



MIDDLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE
March 16, 2004

POLICY
2.4.08

SUBJECT: **Response to Line of Duty Deaths**

REVIEWED
December 4, 2017

Refer to:

History: 2004. Updated: 07/2015; 12/2017

[WILEAG \(5th Ed\)](#):

Contents

Purpose.....	2
Definitions.....	2
Death Notification.....	2
Assisting The Family At The Hospital	4
Support For The Family During The Wake Or Funeral	4
Providing Information And Assistance On Benefits to The Surviving Family	5
Benefit Information.....	6
Retirement System Death Benefits	7
Worker’s Compensation Benefits	7
Wisconsin Education Benefits	8
Federal Public Safety Officer’s Benefit Act	9
Federal Workers’ Compensation Benefits For Non-Federal Law Enforcement Officers	11
Social Security	11
One Time Death Benefit	12
City Of Middleton Benefits	12
Military Veterans	13
Loans/Memberships/Credit Cards	13
Support Organizations	14
Concerns Of Police Survivors, Inc.....	14
Other Support Groups	15
Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.....	15
The Compassionate Friends, Inc.....	15
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	15
National Organization for Victim Assistance	15
National Victim Center	15
Association of Death Education and Counseling.....	15

Purpose

The Middleton Police Department can do much to help a deceased employee's survivors cope with the loss of their loved one. In establishing this policy the department will be better able to respond to the needs of the survivors by affecting its ability to respond in a prompt, organized manner and yet remain sensitive to the human emotions of the event.

The immediate and continuing response of the department when an employee is killed, whether in an accident or feloniously, has a definite impact on the well-being of the survivors. This response begins prior to the event by the maintenance of records of the employee's wishes for who they want notified in the case of the employee's serious injury or death.

This information shall be completed for all employees, shall be kept in the employee's annual service file and shall be updated annually. Employees shall notify their supervisor of any changes in the information as soon as practical after the change occurs.

This information should include workplace addresses, including location of the work area in the business, of adults to be notified and school information regarding any children.

Definitions

Line of duty death: Any action, felonious or accidental, which claims the life of a Middleton Police Officer who is performing work related functions either while on or off duty.

Survivors: Immediate family members of the deceased officer; spouse, children, parents, siblings, fiancée and/or significant others.

Beneficiary: Those designated by the officer as recipients of specific death benefits.

Benefits: Financial payments made to the family to insure financial stability following the loss of a loved one.

Funeral payments: Financial payments made to the surviving families of an officer killed in the line of duty which are specifically earmarked for funeral expenses.

Death Notification

- A. The name of the deceased officer **WILL NEVER** be released to the media before immediate survivors living in the area are notified.
- B. If there is knowledge of a medical problem with an immediate survivor, medical personnel will be dispatched to the residence to stand by during the death notification.
- C. Notification will always be made in person and never alone. The Chief of Police (or his representative) will act as the informing officer. In addition a member of the Coroner's staff should accompany the informing officer. The Dane County Chaplain's

Organization is another resource that may be contacted to assist with notification and to provide the victim's family with future assistance.

It should be kept in mind, however, that if the above suggested persons are not readily available, notification should not be held up until these people can gather. If the opportunity to get the family to the hospital prior to the demise of the officer presents itself, don't wait for the appropriate delegation to gather.

As soon as most police officer families see you, they will know something is wrong. Ask to be admitted to the house. Never make a death notification on the doorstep. Gather everyone in the home and ask them to sit down. Inform them slowly and clearly of the information you have on the incident. Make sure you use the officer's name during the notification.

If the officer has already died, relay that information, never give the family a false sense of hope. Use words like 'died' and 'dead' rather than 'gone away' or 'passed away'.

If the person responsible for the death notification has been seriously affected by the death, he/she should understand that showing emotions is perfectly acceptable.

If specifics of the incident are known, the officer should relay as much information as possible to the family.

Note: Reactions of the family may include hysteria, anger, fainting, physical violence, shock, etc.

