships provided in this section shall be available for dependents of public safety officers who were killed or disabled in 1975 or thereafter.

Note-We interpret the above information to mean the school which the dependent wishes to attend will submit required paperwork to the state board of education and board of regents of the University of Idaho for eligibility determination. Talk with the institution you wish to attend – and take a copy of this information – so they can refer to the appropriate Idaho statute.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Idaho.

The benefit is 45% of the employee's wage if survived by a spouse only or 60% if survived by a spouse and child(ren) for a maximum period of 500 weeks. There is also a maximum allowance of \$6,000 to cover actual expenses of transportation of employee's body to his or her place of residence within the United States or Canada. Upon remarriage, spouse receives either 180 weeks of compensation or balance of 500 weeks, whichever is less.

For information contact the Idaho State Industrial Commission, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0041. Office: (208)334-6000. www.iic.idaho.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

The benefit is only payable to the member's spouse or minor children. The member's representative must first apply for and receive payment of the Federal benefit of \$262,100 before being eligible for the PERSI Public Safety Officer Death Benefit. The Federal benefit is also payable to the member's parents if the member has no spouse or eligible children, but the PERSI benefit is not payable to the member's parents. For information on how to apply for the Federal benefit, go to the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Web site at www.cfda.gov. (Be patient; this site can be very slow to launch.) Once the eligible survivor has received the Federal benefit, application can be made for the PERSI benefit. The PERSI benefit payment will be recorded under a special account number for tracking purposes. If the recipient is a minor, PERSI will follow the provisions of the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act. PERSI will issue a 1099-R with Code 4 (for death) in box 7, and \$0 for the taxable

For information contact the Public Employees Retirement System, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720. Office: (800) 451-8228. www.persi.idaho.gov

STATE INCOME TAX

The death benefit provided in this section shall **not be subject to state income taxes**, and shall not affect, nor be affected by, any death benefit payments as may be provided under chapter 13, title 59, Idaho code.

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.



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