



STATE OF MISSOURI

DEATH BENEFITS

To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact Vital Statistics, PO Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102, phone (573) 751-6400.

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

The state of Missouri **does not pay** a one-time death benefit for law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

STATE PENSION BENEFITS

There is no state-wide retirement system for law enforcement officers. However, Chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri sets forth guidelines for various retirement systems for police officers depending on the size of city that the officer is employed by. These retirement systems ARE NOT administered by any state agency.

Alternate Retirement System in Cities of 700,000 or more.

86.213. Board of trustees to administer-members of board, selection-terms.-The general administration and the responsibility for the proper operation of the retirement system and for making effective the provisions of sections 86.200 to 86.363 are hereby vested in a board of trustees of ten persons.

The board shall consist of: the president of the board of police commissioners of the city (ex officio), the comptroller of the city (ex officio), three members appointed by the mayor of the city, three members elected by the members of the retirement system of the city, two members who are retirees of the retirement system elected by the retirees of the retirement system.

86.288. Contributions paid to widows, when, from retirement system funds only.- Unless the provisions of subsection 2 apply, **in addition** to any other benefits payable, there shall be paid to the widow of a **member** with twenty or more years of service who dies on or after September 28, 1981, and while commissioned as a policeman the total amount of the member's contribution to the retirement system, without interest, within sixty days after proper proofs of death are provided. The amount shall be withdrawn from the general revenue fund of any city of 700,000 or more inhabitants.



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If your city has a population greater than 700,000, check with your agency's Benefits Assistance Officer about these benefits.

Cities 300,000 to 700,000.

For cities of this size, the general administration and the responsibility for the proper operation of the retirement system are vested in a retirement board of nine persons, according to section 86.393. The board shall consist of two members selected by the board of police commissioners, one of whom shall be of the political party casting the highest number of votes statewide for governor in the election next preceding such member's selection and the other of whom shall be of the political party casting the next highest number of votes statewide for governor, two members selected by the city council following the same political criteria, and five members elected by members of the police retirement system.

86.447. Pensions of dependents of deceased retired members-funeral benefit.- 1. Upon receipt of the proper proofs of **death of a member in service for any reason whatever** or the death of a member after having been retired and pensioned, there shall be paid, in **addition to all other benefits**, the following:

- 1) To his surviving spouse, if any, a pension **equal to 40% of the final compensation** of such member, which pension shall terminate on the remarriage of such surviving spouse;
 - 2) To his child or children under the age of 18 at the time of decease, **\$50 per month** each until he or she shall attain the age of 18; however each such child who is or becomes a full-time student at an accredited educational institution shall continue to receive payments until the age of 21; any child 18 or older who is physically or mentally incapacitated from wage earning shall be entitled to the same benefits as a child under the age of 18;
 - 3) **A funeral benefit of \$1,000.**
2. If there is no person qualified to receive a pension as a surviving spouse or if a surviving spouse remarries or dies, the total amount which would be received by a qualified surviving spouse or which is being received by the surviving spouse at the date of the remarriage or death of such surviving spouse **shall be added** to the amounts received by and shall be divided among the children under the age of 18 and the incapacitated children in equal shares.
3. No surviving spouse shall be entitled to receive benefits or the payment of a pension under this section unless marriage to the member occurred at least two years before the member's retirement or at least two years before the death of the member while in service; provided, **that no benefits shall be denied under this subsection to the surviving**



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spouse of a member whose death occurred in the line of duty or from an occupational disease arising out of and in the course of the member's employment.

4. If no benefits are otherwise payable to a surviving spouse or child of a deceased member, the member's accumulated contributions, to any extent not fully paid to such member prior to the member's death or to the surviving spouse or child of such member, shall be paid in one lump sum to the member's named beneficiary or, if none, to the member's estate.

If your city has a population between 300,000 and 700,000, check with your agency's Benefits Assistance Officer about these benefits.

If your officer was employed by a municipality of less than 300,000 population, it is possible that there is a local retirement system of which (s)he was a member. Talk with your agency's Benefits Assistance Officer.

Employees of the State of Missouri may be members of either the "Highways and Transportation Employees' and Highway Patrol Retirement System" (Sec.104.020) or the "Missouri State Employees' Retirement System" (Sec.104.320). County sheriffs may be members of the "Sheriffs' Retirement Fund" (Sec.57.952) All three systems provide survivors' benefits if a vested member dies. Your agency's Benefits Assistance Officer should be able to assist you.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Within the limits of the amounts appropriated therefore, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education shall provide a **grant** for either of the following to attend an institution of postsecondary education:

1. An **eligible child** of a public safety officer or employee killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty; or
2. A **spouse** of a public safety officer or employee killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty.

An eligible child or spouse may receive a grant only so long as the child or spouse is enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. In no event shall a child or spouse receive a grant **beyond the completion of the first baccalaureate degree** or, in the case of a child, **age twenty-four years**, except that the child may receive a grant through the completion of the semester or similar grading period in which the child reaches his 24th year. No child or spouse shall receive more than 100% of tuition when combined with similar funds made available to such child or spouse.



