

City of Virginia Beach Police Department

Managing Police Casualties



A Guide for Department Personnel

- Guidelines for handling the deaths of police officers

*This Field Guide is Prepared and Updated by the Virginia Beach
Police Department Office of Professional Development and Training,
Under the Approval of the Chief of Police*

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Introduction

The purpose of the information contained in this field guide is to prepare Department Members and provide guidance and organization in the event of an officer's death "*in the line of duty.*" *In* addition, this guide provides direction to the Department *on* providing the proper emotional support for the deceased officer's family, as well as, assistance for the survivors in claiming death benefits.

This field guide outlines the duties of key personnel upon notification of the death of a police officer, and provides a quick reference to any officer delegated to perform one or more of these duties. It also contains an outline of funeral arrangements, specific survivor benefits that may apply, and a list of support groups. Some of the benefits *may* also apply to an officer who has been permanently disabled as the direct result of a catastrophic personal injury in the line of duty. While the purpose of this field guide refers directly to the line of duty death of a police officer, material is also contained that applies to the death of both a retired officer and an active officer not performing a police duty. Thus, these procedures may be enacted in whole or in part at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

Definition(s)

Line of duty death - any action, felonious or accidental, which claims the life of a police officer while performing police functions either on or off duty.

Survivor(s) - the immediate family member of the deceased officer to include spouse, children, parents, siblings, fiancée, and/or significant other.

Duties of Key Personnel Upon Notification of Death

On Scene Supervisor

- Notifies Office of *Risk* Management as soon as possible
- Completes a [Risk Master](#) online report, if applicable
- Completes [Sedgwick Claims Management Services \(CMS\)](#) online reporting
- Submits information and forms filled out through the Chain of Command to Professional Development & Training

Chief of Police, Division Commander, or Senior Ranking Officer

- Responds to hospital or scene of incident
- While accompanied by a chaplain, notifies the deceased's family in person. This duty may be delegated to a notification officer.
- Designates the following supporting officer(s) assignments: NOTE (individuals may be assigned to more than one duty)

- Notification Officer
 - Hospital Liaison Officer, if needed
 - Funeral Liaison Officer
 - Department Liaison Officer
 - Benefits Coordinator, and
 - Family Support Advocate
- Personally notifies the surviving family of the supporting Officer(s) assignments.

Supporting Officer(s) Description of Responsibilities

Notification Officer

The Notification Officer is usually a ranking on duty officer who:

- Assists the Chief of Police in notifications and is responsible for ensuring that timely notification is made to the surviving family. Timeliness takes precedence over protocol in the death notification process. The Chief of Police will designate a senior ranking officer as the notification officer. If the Chief of Police or Division Commander is not immediately available, the senior ranking officer on the scene of the incident is responsible for ensuring that timely notification is made to the surviving family. Upon confirmation of death, notification must be made to immediate survivors shortly after or simultaneously with normal command notifications. Notification must always be made in person and never alone.
 - The police chaplain and precinct / bureau commander (or designee) should accompany the notification officer during notification.
 - Name of the deceased officer must never be released to the media before the immediate survivors living in the region are notified. The Public Information Office may be used to release information when appropriate.
- Makes notifications out of regional area
- Makes written report to Chief of Police on all notifications to include, the Office of Risk Management and completion of Risk Master, if applicable, and Sedgwick CMS online reports. This information will be submitted via the chain of command to Personnel Development and Training.
- Assists family to hospital: If the opportunity is presented to get the family to the hospital prior to the officers death, DO NOT WAIT for the appropriate delegation to gather. Take the family to the hospital.
- Coordinates with the Public Information Office.
- The notification officer should be aware of the following:
 - As soon as the family sees you, they will know something is wrong. Ask to be admitted into the house. NEVER make a death notification at the doorstep. Gather everyone in the

