

## **Additional Benefit Information for Line of Duty Deaths**

Below is a list of potential benefits (not all inclusive) to which you may be entitled. You are encouraged to apply for all of them. If you need assistance with required documentation, you may contact the TDCJ benefits coordinator within the Human Resources Division.

### **Employees Retirement System – Chapter 615 Benefits**

---

**Provider:** State of Texas

**Summary:** The state shall pay a lump sum payment of \$500,000 or the amount designated by the ERS board of trustees to the eligible surviving spouse (HB 3635, 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature.) If there is no spouse, this amount will be divided equally among surviving children. If there is no eligible surviving spouse or children, the benefit will be paid in equal shares to surviving parents.

**Documents Required:** Certified Death Certificate; Offense/Investigative Report; Autopsy Report; Toxicology Report; TDCJ Position Description; Sworn Statement from Employee Services Section Director; employee's Birth Certificate; Newspaper Clipping(s); Completed Claim Forms; Marriage License; Copy of Death Certificates for employee and spouse(s) if any marriage(s) ended in death; Sworn Statement from person making the claim (spouse) providing name and Social Security Number of the employee, the date of death, and the name, address, and Social Security Number of the surviving spouse; Sworn Statement from authorized representative of TDCJ that at the time of the fatal injury, the employee was a state employee and employee was on the job and the death was a result of risk or hazard inherent to employee's duties; Affidavits from any witnesses detailing the facts of the fatality; and itemized funeral expenses.

**Details & Applicable Instructions:** Death benefits are provided for survivors of TDCJ custodial officers. There is a monthly payment paid by the State of Texas to the eligible surviving spouse and minor child until the child reaches the age of 18:

- \$400 each month; if there is one surviving child.
- \$600 each month; if there are two surviving children.
- \$800 each month; if there are three or more surviving children.

Additionally, the state will pay funeral expenses related to the custodial officer, provided the officer had not qualified for an annuity under an employees' retirement plan.

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (512) 867-7711

Toll Free: (877) 275-4377

Website: [www.ers.state.tx.us](http://www.ers.state.tx.us)

**Mailing Address:**

Texas Employees Retirement System

P.O. Box 13207

Austin, TX 78711-3207

**Physical Address:**

200 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street

Austin, TX 78701

### **Social Security Benefits**

---

**Provider:** United States Social Security Administration

**Summary:** One-time death benefit payment plus monthly death benefits. The surviving spouse must request the lump sum, one-time benefit and may be able to receive full benefits at age 65 if born on or before January 1, 1940 (age gradually increasing to 67 for widows or widowers born January 2, 1940 or later). Reduced benefits may be available as early as age 60.

**Documents Required:** Marriage Certificate; Certified Death Certificate

**Contact Information:**

Toll Free: (800) 772-1213

Website: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

## **Workers' Compensation – State Office of Risk Management**

---

**Provider:** State Office of Risk Management

**Summary:** Amount provided for funeral expenses varies, but shall not exceed \$10,000, and will be paid directly to the funeral home handling the burial arrangements. Income benefits payments will be computed by multiplying the employee's average weekly wage by 75%.

**Details & Applicable Instructions:** Workers' Compensation shall pay the following death benefits when a custodial officer is killed in the line of duty:

- Will pay up to \$10,000 for funeral expenses which will be paid directly to the funeral home handling the burial arrangements.
- Payment will be computed by multiplying the employee's average weekly wage by 75%.
- If the custodial officer is survived by any minor children, Workers' Compensation will then mandatorily divide the payment, paying a portion each week to the child until the child reaches the age of 18, or marries, or beyond age 18 if disabled, or until the child reaches the age of 25 if full-time student. If there are two or more children, the weekly amount must equally be divided among them.
- At such time as all dependent children become of age or leave home, the surviving spouse will receive a weekly benefit thereafter.
- The surviving spouse will continue to receive the Workers' Compensation Benefit whether or not the surviving spouse chooses to remarry (HB 1094, 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature). The minor child or children will receive the weekly benefit until reaching the maximum age.
- If the custodial officer was single and had never been married, the parents (if living) or next of kin, if financially dependent upon the officer, are entitled to receive cash settlement under Workers' Compensation.
- Workers' Compensation benefits are calculated based on the custodial officer's average salary for the 13 weeks immediately prior to death.