- D. If the family wants to go to the hospital they should be taken by department vehicle. It is highly recommended that the family not drive themselves to the hospital. Should there be serious resistance and the family insists on driving, have an officer accompany them in the car.

The department should find out if there are any young children in the home. Department members will be responsible for arranging immediate childcare needs, with the family's approval.

Because of the nature of possible radio transmissions, the officer making the transport should notify the dispatcher and the O.I.C. at the hospital that the family is enroute.

Surviving parents shall be afforded this same courtesy of personal notification if they live in the same geographic area.

- E. If the immediate survivors are from out of the county, request personal death notification from the public safety agency in that area. Logistical arrangements should enable simultaneous telephone contact with the Middleton Police Department.

Assisting The Family At The Hospital

- A. Arrangements regarding appropriate waiting facilities for the family and fellow officers should be made with hospital personnel. An officer shall be appointed to act as an Information Liaison (IL) for medical personnel and the family of the officer and fellow police officers.

The IL will insure that pertinent information on the officer's condition is relayed on a timely basis. They shall also make the family and fellow officers aware of hospital policy about visitation with the injured officer and/or visitation with the body following the demise and to explain why an autopsy is needed.

If it is possible for the family to visit their officer prior to death, they most certainly should be afforded that opportunity. It is the family's right to visit their loved one. The IL should prepare the family for what they might see in the emergency room and accompany the family into the room for the visit if the family requests it. Do not be overly protective of the family, there is a definite need to touch and hold the body while there is still life and being present when death occurs can be comforting to the family.

- B. The IL will see that the family is updated on the incident as soon as the family arrives at the hospital.
- C. The people who made the initial notification should be among those at the hospital.
- D. A survivor should not be medicated unless medication is requested by the survivor.
- E. Idle promises should not be made to the family at this time (i.e., "We'll promote him/her posthumously").
- F. The IL shall make arrangements for transportation of the family back to their residence.
- G. The IL will be responsible for arrangements of the medical bills, relating to the services rendered to the deceased officer, to be sent to the appropriate governmental agency for payment. The family should not receive any of these bills at their residence address.

Support For The Family During The Wake Or Funeral

- A. The department shall designate a Family Assistance Officer (FAO) who will act as the liaison officer. Although the FAO should know the deceased officer and be aware of the family relationships, the officer should not be so emotionally involved with the loss that he/she could become ineffective. The FAO must know that this is not a decision making position. This is a role of 'facilitator' between the family and the Middleton Police Department. The FAO will:
 - 1. Insure that the needs of the family come before the wishes of the department.
 - 2. Meet with the family and tell them what his/her responsibilities will be during this time.

3. Meet with the family regarding funeral arrangements. Since most officers have not prearranged their wishes for the handling of their own funeral, the family will most likely need to decide all aspects of the funeral. The department should only make the family aware of what they can offer in the way of assistance if the family decides to have a 'line of duty funeral'. If the family decides that they do not want a 'line of duty funeral' there shall be no pressure on them to have one.
 4. Be issued a cell phone, if needed, so there is an immediate line of communication.
 5. Know all information concerning the death and the continuing investigation to answer family questions.
 6. Be constantly available to the family throughout this traumatic process.
 7. See that the surviving parents are afforded recognition and will have proper placement arranged for them during the funeral and funeral procession.
 8. See that the family is briefed on the funeral procedure; i.e., 21-gun salute, presenting of the flag, playing of taps, etc.
- B. A commanding officer/public information officer will be designated to handle the media throughout this traumatic ordeal. In the unlikely event that the family should decide to accept an interview, this officer will attend and 'screen' all questions presented to the family so as to not jeopardize upcoming legal proceedings.
- C. The FAO will be responsible for seeing that the home is prepared for the influx of visitors following the funeral. Food and childcare needs will be provided for. The FAO will screen telephone calls during this time and remain at the residence during this time.
- D. The FAO will provide a list to the family of alternative church sites with seating capacities large enough to accommodate attendance at the funeral. Remember the department should only make the family aware of the alternative, it's the family's choice.
- E. Departmental vehicles will be made available to the family if they desire transportation to and from the funeral home. The vehicles used should bear magnetic "Honor Guard" signs.
- F. The FAO will ascertain from the survivors if they are receiving any harassing telephone calls and will have officers stop by the home for routine checks for six to eight weeks following the tragedy.