- house and ask them to sit down; inform them slowly and clearly of the information you have on the incident, making sure you use the officers name during the notification.
- If the officer has already died, provide information to the family using words like died and/or dead rather than passed away and/or gone.
 - The notification officers may be seriously affected by the death and showing emotion is perfectly acceptable.
 - Reactions of the family may include hysteria, anger, fainting, physical violence, shock, or no outward sign of emotion.
 - If the family wants to go to the hospital, they should be transported via a police vehicle. It is highly recommended that the family does not drive themselves to the hospital. Should there be serious resistance and the family insists on driving, an officer should accompany them in the family car, if the family permits.
 - Officers and communications officers should be aware that in the event of an on-duty death, the external monitoring of police radio frequencies might be extensive, particularly by the news media. Communications regarding the name of the deceased officer must never be released to the media before proper notification of the family. If the media learns the name of the officer, request should be made to withhold the release of the name until such notifications have been made.
 - The notification officer shall notify the senior ranking officer at the hospital, via phone, that the family is en route.
 - Any notification of immediate survivors beyond the Hampton Roads area should be done through personal death notification by the local law enforcement agency in accordance with General Order 11.15 (Emergency Notifications.)

Hospital Liaison Officer

The Hospital Liaison Officer will be the first ranking officer to arrive at the hospital (excluding the Chief and Deputy Chiefs) who will:

- Coordinates arrival of:
 - Immediate family/survivors
 - Police officials
 - Media and others via the Public Information Office
- Arranges for segregated waiting facilities reserved for survivors, the Chief of Police, notification officer, and others requested by the immediate survivors.
- Arranges for a family waiting area
- Arranges for a police waiting area
- Directs Public Information Office to arrange for media staging area
- Advises hospital personnel to relay information to family first

- In line-of-duty death, advises hospital personnel of billing for medical services to City of Virginia Beach
- Have Medical Personnel explain policy about visiting trauma patient/remains
- Request Medical Personnel explain need for an autopsy in death case (after death); and
- Arranges for transportation of family back to residence when appropriate.

Funeral Liaison Officer

The Chief of Police will appoint the Funeral Liaison Officer. He/She will act as a facilitator between the decedent's family and the Department during the wake and funeral. The Funeral Liaison Officer is not a decision making position, therefore; he/she does not need to be a ranking officer. However, this assignment is critical. Additionally, the Funeral Liaison Officer will:

- Meets with the family and explains the responsibilities of a Funeral Liaison Officer
- Is constantly available to the family throughout the wake and funeral
- Ensures that the family's needs are given priority and come before the wishes of the Department
- Meets with the family and funeral director regarding funeral arrangements understanding that these decisions should remain with the family
- Offers the services of a Police Chaplain for the funeral services, should the family desire.
- Relays all available information to the surviving family concerning the circumstances of the death and any continuing investigation;
- Should coordinate with investigating officers and prosecutors to ensure that the family receives as much information as is allowable during the first few days
- Coordinates information with the Public Information Office and the family
- Coordinates and communicates funeral details with the Honor Guard Unit Supervisor
- Determines the need for travel arrangements for out-of-town family members or any special needs during the funeral
- Reports to the Department Liaison Officer
- Recovers all Departmental/City property that was assigned to the deceased
- Briefs the family on the law enforcement funeral procedure such as:

- Twenty-one gun salute
- Presentation of the flag
- Playing of taps
- Honor Guards
- Pallbearers
- Traffic control
- Mounted patrol escort
- Rider-less horse.
- Bagpipes/department piper

Department Liaison Officer

This position is normally filled by a Division Commander because of the need to make expedient provisions of all Departmental resources and the delegation of task. While working closely with the funeral Liaison Officer, he/she directs the funeral activities of the Department, and visiting police departments, according to the wishes of the family. These tasks include but are not limited to:

- Assists the family in arrangements for travel and lodging for out-of-town family members, if necessary.
- Is responsible for expedient provisions for all Department resources
- Is responsible for a comprehensive survey of alternate churches and reception halls with seating capacities large enough to accommodate attendance of the law enforcement funeral
- Designates mourning period and notifies Department commands
- Coordinates all official law enforcement notifications and arrangements for a law enforcement funeral such as:
 - Notifications:
 - Name of the deceased
 - Date and time of death
 - Date, time, and location of viewing
 - Date, time, and location of service
 - Time and exact location officers are to report
 - Parking information
 - Uniform to be worn, and
 - Agency phone number, email address, and fax number for inquiries, as well as

- Arranges for a law enforcement funerals
- Notifies Honor Guard Unit Supervisor. The Honor Guard Unit Supervisor will make the necessary arrangements for:
 - Rifle Team (Twenty-one gun salute)
 - Casket Team: Provides Honor Guard pallbearers and conducts U. S. flag fold ceremony & presentation. (The Honor Guard will provide the U. S. flag to be draped over the casket.)
 - Colors Team
 - Bugler (Taps)
 - Bagpiper(s)
- Contacts the Commanding Officer of Special Operations to arrange:
 - Mounted patrol escorts and Rider-less horse
 - Traffic Control
 - Motor Escorts
 - Helicopter flyover
- Liaison with visiting law enforcement agencies
- Is a liaison with media relations and assists the family in the unlikely event that they accept a media interview
- Arranges for routine residence checks of the survivors, home for 6-8 weeks following the death

Benefits Coordinator

This assignment is normally the Commanding Officer of Professional Development & Training and/or their designee. The Benefits Coordinator is responsible for the following:

- Files worker's compensation claims and related paper work
- Gathers information on all benefits/funeral payments available to the family
- Answers telephone calls and inquiries regarding the establishment of any special trust funds or educational funds
- Makes a clear distinction between benefits and funeral payments
- Prepares a printout or other documentation of the benefits/funeral payments due the family including:
 - Named beneficiaries

- Contacts at various benefits offices
 - When they can expect to receive the benefit
 - If there are surviving children from a previous marriage, the guardian of any children should also receive a printout of any benefits the child may receive.
- Files all benefit related paperwork and follows through with the family to ensure that these benefits are being received. Private attorneys should not be used for this service if they intend to bill the family.
 - Visits with the surviving family within a few days following the funeral to discuss benefits such as:
 - If there are surviving children, what benefits the children will be receiving
 - Revocation of health benefits regarding the 30 day grace period before being canceled from the coverage or of being responsible for monthly payments for the coverage
 - Advises surviving family of the role of police associations and organizations such as C.O.P.S., F.O.P., etc.
 - Accesses the Public Safety Officers Benefits Program, Bureau of Justice Assistance, via the internet or calls 1-888-744-6513 for assistance with obtaining form or additional information.
 - Obtains a letter of authorization from the survivor to secure:
 - Death certificate (must be a true copy of the state involved)
 - Marriage certificate (must be a true copy of the state involved)
 - Birth certificate of the deceased (must be a true copy of the state involved)
 - Minor child/children birth certificate (must be a true copy of the state involved)
 - Obtains a Physician's statement
 - Maintains contact with the family until the family feels that the Benefit Coordinator is no longer needed.
 - Makes personal contact with the Office of Risk Management and makes an appointment to take the survivor(s) to their office for completion of any paperwork.
 - Coordinates with the Department of Benefits, the payroll administrator, Finance Department, and Human Resources

Family Support Advocate (CALEA 22.1.5)

The Family Support Advocate should have experience in dealing with police victims and witnesses. This officer could be a peer support counselor with some degree of experience in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). This officer should not be a witness to the event. The family may have a preference and if he/she meets the criteria then he/she should be appointed. The Family Support Advocate acts as a long term liaison with the surviving family who:

- Acts as a liaison with the family in those cases where the victim officer died by hostile action.
- Assists the family in obtaining support services through family resources (religious institutions, extended family, counseling available through family health plans), City of Virginia Beach resources as identified in General Order 2.05 (Conditions of Work) such as the Employee Assistance Program, and via court supported agencies (Office of the Commonwealth Attorney, Victim Witness Program.)
- Cooperates with the outside peer support groups
- Ensures that the surviving family does not feel totally isolated by the Department
- Encourages others to make visits or help with family needs of the surviving family
- Should keep in touch with the family with at least monthly phone calls through the first year.
- Along with the Chief of Police and others, should ensure that the anniversary date of the officer's death is observed with a note to the family and/or flowers sent to the grave; and
- Works with community groups and government leaders toward the establishment of any appropriate memorial, plaques or memorabilia and considers the surviving parents with any presentations

Funeral Arrangements and Protocols for Virginia Beach Police Officers – Active or Retired

Upon notification of death of an active or retired Virginia Beach Police Officer the tasks shall be accomplished:

- The senior Operations Division supervisor will respond to the officer's residence to determine circumstances surrounding the death if the officer was not on assigned duty when he/she died;
- The lowering of flags will follow the protocol set forth in City of Virginia Beach Administrative Directive 3.05/Flag Directive.
- **Retired:** Badge draped on the day of the Memorial Service only.
- **Active Duty death (not line of duty):** Badge draped from notification of death to midnight on the day of the memorial/funeral service.
- **Line of Duty:** Badge draped from notification, and 10 days following funeral. An active duty death and a line of duty death are not the same.
- Within twenty-four hours, designee of the Chief of Police will visit family to determine what role, if any, the family wishes the Department to assume.

- The Honor Guard Unit Supervisor will coordinate the ceremonial details, to meet the family's request, for all services to include vigils, wakes, viewings, memorial, graveside and/or interment.
- Honor Guard services may include:
 - Casket/Urn guards at the funeral home for a viewing/wake
 - Active or Honorary pallbearers
 - U.S. Flag fold ceremony and presentation
 - Other special requests of the family
- Department Services include:
 - Escorts
 - Traffic control
 - Final salutes; and other such special participation which may be requested by the family

Funeral Arrangements and Protocols for Virginia Beach Police Officers – Killed while on Military Reserve Duty

Military Protocol supersedes Virginia Beach Police Department protocol during funeral services unless a Police Funeral is specified by the deceased in a will or if requested by the family. A Military Funeral does not preclude the Department offering a memorial service in addition to the funeral. The family should be consulted and should decide if a police memorial service is appropriate so as not to burden the bereaved with too many events during a very emotional time.

The Department Liaison appointed to the event should be someone with military experience to help bridge the gap between the military service and the Department. The Liaison Officer shall also be responsible for the recovery of issued equipment to the deceased officer.

Appendix I

Potential Death Benefits

The following benefits may apply to the line of duty death of a police officer. Some may also apply to officers who are disabled in the line of duty and officers who die in service while not performing a police duty. The benefits denoted with a have some type of disability benefit.

Social Security Administration

United States Department of Justice, Public Safety Officers Benefit Act (P.S.O.B.)

Veterans Benefits

United States Department of Labor Benefits for Non Federal Law Enforcement Officers

City of Virginia Beach Life Insurance

City of Virginia Beach Health Insurance

Personal Life Insurance

City of Virginia Beach Payroll

City of Virginia Beach Deferred Compensation Plan

Virginia Worker's Compensation

Service Handgun

Commonwealth of Virginia Line of Duty Act

College Education for Dependent Children

Fraternal Order of Police

Virginia Beach Police Benevolent Association

Virginia Beach Police Supervisors Association

Police Association of Virginia

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

The Military Order of the Purple Heart

Knights of Columbus

Fraternal Order of Eagles

National Rifle Association

National Guard

The Virginia Public Safety Foundation

Masonic Lodge

Shriners International

Elks Lodge

Moose Lodge

Virginia Beach Police Foundation

TASER Foundation

Social Security Administration

Benefits

The amount of the benefit depends upon the officer's work "credits" and his or her lifetime earnings. Basically, the higher the earnings, the higher the benefits will be. The Social Security Administration will make the determination of the monthly benefit amount.

The Department Benefits Coordinator shall be responsible for assisting the family in contacting the Social Security Administration.