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The Coordinating Board for Higher Education may determine **minimum standards** of performance in order for a child or spouse to remain eligible to receive a grant under this program. An eligible child or spouse who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as an undergraduate postsecondary student at an approved institution of postsecondary education shall receive a grant in an amount **not to exceed the lesser of the actual tuition or the amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri for attendance as a full-time student taking 12 hours.**

If an eligible child or spouse is granted financial assistance under any other student aid program, public or private, **the full amount of such aid shall be reported** to the Board by the institution and the eligible child or spouse.

Contact the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, 101 Adams Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101, phone (573) 751-3940, or the Missouri Student Assistance Resource Services (MOSTARS) at 3315 Amazonas Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109, (573) 751-2361.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Varied - check with your **local police agency** for details.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Missouri with 5 or more employees.

Benefit for spouse or spouse and child(ren) is **66 2/3%** of the employee's wage with a **minimum weekly benefit of \$40 and a maximum weekly benefit of \$470.06.** 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 22 if full-time students, and beyond age 23 if on active duty in the armed Forces. There is also a **maximum burial allowance of \$5,000.**

Contact the Division of Workers' Compensation, State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, 3315 W. Truman Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65102, telephone (573) 751-4231.

PERSONAL LIFE POLICY - INTESTATE



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Descent and Distribution - Subject to payment and claims and rights of surviving spouse, all property as to which decedent dies intestate descends and is distributed to one of the following classes: **(1)** Children and descendants of deceased children; **(2)** parents, brothers, sisters and descendants of deceased brothers and sisters; **(3)** grandparents, uncles, aunts and descendants of deceased uncles and aunts; **(4)** great grandparents and descendants and so on without end, the estate going to the nearest lineal ancestors and their children and descendants of deceased children of such ancestors, provided that all collateral relatives more distant than ninth degree of kinship according to rules of civil law may not inherit. (474.010(2)).

If there be **no children or their descendants**, father, mother, brother nor sister, nor their descendants, husband or wife, nor any paternal or maternal kindred capable of inheriting, the estate goes to the kindred of the intestate's predeceased spouse in like course as though such spouse had survived the intestate and then died entitled to the estate. (474.010 (3)).

Where all the descendants, ancestors or collaterals coming into partition are of equal degree of kin to the intestate they take per capita; otherwise they take per stirpes. (474.020).

Surviving spouse takes the entire estate if intestate left neither parent nor issue. If decedent left no issue but did leave one or both parents, or if decedent left issue all of whom are also issue of surviving spouse, surviving spouse takes one-half intestate estate if there are surviving issue who are not issue of surviving spouse. (474.010(1)). **Premarital contracts** whereby any estate, real or personal, is received effective after death of spouse and expressed to be in full discharge of all rights of inheritance or other statutory rights in estate, **are valid.** (474.120).

Gifts in fraud of marital rights shall at election of surviving spouse be treated as a testamentary disposition and recovered from donee or transferees without adequate consideration and applied to payment of spouse's share as in case of election to take against a will. (474.150).

In addition to the foregoing, either surviving spouse is entitled to certain specified articles and allowances for support.

PEER SUPPORT

Established in 1984, **Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., (COPS)**, 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. COPS has become a “lifeline” to police



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survivors nationwide. **Contact the COPS National Office or visit www.nationalcops.org/chap.htm for information on a chapter in your area.**

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

The **Missouri Peace Officer's Association** offers a one-time benefit of **\$1,000** to the family of an officer who is killed in the line of duty as approved on a case-by-case basis by the executive board. Further information can be obtained by contacting the **Missouri Peace Officers' Association, 1806 Swift, Suite 106, North Kansas City, MO 64116, telephone (816)842-3533, email mopoa@prodigy.net.**

The **Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society (MASTERS)** provides assistance to families of Missouri state troopers killed in the line of duty. This organization provides financial assistance for funeral expenses, home mortgages, and student educational benefits for immediate family members. **Further information can be obtained by contacting The MASTERS, Route 6 Box 564, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901.**

The **State FOP Lodge** offers a **\$1,000 life insurance policy** on all members, increasing \$100 per year he/she is a member, to a maximum of \$1,500. **This amount is tripled if the officer is slain in the line of duty.**

The Parole Board, directed by statute, notifies victims of escapees, furloughs and parole hearings. Contact your **local Missouri Department of Corrections Board of Probation and Parole**. If the victim responds in anyway to the hearing notice, they are also notified of specific release plans. However, the Board is not bound by statute and does not notify victims of inmate movement within the prison system.

The Backstoppers (The Policemen & Firemen Fund of St. Louis, Inc.)

From 1959, The Backstoppers have but one purpose: To ease suffering and provide much-needed financial assistance for the spouses and dependent children of policemen and firefighters who lose their lives in the performance of duty.

The Backstoppers offer of assistance is proffered to families of members **of all local, county, police and fire departments**. The Backstoppers serve a geographical area that includes the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, Jefferson County, St. Charles County, and Franklin County in Missouri; and the Illinois counties of Madison and St. Clair. **Contact The Backstoppers, P. O. Box 7717, Chesterfield, MO 63006-7717, telephone (314) 230-9898.**

LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL



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The Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial is located behind the **Missouri State Capitol** in **Jefferson City, Missouri.**