To file for Workers' Compensation, the custodial officer's survivors, or their representative should contact the Industrial Accident Board. To file the claim, the following information will be needed:

- Full name of the employee and age.
- Social Security Number of the employee.
- Date and time of injury.
- Description of injuries received.
- Date and time of death.
- Exact cause of death.
- Hourly wage rate and weekly wage average of the employee.
- Full name and age of surviving spouse.
- Full names, ages, dates of birth, and marital status of children.
- Date of marriage and copy of marriage certificate.
- Names, addresses, and dates of marriage and divorce or death of previous spouses if the employee was married more than once.
- Copy of the death certificate.
- If the employee was not married, then the name and the address of parents, if living, or next of kin.

Workers' Compensation benefits will begin approximately two weeks after the date of filing.

**Contact Information:**  
Phone: (512) 475-1440

**Mailing Address:**  
State Office of Risk Management  
P.O. Box 13777  
Austin, Texas 78711

## **Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance and Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB)**

---

**Provider:** U.S. DOJ - BJA - Public Safety Officers Benefits Program

**Summary:** A unique partnership effort of the U.S. Department of Justice; local, state, tribal, and federal public safety agencies; and national organizations, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death and education benefits to survivors of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders, and disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty. The amount of the PSOB benefit is \$350,079 for eligible deaths and disabilities occurring on or after October 1, 2017. The educational assistance benefit for each month of full-time attendance on or after October 1, 2017 is \$1,041. The PSOB Office at the Bureau of Justice Assistance is honored to review the nearly 700 claims submitted each year on behalf of America's fallen and catastrophically disabled public safety heroes and their loved ones.

**Contact Information:**

Toll Free: (888) 744-6513

Email: [AskPSOB@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskPSOB@usdoj.gov)

Website: [www.psob.gov](http://www.psob.gov)

**Address:**

U.S. DOJ – BJA – Public Safety Officers Benefits Program

810 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW

Washington, DC 20531

## **American Federation of Police and Concerned Citizens**

---

**Provider:** American Federation of Police and Concerned Citizens

**Summary:** Survivors may be entitled to a one-time benefit as well as the addition of the deceased employee's name to the memorial wall as a lasting tribute.

**Contact Information:**

Lorie Shepherd

Phone: (321) 264-0911 ext. 123

Website: [www.aphf.org](http://www.aphf.org)

**Address:**

American Federation of Police and Concerned Citizens

6350 Horizon Drive

Titusville, FL 32780

## **Combine Law Enforcement Association of Texas (CLEAT)**

---

**Provider:** Combine Law Enforcement Association of Texas

**Summary:** Survivors of members may be entitled to \$15,000 in benefits. Additionally, surviving children may be entitled to \$500 scholarships.

**Contact Information:**

Toll Free: (800) 252-8153

Website: [www.cleat.org](http://www.cleat.org)

**Address:**

Combine Law Enforcement Association of Texas

400 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 100

Austin, TX 78701

## **Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (C.O.P.S.)**

---

**Provider:** Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

**Summary:** Survivors may be entitled to reimbursement of counseling services, financial assistance, grief seminars, and assistance in attending the National Police Week Conference.

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (573) 346-4911

Toll Free: (800) 784-2677

Fax: (573) 346-1414

Email: [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

Website: [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)

**Address:**

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

P.O. Box 3199

Camdenton, MO 65020

## **C.O.P.S. Scholarship**

---

**Provider:** Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

**Summary:** Provides educational assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (573) 346-4911

Toll Free: (800) 784-2677

Fax: (573) 346-1414

Email: [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org)

Website: [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)

**Address:**

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

P.O. Box 3199

Camdenton, MO 65020

## **Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF)**

---

**Provider:** Correctional Peace Officers Foundation

**Summary:** Survivors may be entitled to financial assistance and additional death benefits, as well as round-trip airfare for the surviving spouse and one guest to attend a memorial service.

**Contact Information:**

Cathy Stokes, Texas Representative

Phone: (936) 222-2044

Toll Free: (800) 800-2763

Fax: (916) 928-0072

Website: [www.cpof.org](http://www.cpof.org)

**Address:**

Correctional Peace Officers Foundation Headquarters

P.O. Box 348390

Sacramento, CA 95384-8390

## **Crime Victims' Compensation**

---

**Provider:** Texas Attorney General Office

**Summary:** May provide financial assistance up to \$50,000 to victims of violent crime for related expenses that cannot be reimbursed by insurance or other sources.