The following information is commonly needed at the time the claim is filed (all documents must be either the original or copies certified by the agency that issued them):

- Social security card of the deceased;
- Social security card of the surviving spouse;
- Social security card of each minor child;
- Birth certificate of the surviving spouse;
- Birth certificate of each minor child;
- Marriage certificate;
- Certified copy of the death certificate; and
- W-2 forms of the officer for the previous year and current year.

United States Department of Justice, Public Safety Officers Benefit Act (P.S.O.B.)

This act provides a tax free, one-time benefit to the eligible survivors of an officer whose death is sustained in the line of duty; and

The same benefit is provided by the P.S.O.B. to an officer who has been permanently and totally disabled as the direct result of a catastrophic personal injury sustained in the line of duty. The injury must permanently prevent the officer from performing any gainful work.

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, IRS 1977-28) or to federal estate tax (Revenue Ruling No. 79-397).

How to apply:

Benefits, forms and the application process and requirements may be located on the World Wide Web at:

http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/psob/psob_main.html

Veterans Benefits

Survivors of officers, who were a member of the Armed Services, discharged under Honorable conditions, may be eligible to receive some benefits including, but not limited to:

- Presidential Memorial Certificate;
- Burial in a Virginia National Cemetery (where space permits);
- Headstone and marker;
- Burial flag; and
- Reimbursement of burial expenses.

How to apply:

Benefits, forms and the application process and requirements may be located on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.va.gov/>

Or by contacting the Department of Veteran's Affairs at 1-800-827-1000.

Or by contacting the regional office at:

Department of Veteran's Affairs
941 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20421

United States Department of Labor Benefits for Non Federal Law Enforcement Officers

When a non-federal law enforcement officer is injured, sustains disease or is killed under one of the following conditions the officer or survivors may qualify for benefits:

- While engaged in the apprehension or attempted apprehension of any person:
 - Who has committed a crime against the United States, or
 - Who at the time was sought by a law enforcement authority of the U.S. for the commission of a crime against the U.S., or
 - Who at the time was sought as a material witness in a criminal proceeding instituted by the U.S.;
 - While engaged in protecting or guarding a person held for the commission of a crime against the U.S. or as a material witness in connection with such a crime; or
 - While engaged in the lawful prevention of or lawful attempt to prevent, the commission of a crime against the U.S.

The Benefits Coordinator shall check with the Department of Labor to confirm that death circumstances meet the criteria for filing for this benefit and assist the family in filing with:

Office of Workers' *Compensation Programs*
Washington, D.C. 20013-7117

City of Virginia Beach Life Insurance

Benefits to the deceased family are as follows:

- For a natural death, the officer's annual salary is rounded to the highest \$1,000 and doubled;
- For an accidental death, on or off the job, the officer's annual salary is rounded to the highest \$1,000 and multiplied by 4, and

Some officers may have purchased additional life insurance through the City. This may result in an increased benefit.

The Benefit Coordinator shall assist the family in contacting the Finance Department (Payroll Division) at 385-4301 to apply for benefits.

City of Virginia Beach Health Insurance

Health benefits for survivors will end on the last day of the month of the officer's death. Survivors may remain in the plan for up to 36 months by paying the full rate of the premium, plus a 2% administration fee. Also see: Public Health Services Act (COBRA).

Contact the Benefits Office at 263-1128.

Personal Life Insurance Claims

The Department will assist the family in filing claims for personal life insurance benefits *such* as loan insurance, mortgage insurance, credit card insurance, etc.

The American Council of Life Insurance can locate life insurance policies the insured carried that survivors may not be aware of. The search request must be in writing. Call (800) 942-4242 for information.

Normally life insurance companies require only two forms to establish proof of a claim *which* are:

- Statement of claim, and
- Death certificate or attending physician, statement.

The claimant will have to supply the company with the following:

- A copy of the policy,
- Full name and address of deceased,
- Decedent's occupation and last day worked,
- Decedent's date and place of birth,
- Date, place, and cause of death, and
- Claimants name, age, address, and social security number.

