



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DEATH BENEFITS

To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Department of Health, Health Building, Room 101, 75 Davis Street, Providence, RI 02908, phone (401) 277-2811.

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

No one-time state death benefit currently exists.

STATE PENSION BENEFITS

45-19-4. Annuities to dependents of police officers dying as a result of service and appropriations to non-dependent parents of police officers dying as a result of service.

- (a) If an active or retired member of the police force of a city or town is killed or dies from injuries received while in the performance of his or her duty as a member, there shall be paid out of the Policeman's Relief Fund of Rhode Island to the following dependents of the deceased person, the following sums of money:
- (1) to the widow or widower an annuity **not exceeding three thousand six hundred dollars (\$3,600) a year**, payable in such regular installments as may be determined by the board and continuing as long as he or she **remains unmarried** and
 - (2) beginning at the time of the filing of the petition by the widow or widower for the annuity, an **additional annuity of twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) a year**, payable in such regular installments as may be determined by the board, for **each child** of the deceased person during such time as the child is under the age of eighteen (18) years, or over the age and physically or mentally incapacitated from earning; and,
 - (3) if there is **any child and no widow or widower** or the widow or widower dies later, such sum and such annuity as would have been payable to the widow or widower had there been one or had he or she lived, to or for the benefit of the child or of the children, in equal shares, during the aforesaid time; and,
 - (4) if there is any child and the widow or widower **remarries**, in lieu of the aforesaid annuity to him or her, an annuity not exceeding **twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) to or for the benefit of each child** during the time aforesaid; and,
 - (5) if there is **no widow or widower and no child** the total sum



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- of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) payable in a lump sum for the benefit of the father and/or mother** of the deceased, if **not dependent** upon him or her for support at the time of his or her death; and,
- (6) if there is **no widow or widower and no child** the sum of **three thousand six hundred dollars (\$3,600)** payable in regular installments by the board of policemen's relief to or for the benefit of the **father or mother of the deceased, if dependent** upon him or her for support at the time of his or her death; and
- (7) beginning at the time of filing of the petition as aforesaid and continuing so long as the beneficiary is unable to support himself or herself and **does not remarry**, an annuity **not exceeding three thousand six hundred dollars (\$3,600)** a year, payable in such regular installments as may be determined by the board. The amount of the annuity shall, from time to time, be determined within the limits aforesaid by the board.
- (b) For the purpose of this section the words "police officer" shall mean and include any active or retired member of the state police or the police of any city or town regularly employed at a **fixed salary or wage**.
- (c) The provisions of this section shall apply in the case of any dependent receiving benefits in accordance with the provisions of this section **as it was in effect prior to April 25, 1960**.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

Tuition is paid for child(ren) attending any college or university operated by the **State of Rhode Island**. Child shall have entered the institution while between the **ages of 16 and 21**.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Check with your local police department to find out what insurance plan you are eligible to receive health benefits from.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Rhode Island.

Benefit is **66 2/3%** of employee's wage for surviving spouse only and **80%** for spouse with child(ren) with a **maximum weekly benefit of \$463 plus \$20 for each dependent child**. Maximum burial allowance is **\$5,000**.

Spouse loses benefits **upon remarriage**. Children receive benefits until **age 18 or beyond age 18 if disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students**.



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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.

Contact The Workers' Compensation Unit of the State Department of Labor, 610 Manton Avenue, P. O. Box 3500, Providence, RI 02909-0500, telephone (401) 272-0700.

PERSONAL LIFE POLICIES

Descent and Distribution: Subject to **rights of the surviving spouse**, if any real and personal estate not disposed of by will descends and is distributed as follows, each class taking to exclusion of subsequent classes:

- (1) children and/or descendants of deceased children;
- (2) parents equally or all to surviving parent;
- (3) brothers and sisters and/or decedents of deceased brothers and sisters and/or descendants of deceased brothers or sisters;
- (4) in equal moieties to more remote paternal and maternal kindred, each in the following course:
 - (a) grandparents equally or all to surviving grandparent;
 - (b) uncles and aunts and/or descendants of deceased greatuncles or greataunts and/or descendants of deceased uncles or aunts;
 - (c) greatgrandparents equally or all to surviving greatgrandparents;
 - (d) greatuncles and greataunts and/or descendants of deceased greatuncles or greataunts. If there be no maternal or paternal kindred on the one part, the whole goes to the



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other part, and if none on either part, the whole goes to his or her kindred in like course as if such husband or wife had survived the intestate and then died entitled to the estate.

Descendants of persons who would have inherited if living take always per stirpes.

Surviving spouse takes life estate in all realty. If any estate, real or personal, is devised or bequeathed to surviving spouse, such devise or bequest shall bar life estate unless surviving spouse, within six months after date of first publication of qualifications of fiduciary spouse, files in probate court written statement waiving devise and bequest and claiming his or her life estate in real estate of decedent. If intestate left no issue, probate court, on application within six months from date of first publication of notice of qualification of administrator, may also allow or set off in fee to surviving spouse **real estate not exceeding \$75,000** in value. Surviving spouse takes **one-half** of personalty not bequeathed if decedent left issue otherwise **first \$50,000 in value and one half of remainder**.

PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

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

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Check with your **local F.O.P.** to see what benefits may be available to surviving dependents.