Providing Information And Assistance On Benefits to The Surviving Family

- A. The department will designate an officer to gather information on all benefits/funeral payments available to the family. This officer will coordinate all death payments/benefits with the assistance of the City Administrator. This officer should be completely responsible for filing appropriate paperwork and following through with the family to insure that these benefits are being received.

- B. This officer should visit with the surviving family within a few days following the funeral to discuss the benefits they will receive. A prepared list of the benefits/payments due the family, listing beneficiaries, contacts at various benefits offices and when they can expect to receive the benefit should be given to the family. This same explanation should be repeated within a month following the death as the initial contact may be clouded by the emotional numbness of the family during that first benefits meeting. Checks will be made every six months to make sure the family is receiving or has received every possible payment.
- C. If there are surviving children from a former marriage the guardian of those children should also receive a list of what benefits the children will be receiving.
- D. The officer should pay special attention to the family's continuation of health insurance coverage under the city plan. They will need to contact the City Administrator to continue the coverage.
- E. If a criminal investigation surrounds the death the family will be notified of all new developments prior to any press releases.
- F. If there will not be any court proceedings surrounding the circumstances of the officer's death, at the earliest opportunity, the department will relay all details of the incident to the family.
- G. The Chief and other ranking officers should be highly visible during these days.
- H. Plaques/memorabilia given to the spouse/significant other will also be given to the parents.

Benefit Information

A number of benefits are available to survivors in the event of the death of a law enforcement employee. Some of these are similar to those offered by other types of jobs, while some are unique to law enforcement officers. This section is intended to provide some information on those benefits most likely to be available.

The material is intentionally presented very generally as the circumstances of any death are so diverse that no one presentation could adequately deal with every case.

Claims for benefits may call for only simple processing by a beneficiary or may involve complicated legal hearings requiring substantial attorney participation. Laws and provisions relating to death benefits are subject to constant change and it is possible that some of the information presented here could be altered two days after this is printed. For these reasons the primary beneficiary should always consult with competent legal or professional counsel before attempting to collect benefits while working with the officer assigned to assist in this process.

Benefits outlined below are for sworn officers. Benefits for non-sworn employees are more limited and are not included in all of the listed categories.

Retirement System Death Benefits

Both the retirement system and the group life insurance system are administered by the Department of Employee Trust Funds 201 E. Washington Ave, Madison (P.O. Box 7928). Telephone number is 266-3285.

WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM (WRS)

Types of benefit:

- A. Survivor benefits
- B. Group life insurance (WI. STATS. 40.70(6))

The system's employees will counsel the beneficiaries about the options under the benefits.

In the event the employee should die before becoming eligible to receive a retirement benefit from the WRS, the beneficiary will receive a survivor benefit. The amount of the benefit payable from the retirement account will vary depending on the age at the time of death, the creditable service, the amount of accumulated contributions in the account and the relationship of the beneficiary to the deceased.

In general: The benefit will always include the full amount of required and additional contributions made by the employee together with interest credits to the date of death. If the employee dies after age 60 (55 for protective occupation participants) the higher benefit from employer contributions may be payable if the beneficiary is a spouse, child under age 21 or a child of any age if physically or mentally handicapped to the extent that the child was totally dependent upon the employee for support and maintenance.

If the employee dies after their retirement or disability benefit application has been received and approved, any survivor benefit payable will be determined by their choice of an annuity option.

Group Life Insurance. Application for this benefit should be made to the same address as above and should include a certified copy of the death certificate. Benefits under this program are equivalent to the total of the employee's last year's wages (or triple that amount if that option has been chosen by the employee).

