



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DEATH BENEFITS

To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact Vital Records, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201, phone (803) 734-4830.

STATE DEATH BENEFITS

No one-time state death benefit is currently available.

STATE PENSION BENEFITS

Death Benefits:

Widow(er) receives **1/2 of annual salary**.

If there is no surviving spouse, or if the surviving spouse dies before the youngest child of the deceased member has attained the age of 18, the pension is paid to the **children**.

If at the time of the member's death there is no widow or child under the age of 18, the pension is paid to the **surviving father and/or mother**.

Refund of retirement contribution in a lump sum:

If officer has been employed over 15 years the widow(er) **can choose** a monthly benefit or lump sum.

Contact the South Carolina Officers' Retirement System, P.O. Box 11960 Capitol Station, Columbia, SC 29211.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

State Statute 59-111-110

College tuition is **not charged** for 4 years at a state supported college for all children.

For specific information or to find out how to apply contact the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend. Refer to the State Statute noted above.



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HEALTH BENEFITS

On June 27, 2003, Governor Sanford signed a bill that extends health insurance benefits for survivors of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.

New paragraph F of Section 1-11-730 states: “A spouse or dependent of a person covered by the **(state health and dental insurance)** plans who is killed in the line of duty after December 31, 2001 shall receive equivalent coverage under the plans for a period of twelve months and the State shall be responsible for paying the full premium costs. After the twelve-month period, a spouse or dependent is eligible for state-paid premiums. A spouse is eligible for state-paid premiums under this subsection *until the spouse remarries*. A dependent is eligible for state-paid premiums under this subsection until the dependent’s eligibility for coverage under the plans *would ordinarily terminate*.”

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation coverage is **elective** for employers in South Carolina.

Death benefits

- (1) **500 weeks** of compensation at **2/3 of weekly wage** with a **minimum weekly benefit of \$75** or worker's average wage if less than \$75 and a **maximum weekly benefit of \$410.26**.
- (2) **\$2,500** funeral allotment.
- (3) **Any medical costs** related to the death of the officer will be paid.

Two-year lump sum payable to spouse upon **remarriage and weekly benefits cease**. Children receive benefits **beyond age 19 if disabled, or until age 23 if full-time students**.

Contact the South Carolina Workmans' Compensation Commission, 1612 Marion Street, Columbia, South Carolina (803) 737-5700; or Workmens Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 102100, Columbia, South Carolina 29221; (800) 521-6576.

For **Charleston City Police**, the city provides of one times the annual salary at the time of death for named beneficiaries.

Contact the Human Resources Department for the City of Charleston.

PERSONAL LIFE POLICIES



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If the employee has chosen **optional** life insurance, the family receives the amount the employee chose. The amount is based on salary. The **group life insurance is one year's salary**.

The family also receives **\$3,000** life insurance with double indemnity to **\$6,000**.

Descent and Distribution: Surviving spouse takes as follows: (1) Entire intestate estate if no surviving issue of decedent; (2) one-half of intestate estate if there are surviving issue.

Heirs other than surviving spouse - Part of intestate estate not passing to surviving spouse, descends and is distributed as follows, each class taking to exclusion of subsequent classes:

- (1) To issue of decedent: if they are all of same degree of kinship to decedent they take equally but if of unequal degree, then those of more remote degree take by representation;
- (2) if there is no surviving issue to his or her parent or parents equally;
- (3) issue of decedent's parents or either of them by representation;
- (4) grandparents or issue of grandparents, half estate passes to paternal grandparents if both survive, or to surviving paternal grandparent, or to issue of paternal grandparents if both are deceased, issue take equally if they are of same degree of kinship, but if not, more remote take by representation; and other half passes to maternal relatives in same manner, but if there is no surviving grandparent or issue of grandparent on either paternal or maternal side, entire estate passes to relatives on other side in same manner as half;
- (5) great-grandparents or their issue, half estate passes to surviving paternal great-grandparents in equal shares, or to surviving paternal great-grandparent if only one survives, or to issue of paternal great-grandparents if none of great-grandparents survive, issue taking equally if of same degree of kinship, if not, those of more remote degree take by representation; and other half passes to maternal relatives in same manner; but if of no surviving great-grandparents or their issue exist, on side, or issue of deceased stepchildren take equally if of same degree of step-kinship to decedent, but if not, more remote take by representation.

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



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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

Property Tax Exemption

In 1996, the South Carolina legislature passed, and the governor signed, a bill granting a property tax exemption for the surviving spouses of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. To obtain the exemption, the surviving spouse must take to their local property tax office the following: (1) Deed of Distribution (proving ownership of the home), (2) Death Certificate, and (3) Verification that this was a line-of-duty death (A copy of the award letter from PSOB or a letter from the department).

Contact the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers' Association, P.O. Box 210709, Columbia, South Carolina 29221-0709, or 7339 Broad River Road (J.P. Strom Boulevard), Irmo, South Carolina 29063; (800) 922-0083 or (803) 781-5913 to see what benefits are available to association members.

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. **Contact: Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc., 1900 Brannan Road, McDonough, GA 30253-4310, telephone 1-800-233-3506, or visit www.sspba.org.**