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (512) 936-1200

Toll Free: (800) 983-9933

Email: [crimevictims@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:crimevictims@texasattorneygeneral.gov)

Website: <https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victims-compensation>

## **Fleetwood Memorial Fund**

---

**Provider:** Fleetwood Memorial Fund

**Summary:** The foundation's purpose is to provide virtually instant no-strings-attached grants of \$10,000 to certified Texas Law Enforcement or Fire Protection Personnel who are injured in the performance of their duties or to the families of such personnel who are killed in the performance of their duties.

**Details & Applicable Instructions:**

Mr. W.I. Fleetwood established the Fleetwood Memorial Foundation in 1974 out of gratitude and respect for the men and women of Texas who dedicate their lives to the safety of the public. These grants are designed to provide immediate financial relief to meet unexpected expenses until insurance or more permanent sources of funds can be arranged. Funds are available for education expenses to re-educate qualified personnel if they are unable to return to their normal duties after an accident. Educational funds for college are also available to the dependent children of employee peace and fire personnel.

The Fleetwood Foundation has provided over 400 grants to qualified recipients totaling nearly \$1,500,000 since inception in 1974. Application for Fleetwood grants may be made by any Texas law enforcement or fire protection agency, on behalf of qualified personnel injured or killed in the performance of their duty.

**Contact Information:**

Lisa Mund

Phone: (817) 261-8954

Fax: (817) 632-8711

Email: [lmund@cfntx.org](mailto:lmund@cfntx.org)

Website: [www.fleetwoodmemorial.org](http://www.fleetwoodmemorial.org)

**Address:**

Fleetwood Memorial Foundation

501 South Fielder Rd.

Arlington, TX 76013

## **Fraternal Order of Eagles**

---

**Provider:** Fraternal Order of Eagles

**Summary:** Through their Memorial Foundation, the Eagles provide financial assistance for surviving children of full-time law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty who were also active members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at the time of their death.

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (614) 883-2200

**Address:**

Fraternal Order of Eagles

1623 Gateway Circle

S. Grove City, OH 43123

## **Health Insurance**

---

### **Details & Applicable Instructions:**

The surviving spouse and surviving dependents may be entitled to continued health insurance benefits provided the deceased employee was “vested” with at least ten years of service prior to the date of death. The surviving spouse and surviving dependents of Texas law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty are entitled to purchase continued health insurance benefits at the rate paid by current employees (ref. SB 872, 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature). The surviving spouse is entitled to continue to purchase health insurance coverage until the earlier of the date the surviving spouse becomes eligible for federal Medicare benefits.

Surviving dependent minor children are entitled to continue health insurance coverage until the dependent reaches the age of 18 or becomes eligible for group health insurance through another employer.

Surviving dependents who are not minor children are entitled to continue health insurance coverage until the earlier of the date the dependent becomes eligible for group health insurance through another employer; or the date the dependent becomes eligible for federal Medicare benefits.

Survivors may elect to continue coverage at any level of benefits currently offered by the employing entity to dependents of an active employee. Eligible survivors who are entitled to continued coverage are entitled to purchase the coverage at the group rate for that coverage that exists at the time of payment.

### **Contact Information:**

Contact the TDCJ benefits coordinator to continue group health insurance coverage.

## **Houston 100 Club**

---

**Provider:** The 100 Club

**Summary:** Established in 1953, the 100 Club provides financial support to law enforcement officers and state or federal law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty in the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Chambers, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Liberty, Madison, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker, Waller, and Washington.

### **Contact Information:**

Phone: (713) 952-0100

### **Address:**

The 100 Club  
5555 San Felipe St. Suite 1750  
Houston, TX 77056-2733

## **100 Club of Central Texas**

---

**Provider:** The 100 Club of Central Texas

**Summary:** The 100 Club of Central Texas was established in 1983. The Club provides financial, legal, and emotional support to families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Area of coverage includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Hays, and Caldwell Counties.