Worker's Compensation Benefits

WORKER'S COMPENSATION (WI. STATS. 102)

Benefits available:

- A. Death benefit
- B. Special Law Enforcement Officer Death Benefit
- C. Burial Expenses

Worker's Compensation law is complex and variable depending upon the circumstances of the injury or death. Contact the Worker's Compensation Division at 201 E. Washington Ave, P.O. Box 7901, Madison 266-1340 for specific answers.

To receive worker's compensation benefits the surviving spouse must take the initiative and file a worker's compensation claim through a worker's compensation attorney to receive any compensation. The determination as to whether the claim will be paid will be determined by the Worker's Compensation Appeals Board.

The basic breakdown of monetary benefits when an officer is killed in the line of duty or dies from a job related illness are:

- A. 102.46 Death Benefits. These are generally equal to four times the average annual earning of the employee.
- B. 102.475 Death Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers Only. This benefit is in addition to that received under 102.46. It shall be equal to 75% of the sum of 102.46 but shall not be less than \$50,000. The compensation provided for in this section is in addition to, and not exclusive of, any pension rights, death benefits, or other compensation otherwise payable by law. The amount of this special death benefit shall not be reduced by the amount of any funds received under the Federal Public Safety Officer's Benefit Act. If there are more than four persons who are wholly dependent upon the deceased officer an additional benefit of \$2,000 shall be paid for each dependent in excess of four.

This benefit is for deaths caused by duty related "accidental injury" only. In most cases this one-time death benefit would not be paid to an officer dying of "heart-related causes".

- C. 102.50 Burial Expenses. Reasonable burial expenses shall be paid but will not exceed \$6,000.

Wisconsin Education Benefits

In 1996, the Governor signed into law Act 228 which waives tuition and fees for surviving children at the sixteen campuses that are part of the Wisconsin System and at state-supported vocational/technical schools that are part of the Technical College System.

To receive the waiver, the surviving child of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty must have been under the age of 21 (or in utero) at the time of the death. For survivors enrolled in the university system, the waiver is in effect for up to five consecutive years. The student must be in good standing and enrolled in a program that leads to a bachelor's degree. For survivors enrolled in the technical college system, the waiver is in effect for up to three consecutive years. The student must be in good standing and enrolled in a program leading to an associate of arts degree, a collegiate transfer program or a vocational diploma program.

Qualifying students should let the school know of their survivorship status at the time of application for admission. Students will need to provide the school with written documentation certifying their parent was killed in the line of duty.

Questions about the implementation of the waiver in the University System can be directed to Nate Peters, UW System Administration, 608-262-6715. At the Wisconsin Technical System Board, contact Pete Peterson, 608-266-1433.

Federal Public Safety Officer's Benefit Act

Type of benefits:

- A. Death benefit
- B. Total disability benefit

This federal law provides an additional payment of \$343,589 (Oct 2016 figure) "if a public safety officer has died as the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty". The payment figure is adjusted each October to reflect the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index.

The PSOB program provides the same benefit to public safety officers who have been permanently and totally disabled by a catastrophic personal injury sustained in the line of duty if that injury prevents the officer from performing any gainful work.

State and local benefits should not be reduced by benefits received under the PSOB statute. The PSOB benefit is not reduced by any benefit that may be received at the state or local level (*Rose Vs Arkansas*). The benefit is reduced by certain payments made under Section 8191 of the Federal Employee's Compensation Act.

When the U.S. Department of Justice determines upon showing of need and prior to taking final action that a death benefit will probably be paid, an interim benefit payment not exceeding \$3,000 may be made to the eligible survivor(s).

The act ensures that the benefit will not be subject to execution or attachment by creditors. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the benefit is not subject to federal income tax (Revenue Ruling No. 77-235, IRB 1977-28) or to federal estate tax (Revenue Ruling No. 79397).

