

The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are amended by adding Public Act 24-27 sections 1-2 as follows:

**(NEW) Sec. P.A. 24-27-1. Definitions.**

**(a) As used in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:**

- (1) "Benefit Application Form" means the Office of the State Comptroller CO-607 rev. 08/24 or successor form(s) for family members of officers killed in the line of duty to apply for Fallen Officer Fund benefits.
- (2) "Beneficiary Form" means the Office of the State Comptroller CO-606 rev. 08/24 or successor form(s) for officers to designate a beneficiary as part of an onboarding process or during such officers' careers with a qualified employing police department or state agency.
- (3) "Dependent child" has the same meaning as provided in section 1(a)(1) of Public Act 24-27.
- (4) "Departmental Review Form" means the CO-606a rev. 08/24 or successor form(s) used by the Office of the State Comptroller in any case where an officer is killed in the line of duty prior to establishing a CO-606 with such officer's current or previous qualified employer.
- (5) "Killed in the line of duty" has the same meaning as provided in section 1(a)(2) of Public Act 24-27.
- (6) "Police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes;
- (7) "Surviving Family" has the same meaning as provided in section 1(a)(5) of Public Act 24-27.

**(NEW) Sec. P.A. 24-27-2. Eligibility Determination and Application Form.**

- (a) Any police officer, upon receiving employment with an eligible local police department or of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall file with such officer's employing Human Resources department a CO-606, Fallen Officer Fund Beneficiary Form. This form shall remain in effect until the officer submits a superseding form which shall then take precedence.
- (b) The surviving family or registered beneficiary of a Connecticut state or municipal police officer who was killed in the line of duty (other than by such officer's own wanton or willful act) as a result of incident, accident or violence which were the direct and proximate cause of their death and dies as a result shall be eligible for funds from the Fund.
- (c) Pursuant to Public Act 24-27 Sec. 1(c), such an individual who is a designated beneficiary or a member of the surviving family of a police officer who was killed in the line of duty shall complete the *Benefit Application Form* pursuant to such form's instructions and submit to the employing department. The employing department shall fill out sections certifying the existence or absence of a *Beneficiary Form* for the officer. The employing department shall submit the completed application along with either the *Beneficiary Form*, or in its absence the *Departmental Review Form*, along with the *Benefit Application Form* to the State Comptroller's Office in accordance with form instructions.
- (d) After receiving such form, the Comptroller shall evaluate each application and determine (1) the applicant's relationship to the officer listed on the application, and (2) whether the named officer's cause of death is eligible, and (3) if any additional persons might be entitled to benefits for the named officer, and (4) the total disbursement due to any identified and eligible recipients. This determination will be based on information obtained by the Comptroller's office

during a review of the application as well as any information provided by the applicant, or any additional information provided at the request of the Comptroller. The Comptroller shall provide such determination, in writing, to such applicant not later than sixty (60) business days after having received the application, or, if the Comptroller requested additional information, not later than ten (10) business days after receiving such additional information. The Comptroller shall approve or deny the application and notify the applicant in writing, of such determination.

- (e) An applicant whose application has been denied may appeal such denial by submitting a written request and any required additional and supplemental documentation to the Comptroller within sixty (60) days of the denial for review. The Comptroller shall make a final determination and provide the applicant with a written summary of his or her decision not more than fifteen (15) days after receiving any additional materials.
- (f) The Comptroller shall pay, within available appropriations, lump sum death benefits of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Fund for such officer to the officer's surviving family, provided the surviving family of a police officer killed in the line of duty shall not receive more than one such lump sum death benefit. In the absence of a Beneficiary Form, the Departmental Review Form shall be used to assist the Comptroller in identifying eligible surviving family members.
  - 1. Payments shall be made in tiers, with all approved members of that tier receiving an equal share of the total disbursement. Payment shall be made only to the first tier containing approved members:
    - i. Tier 1 – Spouse living with dependent child or children.
    - ii. Tier 2 – Dependent Children
    - iii. Tier 3 – Designated Beneficiary
    - iv. Tier 3 – Spouse
    - v. Tier 4 – Children
    - vi. Tier 5 – Parents
- (g) Payments shall be made to surviving families in the order in which applications are received, within available appropriations and on a first-come, first-served basis until the Fund is depleted.
- (h) Applications that are approved for payment after the Fund has been depleted shall be held on file with the Comptroller. Upon legislative approval of additional available appropriations to the Fallen Officer Fund, previously held applications shall be processed in the order in which they were received, and upon approval, paid out in that order
- (i) Such payment shall be in addition to any other benefits for which such officer is eligible and shall not be reduced or offset due to such officer receiving other benefits, including, but not limited to, worker's compensation or other survivor benefits. Such payment shall not be taxable under state law.