### **Contact Information:**

(512) 345-3200

### **Address:**

The 100 Club of Central Texas  
3200 Steck Avenue, Suite 240  
Austin, TX 78757

## **International Association of Chiefs of Police**

---

**Provider:** International Association of Chiefs of Police

**Summary:** Survivors may be entitled to benefits.

**Contact Information:**

Amanda Burstein

Phone: (800) 843-4227 ext. 829

Fax: (703) 836-4743

Email: [burstein@theiacp.org](mailto:burstein@theiacp.org)

Website: [www.theiacpfoundation.org](http://www.theiacpfoundation.org)

**Address:**

International Association of Chiefs of Police

44 Canal Center Plaza, Ste. 200

Alexandria, VA 22314

## **Knights of Columbus Scholarship**

---

**Provider:** The Knights of Columbus

**Summary:** Scholarships are available to children of members of the Order who, as a result of criminal violence, lost their lives or became totally and permanently disabled while in the lawful performance of their duties as full-time law enforcement officers.

**Contact Information:**

(909) 343-0460

**Address:**

The Knights of Columbus

15808 Arrow Blvd. Suite A

Fontana, CA 92335

## **Military Order of the Purple Heart**

---

**Provider:** Military Order of the Purple Heart

**Summary:** Membership restricted to "Purple Heart" recipients. Educational benefits for surviving children are available. (2.75 GPA required)

## **National Guard**

---

**Provider:** National Guard

**Summary:** Survivors of members may be entitled to \$50,000 in benefits.

**Contact Information:**

Website: [www.nationalguard.com](http://www.nationalguard.com)

## **National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF)**

---

**Provider:** National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

**Summary:** May be entitled to have deceased employee's name added to the memorial wall in Washington, DC as a lasting memorial tribute.

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (202) 737-3400

Website: [www.nleomf.org](http://www.nleomf.org)

**Address:**

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

901 E. Street NW, Ste. 100

Washington, DC 20004-2025

## **National Rifle Association (NRA)**

---

**Provider:** National Rifle Association

**Summary:** The Line of Duty Death Benefit of \$35,000 is paid to the survivor of any current NRA Member, who is a public law enforcement officer and is killed in the line of duty. Coverage is automatic for all law enforcement officers who are NRA members.

**Contact Information:**  
Toll Free: (800) 672-3888

**Address:**  
National Rifle Association (NRA)  
11250 Waples Mill Road  
Fairfax, VA 22030

## **Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation (POMF)**

---

**Provider:** Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation

**Summary:** Deceased employee may be entitled to have their name added to the memorial wall in Austin, Texas as a lasting tribute.

**Contact Information:**  
Phone: (800) 252-8153  
Website: [www.pomf.org](http://www.pomf.org)

**Address:**  
Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation  
400 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701

## **TDCJ Payroll**

---

**Provider:** Comptroller of Public Accounts

**Summary:** Beneficiary is entitled to the final paycheck for the employee which will reflect time worked. All vacation, overtime, and half of sick leave accruals up to 336 hours will be paid on the first supplemental following a 30-day waiting period.

**Contact Information:**  
Contact the TDCJ benefits coordinator for additional information.

## **Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE)**

---

**Provider:** Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

**Summary:** To honor fallen peace officers, the state of Texas provides a Texas flag to the surviving family. Surviving children may be entitled to scholarships for any course of study, without any service or repayment obligation.

**Contact Information:**  
Phone: (512) 936-7700  
Website: [www.tcole.texas.gov](http://www.tcole.texas.gov)

**Address:**  
Texas Commission on Law Enforcement  
6330 E. Highway 290, Ste. 200  
Austin, TX 78723-1035

## **Texas Education Code § 54.351**

---

**Provider:** U.S. Department of Education

**Summary:** Dependent children age birth to 17 whose eligible parent has been disabled in the line of duty and dependent children ages 18-20 whose eligible parent has been disabled or deceased in the line of duty. The eligible child must be enrolled in a Texas public college or university prior to age 21. Benefits cannot be received past 26. Must be able to prove the child was claimed as a dependent in the year preceding the death or disability to be eligible.

## **Texas Education Code § 54.354**

---

**Provider:** U.S. Department of Education

**Summary:** The surviving spouse and/or minor children under the age of 18 of certain deceased employees may be entitled to education benefits.

