

GEORGIA

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 Vital Records, 2600 Skyland Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30319. Office: (404) 679-4702. <http://dph.georgia.gov/VitalRecords>

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

Those employees eligible for death or permanent disability are law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, publicly employed emergency medical technicians, emergency management rescue specialists, and members of the Georgia National Guard when called into active state service by the Governor for law enforcement purposes. After determining that the injured person or the estate of the deceased is entitled to the financial benefit, the Indemnification Commission will issue an order authorizing payment. All claim applications must be submitted within 24 months from the date on which the permanent disability or death occurred. For part-time employees, claim applications must be submitted with 12 months.

GEORGIA STATE INDEMNIFICATION PROGRAM

The State of Georgia recognized the unique hazards inherent in certain public occupations that led to the General Assembly to establish the Georgia State Indemnification Program. The Program provides a financial benefit for designated public officers & public school personnel who are disabled or killed in the line of duty. Benefits under the Public Officers Indemnification Fund include payments for permanent disability, supplemental income, and for death. Eligible public officers include law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, publicly employed emergency medical technicians, emergency management rescue specialists, state highway employees, and active members of the Georgia National Guard, when called in to service by the Government.

In the case of a death, payment shall be made to the surviving **unmarried** spouse or the dependants of the spouse or deceased person as shown in his or her most recent tax return or to the legal guardian. **The current benefit is \$100,000 if elected in equal installments of \$1,666.66 per month over a five year period, or in a one-time payment this is reduced to its present value of \$73,390.39.** Payment will be made to a designated beneficiary or estate of the deceased. **Probate papers** must be filed with the Indemnification Program Specialist before any payments are issued. Indemnification payments **shall not be considered taxable income** under state law.

SPECIAL NOTE: Public Safety officers **must designate a beneficiary** and changes should be made in writing to the Indemnification Commission when warranted.

For more information please contact The Georgia State Indemnification Program at (404) 656-5514, or 200 Piedmont AVE, S.E., Suite 1208 West Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334. <http://doas.ga.gov/risk-management/insurance-services/georgia-state-indemnification-program>

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

The Georgia Public Safety Memorial Grant provides grant funds to the dependent children of Georgia Public Safety Officers who were permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty. Funds may be used towards the cost of attendance at eligible colleges, universities, or technical colleges in Georgia. The scholarship is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, as appropriated funds are available, and if eligibility requirements are met. For more information contact the Georgia Student Finance Commission, 2082 East Exchange Place, Tucker, GA 30084. Office: (800) 505-4732, or visit their website gsfc.georgia.gov/.

ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION POLICE SCHOLARSHIP FUND provides college scholarships to the children of Atlanta Police Department officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. Scholarships will be awarded by the Atlanta Bar Foundation on a year-by-year basis. A maximum of four scholarships may be awarded to any one applicant if eligibility requirements are met; however, an award to an applicant in any one year does not guarantee further awards in subsequent years. For more information contact the Atlanta Bar Association, 229 Peachtree Street NE Suite 400, Atlanta, GA 30303. Office: (404) 521-0781. www.atlantabar.org

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers with 3 or more employees in Georgia; however, waivers are allowed. The Georgia Workers' Compensation Act provides an accident insurance program for medical, rehabilitation, and income benefits for employees injured or killed on the job. Dependents of public safety officers killed in the line of duty may receive two-thirds of the officers' average weekly wage or a maximum amount provided for by the General Assembly. The employer of the worker is required to file a completed *Employer's First Report of Injury (WC-1)*. For more information contact The State Board of Workers' Compensation at 270 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303. Office: (800) 533-0682. <https://sbwc.georgia.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.

GEORGIA SURVIVING SPOUSE TAX EXEMPTIONS

Unmarried surviving spouses' of a peace officer or firefighter who was killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to a total exemption of the homestead from all ad valorem taxes. This Act was effective on January 1, 2007, and applies to all tax years beginning on or after that date.

Definitions: Ad valorem taxes means all state ad valorem taxes and all county, county school district, municipal, and independent school district taxes for county, county school district, municipal, or independent school district purposes including, but not limited to, taxes to retire bonded indebtedness. Homestead means each resident of the state who is the un-remarried surviving spouse of a peace officer or firefighter who was killed in the line of duty is granted an exemption on that persons homestead from all ad valorem taxes for the full value of that homestead.

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 at (573) 346-4911 or visit <https://www.nationalcops.org/localchapters.html> for information on a chapter in your area.**

PEACE OFFICERS ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA

Georgia peace officers, including correctional officers, probation officers, and others, that are members of the Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit Fund and who are killed or disabled in the line of duty may be eligible for certain benefits. The Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia was created by the General Assembly in 1950 to provide certain annuities and benefits to peace officers in the state of Georgia. Members of the fund killed in the line of duty may be eligible for \$5,500 death payment to their beneficiary (\$3,500 paid immediately upon the death, an additional \$2,000 is paid in 20

monthly installments of \$100 each). Persons disabled may be eligible for a monthly disability pension of \$235. For more information contact **The Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia**, 1208 Greenbelt Drive, Griffin, GA 30224 (Mailing: P.O. Box 56, Griffin, GA 30224.) Office: (770) 228-8461. www.poab.georgia.gov

THE HUNDRED CLUBS OF GEORGIA

Club name: The 300 Club of Atlanta, Inc.

Club address: 3050 Peachtree Road NW Suite 620, Atlanta, GA 30305

Club phone: (404) 240-6736

Club website: <http://300clubatlanta.org/>

Benefit summary: Makes initial presentation; has purchased equipment for police and fire personnel; annual awards banquet; follow up services on a case-by-case basis

Club name: The 200 Club of the Coastal Empire

Club address: PO Box 1922 Savannah, GA 31402

Club phone: (912) 721-4418

Club website: <http://twohundredclub.org/>

Benefit summary: Paid approximately \$10,000 for first fatality including credit card debt; provides birthday and Christmas gifts to minor children

Georgia's P.O.R.C.H., Georgia's Professional Outreach and Resource Center for Healing (P.O.R.C.H.) is a program designed to provide specialized services for those who experience trauma and grief after a homicide or suicide. Services are also provided when trauma results from life threatening and/or critical incidents in the state of Georgia. The P.O.R.C.H. is sponsored by the District Attorney's Office of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners, and the Governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Write to Georgia's P.O.R.C.H. at PO Box 581, Milledgeville, GA 31059. Call them at (478) 445-1783 or at their After Hours & Emergency: (478) 445-4891.

<http://georgiasporch.tripod.com/georgias-porch/index.html>

SOUTHERN STATES POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

The PBA member's beneficiary will receive their base salary for one if year they are killed accidentally or intentionally while performing their law enforcement duties (maximum payout: \$60,000). The beneficiary will receive \$5,000 if it is not an occupational death or if you are a retired or reserve member. Any active Southern States PBA member in good standing and dues current will receive this benefit. For more information contact the Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc., 2155 GA-42, McDonough, GA 30252. Office: (770) 389-5391. www.sspba.org.

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 at their website: www.dignitymemorial.com and look under Public Servants for details. You may also call (800) 343-4464 and speak with a representative 24/7.

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 (800) 323-7188.



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