



## Connecticut

Death Benefits Available to the Surviving Families of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

**To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Vital Records Unit, Department of Health Services, 410 Capitol AVE, Hartford, CT 06134, (860) 509-7700/7897**

In Connecticut, death benefits are governed by the General Statutes, and include the general retirement benefits for all state employees. There are **no special state benefits** for police officers killed in the line of duty, although benefits are provided from other sources, such as unions and the federal government.

### **STATE DEATH BENEFITS**

#### **STATE EMPLOYEES SEC. 5-144.**

If any **state employee** sustains an injury while acting within the scope of his/her employment, which injury is not the result of his own willful or wanton act, and dies as a result of such injury, and a spouse and dependent child(ren) under eighteen years of age survive him, the comptroller, upon the recommendation of the appointing authority, and with the approval of the attorney general, shall draw his order on the treasurer for the sum of **seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500)**, payable in equal monthly installments over a period of **not less than five years** to such employee's spouse, provided any such payments shall terminate on the **death or remarriage of such spouse** within said five-year period, and the comptroller, upon the recommendation of the appointing authority and with the approval of the attorney general, shall also draw and order on the treasurer for monthly payments of **twenty dollars (\$20) for each dependent child under eighteen years of age**, payable to such spouse or the guardian of such child or children until such child or children reach eighteen years of age.

If such employee leaves a spouse and **no dependent child(ren)** under eighteen years of age, the comptroller, upon recommendation of the appointing authority and with the approval of the attorney general, shall draw an order on the treasurer for the sum of **four thousand dollars (\$4,000)**, payable in equal monthly installments over a period of **not less than five years**, to such spouse, provided any such payments shall terminate on **the death or remarriage of such spouse within a five-year period**.

If such employee leaves **no spouse and no child(ren)** under eighteen years of age but leaves a parent or parents dependent upon him, the comptroller, shall draw an order on the treasurer for the sum of **four thousand dollars (\$4,000)**, payable to such employee's parent or parents in equal monthly installments over a period of **not less than five years**, provided, on the death of

one such parent, the surviving parent shall continue to receive the entire monthly payments under the provisions of this section. Payments shall cease on the death of both such parents during such five-year period.

## **ALLOWANCES FOR SURVIVORS OF MEMBERS OF STATE POLICE DIVISION WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **STATE EMPLOYEES SEC. 5-146**

- (a) If any member of the **Division of State Police** within the Department of Public Safety in employment on June 21, 1961, who has elected survivors' benefits or any state police officer who commenced employment subsequent to June 21, 1961, and who in either event was not subject to the Federal Insurance Contributions Act for such employment, dies from any cause before retirement from state service, leaving a surviving spouse or dependent unmarried children under the age of eighteen years, there shall be paid survivors' allowances from the state employee's retirement fund on and after July 1, 1982, on the following basis:
- (1) To the surviving **spouse**, a **monthly allowance of five hundred fifty dollars (\$550)** commencing immediately upon the death of such member of the division of state police within the department of public safety payable for the surviving spouse's lifetime or until subsequent remarriage;
  - (2) If there are **less than three surviving dependent children**, a **monthly allowance of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)** per child payable to the surviving spouse or other guardian until each child reaches the age of eighteen or until the child's marriage if such occurs earlier;
  - (3) If there are **three or more surviving dependent children**, a **monthly allowance of five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$575)** to be divided equally among all the dependent children; as each such dependent child reaches the age of eighteen years, or marries, if such occurs earlier, that such child's share shall be deemed divided equally among the remaining surviving children, provided each child's **share not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)**; when the shares of all but one of such surviving children have ceased, the pension to the remaining surviving child shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

## **PENSION BENEFITS**

The retirement benefits for **all state employees** provide, for example, that a surviving spouse receive **\$7,500 over five years, with an additional \$20/month/child**. In addition, for state police, a surviving spouse receives an **additional \$550/month for life or until remarriage** and **each dependent child receives \$250/month until eighteen**. The state also provides life insurance to employees which may be purchased by the officer which will pay an amount dependent on the wages being earned at the time of death.

The retirement commission shall, at least once every two years, prepare a valuation of the assets and liabilities of the fund with respect to the system of benefits provided by this section of determining the cost of funding such system and the cost of funding such system on an actuarial reserve basis.

#### **SEC. 31-306.**

Cost-of-living increases shall be paid by the employer without any order or award from the commissioner. Such adjustments shall apply to each such payment made in the next succeeding the date of injury. The weekly compensation rate of each dependent entitled to receive benefits under this section as a result of death arising from a compensable injury occurring on or before September 30, 1977, shall be adjusted as of October 1, 1977, and October 1, 1980, and thereafter, to provide such dependent **shall be increased by twenty-five percent**. In addition, as of October 1, 1980, and on **each subsequent October first**, the weekly compensation rate of each such dependent **shall be increased** to provide further cost-of-living adjustments in his weekly compensation rate.