Insurance proceeds are not generally taxable nor are they considered income to the beneficiary.

City of Virginia Beach Payroll

There will be one final paycheck still in the officer's name for the amount that the officer would have normally been paid. A check will be made payable to the officer's estate for any compensatory time or annual vacation leave that may still be outstanding.

Compensation time is calculated at the hourly rate that the officer was making upon his/her death.

Annual vacation leave is calculated at the hourly rate that the officer was making upon his/her death.

A onetime payment for all accrued sick leave at \$28 per day will be provided upon the death of a current full-time employee to the employee's estate in accordance with the payment provision at the time of death.

Contact the Finance Department (payroll) Division at 385-4301

Deferred Compensation Plan

Money can no longer be contributed to the Deferred Compensation Plan after the officer's death. If the beneficiary in the officer's spouse, more flexibility exists with what can be done with money already contributed to the plan. A spouse may leave money in the plan until the deceased officer would have been 70 1/2 or may roll it over into the spouse's own retirement plan or IRA. A non-spouse beneficiary can roll the money over into an IRA, however it must be liquidated within 5 years of the officer's date of death.

Contact the Finance Department (Payroll Division) at 385-4301. There are several ways in which the money can be taken out and a representative from payroll will explain the options.

Virginia Worker's Compensation

Benefits for survivors of an officer who died in the line of duty are as follows:

- The survivor will for 500 weeks get 2/3 of the officer's weekly compensation to be paid to the survivor on a monthly basis; and
- Funeral expenses will be covered not to exceed \$10,000 and reasonable [§65.2-512](#).

Workers' Compensation Act, Title [§65.2-402](#) of the Code of Virginia provides:

Hypertension or heart disease causing the death of, or any health condition or impairment resulting in total or partial disability of members of county, city or town police departments shall be presumed to be occupational diseases, suffered in the line of duty, that are covered by this title unless such presumption is overcome by a preponderance of competent evidence to the contrary.

If an officer or the survivors feel they are due benefits under this title they should file the necessary paperwork through the proper channels within the Department. Each case is individual and will be extensively reviewed before any decisions are made.

How to apply: Contact the Risk Management Department at 385-4217.

Service Handgun (General Order 2.05, Conditions of Work)

The immediate *survivor of any full-time sworn officer who* is killed in the line of duty or who dies in service and has at least twenty years of service may be allowed to purchase the service handgun issued to the officer by the Department at a price of one dollar.

The transfer of a weapon shall be in compliance with all state and local laws concerning the purchase of firearms.

If the service handgun is needed for evidentiary purposes, it will be held in Property and Evidence until the officer or detective handling the criminal investigation signs the voucher to release the weapon being held as evidence from Property and Evidence.

Any full-time sworn officer who retires after at least twenty years of service or as a result of a service-incurred disability may purchase the service handgun issued to him by the Department at a price of one dollar.

How to apply:

Contact the Services Bureau Commanding Officer's Secretary at 385-8176.

\$1.00 must be paid to Services.

The receipt must then be taken to Property and Evidence and shown to the supervisor. The supervisor will then document the location of the service handgun and verify that the weapon has been sold. The Property and Evidence supervisor's phone number is 385-4494.

Commonwealth of Virginia, Line of Duty Act

Benefits of an officer killed in the line of duty are provided by the Code of Virginia. [§9.1-400-402](#)

How to apply:

A form provided by the State Comptroller's office shall to be filled out by the beneficiary with the help of the Department.

The Department shall submit a request to the Superintendent of the Department of the State Police who shall investigate and report upon the circumstances surrounding the deceased and report his findings to the Comptroller.

The following documents will be needed at the time the claim is filed (documents must be either the original or copies certified by the agency that issued them):

- Living will if the decedent had one;
- Marriage certificate;
- Divorce decree or separation agreement;

- Birth certificate of each surviving child whether natural, adopted, illegitimate, step or posthumous; and
- Legal guardianship documents if any of the surviving children have been appointed a legal guardian.

