

# **CALIFORNIA**

## **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 997410, Sacramento, CA 95899. Office: (916) 445-2684. [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

### **STATE DEATH BENEFITS**

No one-time benefit available.

### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

In 1970, Assembly Bill 338 was passed by the 1970 California Legislative Session. Known as the Alan Pattee Scholarship Act, this legislation amended Section 68121 of the California Education Code. Under this Act, no fees or tuition of any kind shall be required of or collected by the Regents of the California State University from any surviving child, natural or adopted, of a public safety official in the State of California who is killed in the line of duty. The Trustees of the California State University may enter into agreements with other universities or colleges located within the state whereby qualified students from campuses of the California State University may attend the other universities or colleges without payment of some or all fees or tuition or both. Further, the trustees may enter into agreements with public colleges and universities in other states whereby qualified students from the California State University may attend the other college or university without payment of any tuition fee charged by that institution. The waiver of fees and tuition is handled by the state-supported college or university the surviving child plans to attend. When applying, the student must make the college or university aware of the fact that he or she is a surviving child of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty and qualifies for tuition-free education under Section 68121 of the Education Code known as the Alan Pattee Scholarship Act. EFFECTIVE August 2003, non-California residents who are California survivors may attend a California school at the IN-STATE tuition rate and apply for both the Alan Pattee Scholarship and the LEPD grant. Effective 1/1/2001, Governor Davis signed AB1850 which provides surviving spouses the same benefit that their (surviving) children receive. This consists of TUITION FREE education throughout the University of California, Hastings College of Law, and California State University systems. In addition to tuition-free education from the state, scholarships are available under Section 4709 of the Labor Code for persons who were dependents of peace officers or law enforcement officers at the time of death. Dependents must have been natural or adopted children or a dependent spouse. Any officer, who is killed in the performance of duty or who dies or is totally disabled as a result of an accident or

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an injury caused by external violence or physical force, incurred in the performance of duty, when the death, accident, or injury is compensable shall be entitled to a scholarship at any one of the institutions of collegiate grade located in California if the institution offers a two-year junior college or four-year college course and is accredited or is a candidate for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This program is known as the Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents (LEPD) program and is administered by the California Student Aid Commission. For more information contact the California Student Aid Commission, PO Box 419026, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. Office: (888) 224-7268. [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

**KID'S CHANCE, INC.** Kid's Chance is a scholarship program designated to help children who have had a parent killed or permanently disabled in a work-related accident. This nonprofit corporation was formed by the Workman's Compensation Section of the State Bar of Georgia.

Scholarships are provided on the basis of need to children between the ages of 16 and 22 who qualify. Scholarships are issued for one year during which time a student must maintain acceptable grades. The scholarships include the cost of books, tuition, and meals for high school, college, or technical school. For more information contact Peggy Hassler, Executive Director at (877) 933-0222 or [admin@kidschance.org](mailto:admin@kidschance.org). [www.kidschance.org](http://www.kidschance.org)

### **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

Death benefits are payments to a spouse, children or other dependents if an employee dies from a work-related injury or illness. This includes reasonable burial expenses, not exceeding \$5,000. The amount of the death benefit depends on the number of total and/or partial dependents. In the case of one or more totally dependent minors, after payment of amounts specified below, death benefits will continue until youngest minor's 18th birthday (disabled minors receive benefits for life). Death benefits are paid at the total temporary disability rate, but not less than \$224.00 per week. The period within which to commence proceedings for the collection of death benefits is one year from death where death occurs within one year of date of injury (DOI); or one year from date of last furnishing of any benefits or one year from death where death occurs more than one year from DOI. No such proceedings may be commenced more than 240 weeks from the DOI. For more information visit [www.dir.ca.gov](http://www.dir.ca.gov).

Burial expenses	1 total dependents	2 or more total dependents	3 or more total dependents	1 total plus 1 or more partial dependents	1 or more partial dependents
\$5,000	\$250,000	\$290,000	\$320,000	\$250,000 plus four times annual support for partial dependents not to exceed \$290,000	Eight times annual support not to exceed \$250,000

## **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.**

NRA Death Benefit: For more information visit [www.calnra.org](http://www.calnra.org)

The Military Order of the Purple Heart: For more information contact: (703) 642-5360.

The Knights Of Columbus: For more information visit [www.californiaknights.org](http://www.californiaknights.org)

Fraternal Order of Eagles: For more information visit [www.foe.com](http://www.foe.com)

National Sheriffs Association: For more information visit [www.nsacal.com](http://www.nsacal.com)

*If your officer was killed in Los Angeles, California, there is a book published by the Los Angeles Police Protective League 1308 W. Eighth ST, Los Angeles, CA 90017. Office: (213) 388-9768 [www.lapd.com](http://www.lapd.com)*

*If your officer was employed by the City of Oakland, you may be entitled to additional benefits. Contact the Oakland Police Officers Association, 555 5th Street, Oakland, CA 94607. Office: (510) 834-9670. [www.opoa.org](http://www.opoa.org).*

*California has a Victim Assistance Program. This program can only be utilized if all other insurances, coverage, and money has been exhausted. For information, contact Victims Assistance, 1401 Lakeside #802, Oakland, CA 94612. Office: (510) 272-6180.*

### **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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