The PSOB Act authorizes the Department of Justice to prescribe a maximum fee that a legal representative may charge a claimant for services rendered in connection with any claim before the Bureau. Contracts for a stipulated fee and contingent fee arrangements are especially prohibited.

Once the U.S. Department of Justice approves a claim for death benefits, the benefit will be paid in a lump sum as follows:

- A. If there is no surviving child of the deceased officer, to the surviving spouse.

If there is a surviving child or children and surviving spouse, one-half to the child or children in equal shares and one-half to the surviving spouse.

B. If there is no surviving spouse, to the child or children of the officer in equal shares.

C. If none of the above, to the parent or parents of the officer in equal shares.

Public safety officers cannot name their own beneficiaries under the Act. Under the Act, "child" means any natural, illegitimate, adopted, or posthumous child or stepchild of a deceased public safety officer who is: 18 years of age or younger; 19 through 22 years of age, who has not completed four years of education beyond high school and who is pursuing a full time course of study or training; 19 years of age or over and incapable of self-support because of physical or mental disability.

No benefit can be paid:

A. If the death or permanent and total disability was caused by the intentional misconduct of the officer or by such officer's intention to bring about his or her own death or permanent and total disability.

B. If the officer was voluntarily intoxicated at the time of death or permanent and total disability.

C. If the officer was performing his or her duties in a grossly negligent manner at the time of death or permanent and total disability.

D. To a claimant whose actions were a substantial contributing factor to the death of the officer.

E. Deaths or permanent and total disabilities resulting from stress and strain, occupational illness, or chronic, progressive or congenital disease such as heart or pulmonary disease are not covered under the Act unless there is a traumatic injury which is a substantial factor in the death or permanent and total disability. Medical proof of the traumatic injury, such as a blood test for carbon monoxide, may be essential for coverage in such cases.

Eligible survivors or disability claimants may file claims directly with the U.S. Department of Justice, or may instead file through the public safety agency served. Normally, the public safety agency provides the information that enables the U.S. Department of Justice to determine whether the circumstances of the death or permanent and total disability entitle a claimant to a benefit payment. The agency prepares a Report of Public Officer's Death or Permanent Disability to accompany the survivors' or disabled officer's claims. The U.S. Department of Justice will make the final determination on whether and to whom a benefit should be paid. To expedite initiation and payment of a claim, telephone the PSOB staff at 202-307-0635 or write

to: Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 633 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20531, Fax: 202-514-5956.

Federal Workers' Compensation Benefits For Non-Federal Law Enforcement Officers

Under certain conditions, benefits may be provided to a non-Federal law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor. Essentially, these benefits are provided if a local law enforcement officer is killed while engaged in the apprehension or attempted apprehension of a person who has committed a crime against the United States or who is being sought by a law enforcement authority of the United States. The benefit also is extended to those killed while engaged in the lawful prevention or lawful attempt to prevent the commission of a crime against the United States. Further, the program encompasses those engaged in protecting or guarding a person held for the commission of a crime against the United States or as a material witness. Contact: Office of Workers Compensation Programs, Special Claims Office, P.O. Box 37117, Washington, DC 20013, 202-565-9424.

Social Security

The beneficiary should contact the local Social Security Office located at 6502 Odana Rd, Madison 833-3801 or 251-4206. Or call 800-772-1213. The following material will be required (copies of the forms will be sufficient):

- A. Birth certificate of the spouse.
- B. Birth certificate of the children.
- C. Military discharge papers if applicable.
- D. Social Security numbers of deceased, spouse and children.
- E. The coroner's office will notify the Social Security Office directly. If the death occurred outside Dane County, a death certificate may be necessary.

Benefits will depend upon the number of quarters paid into the Social Security System by the deceased.

Monthly survivor benefits are available to the following beneficiaries if you are insured by Social Security when you die (regardless of your age):

- A. Surviving spouse at age 60 or over (50 if disabled), or at any age if caring for your child(ren) (under 16 or disabled) who is entitled to benefits.
- B. Unmarried children under 18 (or 19 if still in high school) and those age 18 and over who became disabled before age 22 and remain disabled.
- C. Dependent parents age 62 or older.

