

Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program
United States Department of Justice Office

The PSOB program is available to public safety officers employed by a public agency in a civilian capacity who are killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty. The PSOB program provides death and educational benefits to survivors of fallen public safety officers, and disability benefits to public safety officers who are catastrophically injured and become permanently disabled in the line of duty.

Per PSOB regulations, the following are different kinds of public safety officers:

- (1) Law enforcement officers;
- (2) Firefighters;
- (3) Chaplains;
- (4) Members of rescue squads or ambulance crews (public); and
- (5) Disaster relief workers (public)

Per PSOB regulations, below is the definition of a "law enforcement officer" and "member of a rescue squad and ambulance crew":

(9) "law enforcement officer" means an individual involved in crime and juvenile delinquency control or reduction, or enforcement of the criminal laws (including juvenile delinquency), including, but not limited to, police, corrections, probation, parole, and judicial officers;

(10) "member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew" means an officially recognized or designated employee or volunteer member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew (including a ground or air ambulance service) that—

(A) is a public agency; or

(B) is (or is a part of) a nonprofit entity serving the public that—

(i) is officially authorized or licensed to engage in rescue activity or to provide emergency medical services; and

(ii) engages in rescue activities or provides emergency medical services as part of an official emergency response system;

Generally speaking, coroners and medical examiners are not included in the above definitions. However, without reviewing the specific details of a particular case, it is difficult to answer whether an individual might be potentially eligible for the PSOB program or not.

If the surviving family (or the catastrophically injured officer) would like to submit a PSOB application for a formal review of their case, they can set up a new account and apply for benefits via their website at <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/psob/benefits>. The PSOB website also contains a helpful video that discusses the registration process to start a new PSOB application ([How to File for Public Safety Officers' Benefits - YouTube](#)).

Process to submit an application:

If an injured public safety officer or a surviving family member of a fallen officer would like to submit a PSOB application for a formal review of their case, they can set up a new account and apply for benefits via the PSOB website at <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/psob/benefits>.

Once a PSOB application is started within the PSOB portal, based on the answers provided within the application, the PSOB portal will instruct the applicant as to what documents will be required in support of their application. For death claims, a death certification will be required. Additionally, depending on the circumstances and cause of death, additional documentation may be needed, such as an autopsy/toxicology report or EMS or hospital records.

Additionally, both death and disability PSOB applications require a Part B application, which needs to be submitted by the employing agency of the public safety officer (e.g. Fire Department, Police Department, EMS/EMT/Rescue Organization, etc.). Depending on the circumstances of the injury or death, various documents will be requested in support of the Part B application, which can include a statement of circumstances from the employing agency, a position description of the public safety officer, police/fire/EMS/EMT incident reports, etc.

Once both the Part A and Part B applications and all supporting documents are received by our office, the case will be assigned to a PSOB specialist, who will be able to review it to determine possible eligibility. Afterwards, the claim will move through our various levels of administrative review until a determination/decision can be made on the case (<https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/reviewing-psob-claims.pdf>).

If you have any other questions about the PSOB Program and would like to speak with a Customer Resource Specialist, please call 1-888-744-6513 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time or email the PSOB Office at AskPSOB@usdoj.gov