College Education for Dependent Children

Any child between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five whose parent or any person whose spouse has been killed in the line of duty while serving as a law-enforcement officer shall be entitled to free undergraduate tuition and required fees at any public institution of higher education in Virginia under the following conditions:

- The law-enforcement agency certifies that the deceased parent or spouse was employed or serving as a law-enforcement officer and was killed in the line of duty while serving or living in the Commonwealth; and,
- The child or spouse shall have been offered admission to a public institution of higher education.

How to apply:

Any child or spouse who believes he is eligible shall apply to the public institution of higher education to which he has been admitted.

The institution shall determine the eligibility of the applicant for these benefits and shall also ascertain that the recipients are in attendance and are making satisfactory progress.

Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.)

Benefits for deceased member officers are available for surviving family members. The Benefit Coordinator shall assist the family in contacting the Fraternal Order of Police to apply for benefits.

Virginia Beach Police Benevolent Association (PBA)

Benefits for deceased member officers are available for surviving family members. The Benefit Coordinator shall assist the family in contacting the Virginia Beach Police Benevolent Association to apply for benefits.

Virginia Beach Police Supervisors Association (PSA)

Benefits for deceased member officers are available for surviving family members. The Benefit Coordinator shall assist the family in contacting the Virginia Beach Police Supervisor's Association to apply for benefits.

Police Association of Virginia

Benefits for deceased member officers are as follows:

- The survivor will receive a benefit of \$4,000 if the officer is killed in the line of duty;
- The survivor will receive a benefit of \$3,500 if death occurs while not *in* the line of duty; and
- *if an* officer is retired, the survivor will receive a benefit *of* \$3,000 as *long as* the assessment payments and dues are paid up to date.

How to apply:

Contact the administrative office of the Association as soon as possible: (800) 644-1106 or 558-0750.

Information regarding benefits and claims may also be found on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.paov.org>

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Member death benefits may be available for officers who are members of the VFW. The Benefit Coordinator shall provide assistance to the family in contacting the local offices of the VFW to file for benefits.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart

Membership of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is restricted to Purple Hearts recipients.

Education benefits are available for surviving children of member officers. A 2.5 GPA is required of the child.

The Benefit Coordinator shall provide assistance to the family in contacting the local offices of the Military Order of the Purple Heart to file for benefits.

The Knights of Columbus

This is a Catholic organization, which provides scholarships to children of members of the Order, who as a result of criminal violence, lost their lives or became totally or permanently disabled while in the lawful performance of their duties as full-time law enforcement officers.

The Benefit Coordinator shall provide assistance to the family in contacting the local offices of the Knights of Columbus to file for benefits.

Fraternal Order of Eagles

This order provides financial assistance through their memorial fund 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.

The Benefit Coordinator shall provide assistance to the family in contacting the local offices of the Fraternal Order of Eagles to file for benefits.

National Guard

Members of the National Guard and Reserves are provided with a life insurance policy that covers them on and off military duty. If they choose the Serviceman's Group Life Insurance. The Benefit Coordinator shall provide assistance in contacting the officer's military unit, or area Reserve center/armory for details of the coverage and assistance.

National Rifle Association (NRA)

Benefits are available to the survivors of officers feloniously killed in the line of duty if the officer is a current member of the NRA.

The Benefit Coordinator shall provide assistance to the family in contacting the local offices of the National Rifle Association to file for benefits. Claims must be filed within 90 days of the death with the NRA at (800) 247-7989 with the name of the NRA member and the membership number.

The Virginia Public Safety Foundation

The mission of this organization is to raise and administer funds for the benefit of the surviving spouses and children (natural, adopted, and stepchildren) of public safety officers who lose their lives in the line of duty. The funds provided may be used for assistance while the family is processing other benefits claims and educational assistance beyond the state tuition waiver.