- D. Surviving divorced spouse (1) at age 60 or over (50 if disabled) who was married to you for 10 years and who is not eligible for an equal or higher personal benefit, or (2) at any age if caring for a child (under 16 or disabled) who is entitled to benefits on your record.

Each surviving dependent is entitled to a percentage of the Primary Insurance Allowance subject to the Family Maximum Benefit. Note that the benefits of surviving spouses are reduced if begun before full retirement age. Eligibility for a government pension may also affect their benefits.

If the surviving spouse remarries before reaching age 60 (50 if disabled), (s)he will not be eligible for benefits on your record unless the subsequent marriage ends. After reaching age 60(50 if disabled), a surviving spouse or surviving divorced spouse married to an insured worker for 10 years may remarry without losing entitlement to benefits.

Children's benefits are not affected by the remarriage of their mother or father, even though their stepparent adopts them and contributes to their support. Nor will adoption of a surviving child by any other person cause the child's benefits to stop.

Children's benefits stop when they marry or reach age 18 or 19 if still in high school. When the last surviving child marries or reaches the age of 16, the mother's or father's benefits also stop, but a surviving spouse or eligible divorced spouse of a fully insured person can pick up again with a surviving spouse's benefits upon reaching age 60 (50 if disabled). As with retired workers, Social Security payments to a surviving dependent are reduced if the dependent works and earns more than the earnings limit for the year. However, work by a parent does not affect the benefits of surviving children under that parent's care.

One Time Death Benefit

In addition to monthly payments the deceased worker's eligible spouse is entitled to a one-time death payment of \$255. If there is no such spouse, this payment can be made only to a child entitled to survivor's benefits.

City Of Middleton Benefits

Most employees who die prior to retirement will have some pay coming from outstanding vacation, compensatory time and payroll obligations. To collect the final paycheck, survivors should contact the City Treasurer.

Family Hospital and Surgical Care Insurance may be continued under the group plan for a period of time after the death of the employee with the premiums being paid by the surviving family (see current insurance handbook for length of time covered).

If the officer is disabled in the line of duty, accrued sick leave will be placed in an escrow account to be utilized to pay the premiums for Family Hospital and Surgical Care Insurance until such time as the fund is exhausted.

Military Veterans

If the deceased was a veteran or current armed forces reservist, the survivors should contact the Veterans Administration. Benefits may include:

- A. Burial benefit of \$300 and a \$150 burial plot benefit.
- B. A headstone for the grave.
- C. Burial in any national cemetery.
- D. A U.S. flag for the next of kin.
- E. A pension for low income widow(er)s and children of wartime veterans who have died of causes not related to their military service.
- F. National Service Life Insurance. Servicemen's Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance provides life insurance coverage to Ready Reservists, Retired Reservists, members of the National Guard and active duty members. Veterans are covered, if they applied, for five years after discharge.

In addition active National Guard members are covered with a \$50,000 life insurance policy that covers them on and off military duty. Contact the members military unit and they will assist in filing the paperwork.

For help in applying for veteran's benefits write, call or visit a veteran's benefit counselor at the nearest VA regional office or hospital (Madison has one). Local number 257-5467 or national number 800-827-1000, tdd 800-829-4833.

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (V.F.W.) are provided with a \$2,500 accidental policy. Take a copy of the death certificate to the office at the local VFW and they will assist in filling out the paperwork for payment.

Loans/Memberships/Credit Cards

Many loans have life insurance benefits, if the person applied for that option, with the balance paid in full upon death. Check with the lending institution for application.

Many credit cards offer a nominal life insurance policy. Check with the credit card company. Some referral numbers:

American Express 800-528-2122
VISA 800-VISA911
MasterCard 800-MCASSIST

Some credit card companies also automatically cover travelers, who paid for their transportation through the credit card, with life insurance. If the deceased was travelling at the time of death this should be checked into as well.