Employees and their dependents can find out about these benefits by contacting the **Employee Assistance Office of the Division of State Police, Middletown, CT 06457**, or contact the **Office of the State Comptroller, 55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106, (860) 702-3300**.

### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

The University of Connecticut, Connecticut State University, and the community-technical colleges must waive tuition for the dependent children of paid and volunteer police officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty (CGS §§10a-77(d), 10a-99(d), and 10a-105(e)).

### **HEALTH BENEFITS**

Connecticut provides health insurance coverage for the surviving spouse and dependent children of any law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. Children's coverage terminates at age 18; remarriage will **not** terminate spousal coverage. The group medical plans offered to survivors are the same plans that are available to state retirees. Currently, available plans range from no cost to nominal cost. For more information, contact the Director of Retirement and Benefits Services at 860-702-3481.

### **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

Workers' Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Connecticut.

These benefits include a **maximum \$4,000 burial expense**, and a weekly compensation **equal to 75% of the employee's weekly earnings** payable to the spouse or the spouse and child(ren), with a **minimum weekly benefit of \$127.60** and a **maximum weekly benefit of \$638**. *Benefits are subject to Social Security benefit offsets.*

Spouse receives benefit **until remarriage**. Children receive benefits **until age 18**, or beyond age 18 if physically or mentally disabled, or **until age 22 if full-time students**.

**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 State of Connecticut Worker's Compensation Commission at 213 Court ST, Middletown, CT 06457, (860) 344-7453.**

## **PERSONAL LIFE POLICY - INTESTATE**

Subject to interests of surviving spouse, real and personal estate descends and is distributed as follows, each class of which a member is living taking to exclusion of subsequent classes: **(1)** Children and representatives of deceased children, advancements being taken into consideration (45-274) (child in gestation at time of intestate's death inherits equally with prior born children.; **(2)** parent or parents, provided such parent has not abandoned minor children and continued such abandonment until time of death; **(3)** brothers and sisters and their representatives; **(4)** next of kin of equal degree, no representation being permitted, and kinship being reckoned according to civil law (relatives of half and whole blood share equally); **(5)** stepchildren and their representatives.

Issue of deceased children, brothers or sisters take by representation, even though there is no surviving child, brother or sister of the intestate.

If any minor child dies intestate, unmarried and without issue, and before any distribution of estate, portion of such deceased child must be distributed as if such child had died in lifetime of such parent. (45-275).

Real property subject to life use of husband or wife, remaining at end of term, is distributed as above provided, or may be so distributed during term subject to life interest. (45-276).

Surviving spouse - or conservator or guardian of his or her estate of intestate decedent takes as follows: **(1)** if no surviving issue or parents of deceased, entire estate; **(2)** if no surviving issue but deceased parents alive, \$100,000, plus one-half of remainder; **(3)** if issue of deceased survive who are not issue of surviving spouse, one-half of estate absolutely. Issue shall include children born out of wedlock and issue of children who qualify for inheritance under provisions of 45-274 of general statutes.

Share of surviving spouse may be set out in realty or personally or both. Probate court can set out allowance for support during settlement. (45- 273A, am'd PA 85-332, 2). Different rules govern where marriage was contracted prior to June 20, 1877.

Surviving spouse is not entitled to statutory share of estate or to elective or intestate share where, by written contract, before or after marriage, he or she has received from other spouse provision in lieu thereof, or where he or she, without sufficient cause, has abandoned other spouse and continued abandonment to time of death.

## **PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**

Established in 1984, Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., (C.O.P.S.), 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. C.O.P.S. has become a "lifeline" to police survivors nationwide. **Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office or visit [www.nationalcops.org/chap.htm](http://www.nationalcops.org/chap.htm) for information on a chapter in your area.**

## **PRIVATE SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS**

Founded in 1967, The **100 Club of Connecticut** is a private organization that comes to the financial aid of public safety officers killed in the line of duty. After an initial grant to the spouse, Hundred Club representatives provide close and frequent follow-up on the well-being of the family to alleviate any special problems which may develop. The Club, through its Special Assistance and Scholarship Committee, provides families with the necessary help to manage the often crushing expenses that may overwhelm them. It arranges for any medical, dental or other professional services. If there is one area of singular pride, it is the college and vocational school funding project. Over 140 surviving children and spouses have taken advantage of its Scholarship program. For more information, contact **The 100 Club, 70 Oakwood Drive, P. O. Box 419, Glastonbury, CT 06033, telephone (203)633-8357.**

## **FUNERAL AND CREMATION BENEFITS**

Dignity Memorial funeral, cremation and cemetery providers created the Public Servants Program for emergency service personnel. This program provides dignified and honorable tributes, at no cost, for career and volunteer law enforcement officers who fall in the line of duty. Visit their website for complete information @ [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com) and look under Public Servants for details. You may also call 800-344-6489 and speak with a representative.