## **Texas Public Employee Association (TPEA)**

---

**Provider:** Texas Public Employees Association

**Summary:** Benefits may be available for survivors of TPEA members.

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (512) 476-2691

Toll Free: (888) FOR-TPEA (367-8732)

Fax: (512) 476-1338

Email: [mail@tpea.org](mailto:mail@tpea.org)

Website: [www.tpea.org](http://www.tpea.org)

**Address:**

Texas Public Employees Association

512 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 100

Austin, TX 78701

## **Texas Tax Code, Chapter 11 (SB 15, 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature)**

---

**Summary:** Exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of a surviving spouse.

## **Veterans Administration**

---

**Provider:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Summary:** Many law enforcement officers are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and a number of survivor's benefits are available to the spouse and children of an employee veteran. Included in these benefits are: a death pension, funeral expenses, life insurance, and burial plot allowance.

**Contact Information:**

Toll Free: (800) 827-1000

Website: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**Address:**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20420

## Required Documentation

Before you can file for various benefits and take care of other financial matters, you will need to collect a variety of documents. The federal government requires **certified copies** of all documents, therefore it is recommended you purchase the number of certified copies listed next to each document. Copies may be made for state and local benefits in many cases.

1. **Certified Death Certificate (20 certified copies):** Your funeral director can order these for you or you can order directly from the county health department or the State Vital Records Office.
2. **Certified Marriage Certificate (3 certified copies):** Available from the county clerk where the marriage license was issued. Bearing the raised seal of the issuing public agency.
3. **Certified Divorce Papers (3 certified copies):** If previously married, divorce decree with custody agreement if applicable. Must bear the raised seal of the court of issuance.
4. **Employee Certified Birth Certificates (3 certified copies):** Available at state and county public records offices.
5. **Surviving Children Certified Birth Certificates (3 certified copies):** For any surviving children, regardless of age or dependency of the employee (includes natural, adopted, and stepchildren). Certificate must identify name of both parents, and bear raised seal of the issuing public agency. Available at either the state or county public records offices where the child was born.
6. **Adoption Certificate for Each Adopted Child (3 certified copies)**
7. **Spouse Certified Birth Certificates (3 certified copies)**
8. **Social Security Card:** Copies of the social security card for the employee, spouse, guardian of surviving dependent children, and surviving dependent children. TDCJ Human Resources Division may have the numbers on file.
9. **Copy of Driver License:** For employee and for surviving spouse.
10. **Military Discharge Papers (2 certified copies):** Available from the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200 (Send it to the attention of the branch in which the employee served).
11. **Investigation, Incident, or Accident Report (5 certified copies):** Available from the Office of the Inspector General.

## Required Documentation

12. **Autopsy/Coroner's Report or a Letter Stating One Was Not Performed (5 certified copies)**
13. **Detailed Statement of Circumstances** on employer's letterhead, provided by the TDCJ Human Resources Division.
14. **Workers' Compensation Report "Employer's First Report of Injury or Illness," DWC 1s**
15. **Injury Report:** Will be provided by the TDCJ Administrative Review and Risk Management Division.
16. **Original Will:** The lawyer who wrote the will may have it, or it may be with the personal belongings of the employee or in a safe deposit box. Some banks have special procedures before letting anyone into the safe deposit box.
17. **List of Property:** A complete list of what the employee owned including real estate, stocks, bonds, bank accounts, deeds, and personal property.
18. **Life Insurance Policies:** Identify all life insurance policies purchased through work, professional organizations, or private company. Consider policies that may be granted as a member of a bank, credit union, or other financial institution.
19. **Recent Income Tax Returns:** If you cannot locate a copy of the most recent income tax return, you need to fill out IRS Form 4506. You will need to attach documentation that you are authorized to act on behalf of the employee, such as letters from the probate court.
20. **Funeral Program, Newspaper Article, 100 Club Announcement, and/or TDCJ Announcement**
21. **Send Certified Letter to Texas Education Board** regarding the death of the employee and a list of surviving children who may be eligible for education benefits. A template letter may be obtained from the TDCJ Human Resources Division.
22. **Check with Creditors:** Advise all creditors in writing, including issuers of credit cards, that the employee has died. If you have any loans, find out if they are insured.