Many social and fraternal organizations offer life insurance either as an option or a benefit of membership. Each organization should be contacted for information on whether they offer this or not. One example is the National Rifle Association which offers a \$25,000 death benefit if any police officer, with or without compensation, is feloniously killed in the line of duty and is a current member of the NRA. For NRA benefits contact Kirke VanOrsdel, Insurance Administration and Claims at 800-247-7979 with the name of the NRA member and the membership number. The survivors must contact the NRA within 90 days of the officer's death.

Support Organizations

Concerns Of Police Survivors, Inc.

COPS was organized in 1984 as a national networking organization to support law enforcement officers emotionally, financially and legally; assist law enforcement agencies to prepare for the trauma affiliated with sudden loss of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty; and to make the nation aware of the yearly loss of life by the law enforcement profession and the trauma that loss inflicts on the family, the agency and the nation. The COPS membership is comprised of spouses, parents, children, siblings, significant others and co-workers who are affected by line-of-duty deaths. The COPS programs are:

A. C.O.P.S. KIDS.

To financially assist dependent age children who seek psychological counseling to help them cope with the trauma inflicted on them through the sudden, often violent, loss of their parent. Eligibility:

1. Any dependent child of an officer killed since January 01, 1990 is eligible. Additionally, any child recommended for counseling through the annual May C.O.P.S. Kids counseling sessions is eligible for this reimbursement program regardless of the date of the line-of-duty death of the parent.
2. The eligibility ceases with the child's high school graduation or 19th birthday, whichever comes first.
3. The deceased parent must have been a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty as determined by Federal Government criteria.
4. Payments may be made directly to the professional providing the counseling services if the survivor's health care plan does not provide coverage for psychological counseling.

Prior to filing a claim families will be encouraged to use the services their law enforcement agency may have available. Should there be other sources available for payment of counseling fees, families are expected to use those resources before filing for reimbursement to this program. Counseling bills should be forwarded to the family's health care carrier for payment. Any unpaid portion for this service should be paid by the family and the program will reimburse any out-of-pocket expense.

The reimbursement is limited to \$2,000 per year per eligible child for three years of out-of-pocket counseling expense. Any and all information submitted to COPS in conjunction with this program will be treated as confidential, privileged information. Family surnames and names of children will never be included in any printed report that leaves the COPS National Office. For information on this program contact: Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., P.O. Box 3199, Camdenton, MO 65020 or 573-346-4911.

B. NATIONAL POLICE SURVIVORS SEMINARS.

COPS works closely with other police organizations to organize the annual National Police Week activities planned in Washington, DC around May 15th, National Peace Officers' Memorial Day. COPS sponsors two days of grief seminars for the family, survivors and co-workers. Contact Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., P.O. Box 3199, Camdenton, MO 65020, 573-346-4911, fax 573-346-1414.

Other Support Groups

Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.

Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, has over 100 chapters and 200 contact persons across the United States. POMC is the only national self-help organization designed to offer emotional support and information about surviving the loss of a loved one to murder. Contact: Parents of Murdered Children, 100 E. 8th St #B41, Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-721-5683.

The Compassionate Friends, Inc.

Is a nationwide support group for bereaved parents and siblings. National office: P.O. Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696, 312-990-0010.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Is a nationwide support and advocacy group for victims of drunk drivers. National office: P.O. Box 54168, Dallas, TX 75354-1688, 214-744-6233.

National Organization for Victim Assistance

Is a nationwide clearinghouse for all victimization issues. National office: 1757 Park Road NW, Washington, DC 20010, 202-232-6682.

National Victim Center

Is a resource center for all victimization issues. National office: 2111 Wilson Blvd, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201, 703-276-2880.

Association of Death Education and Counseling

Counseling referrals. National office: 638 Prospect Ave, Hartford, CT 06105-4298, 203-232-4825.