Contact the Virginia Public Safety Foundation at voice mail number (804) 798-8557. The address is:

1001 E. Broad Street, Suite 335
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Information regarding benefits and claims may also be found on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.vpsf.org>

TASER Foundation

Specifically, the TASER Foundation will provide support to the families of those who gave their lives while protecting their communities. Immediate family (spouse and/or dependents) of a sworn active duty law enforcement officer whose life was lost in the line of duty are eligible for benefits.

In order to qualify, the immediate cause of a loss of life must be duty related. Loss of life from a pre-existing medical condition does not qualify. For example, if an officer working an administrative job suffers a heart attack while on duty the case would not be eligible.

Grants are available only upon request by the chiefs of police and sheriffs as well as federal law enforcement executives in the name of the officers killed in the line of duty since August 1, 2004 in the U.S and Canada. Checks are made directly payable to the families, but are coordinated through the officer's department to avoid unnecessary intrusion into the families' privacy.

The TASER Foundation will usually be able to issue a check to the family within 48 hours upon verification of the request.

Contact: <http://www.theiacp.org/Foundation> -FallenOfficerFund

Miscellaneous Organizations

A variety of organizations provide special services for the family of member officers at the funeral, at the request of the surviving family. These include:

- The Masonic Lodge
- Shriners International
- The Elks Lodge
- The Moose Lodge

Support Groups

Virginia Beach Police Department Peer Support Group

A support team established within the Virginia Beach Police Department to assist members of the Department who, in the course of their duties, may become involved in a critical incident, to assist members in availing themselves to the Employee Assistance Program, and to provide informal counseling for the members well being. The E911 Emergency Communications Division has a current list of all Peer Support Personnel. Additional Information is available in General Order 2.15 (Peer Support)

Employees Assistance Program

Details on the Employees Assistance Program may be found in General Order 2.05 (Conditions of Work.)

The International Critical Incident Stress Foundation

Public safety officers, de-briefings.

Contact Information:

3290 Pine Orchard Lane, Suite 106, Ellicott City, MD. 21042

Phone: (410) 750-9600 | (Emergency): (410) 313-2473 | Fax: (410) 750-9601

Email: info@icisf.org

Web Site: <http://www.icisf.org/>

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Law enforcement officer de-briefings.

Contact:

Behavioral Sciences Unit

FBI Academy

Quantico, VA 22135, (703) 640-1628.

Parents of Murdered Children (POMC)

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 solely to offer emotional support *and information about* surviving the loss of a loved one to murder.

Contact:

Parents of Murdered Children
100 E. 8th Street #B41
Cincinnati, OH 45202, (513) 721-5683.

<http://www.pomc.com/>

The Compassionate Friends Inc.

A nationwide support group for bereaved parents and siblings.

National Office:

P.O. Box 3696
Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696, (312) 990-0010.

<http://www.compassionatefriends.org/>

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

A nationwide support and advocacy group for victims of drunk drivers.

National Office:

P.O. Box 54168
Dallas, TX 75354-1688, (214) 744-6233.

<http://www.madd.org/>

National Organization for Victim Assistance

A nationwide clearinghouse for all victimization issue.

National office:

1757 Park Road NW
Washington, DC 20010, (202) 232-6682.

<http://www.trynova.org/>

The National Center for Victims of Crime

A resource center for all victimization issues.

National Office:

2000 M. Street NW, Suite 480
Washington, DC 20036, (202) 467-8700

<http://www.victimsofcrime.org>

Association of Death Education and Counseling

Counseling referrals.

National Office:
638 Prospect Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105-4298, (203) 232-4825.

<http://www.adec.org/>

American Association of Retired Persons

Organize widowed persons' support groups.

National Office:
601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049, (202) 434-2277.

<http://www.aarp.org/>

The On-Site Academy

Counseling and peer-support training.

Contact:

<http://onsiteacademy.org/1.html>

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (COPS)

Established in 1984, COPS, is a national, non-profit organization that works with the 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. For additional information or to find out about meeting dates

Contact:

<http://www.nationalcops.org/>