



PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS PROGRAM

EXPANSION TO COVER OCCUPATIONAL CANCER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE PSOB PROGRAM?

The Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program is a federal program providing death and education benefits to the survivors of U.S. public safety officers killed in the line of duty. In some very limited cases, the PSOB program also covers permanent and total disability.

WHEN WAS CANCER ADDED TO THE PSOB PROGRAM?

In December 2025, Congress passed the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act, which recognized occupational cancer as a covered death under the PSOB program. President Trump immediately signed the bill into law and directed the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to begin processing these applications.

WHAT CRITERIA ARE REQUIRED FOR OCCUPATIONAL CANCER CLAIMS?

When applying for PSOB benefits due to an occupational cancer death, all of the following criteria must be met in the application:

- **PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER:** An individual must have worked as a fire fighter or EMS provider for a governmental or nonprofit fire/EMS agency.
- **DIAGNOSIS TIMELINE:** The cancer diagnosis must have occurred after the individual had worked in a covered role for at least five years.
- **CANCER TYPE:** Nearly every form of cancer is covered under the bill. A comprehensive list can be found at iaff.org/psob/faq.
- **DATE OF DEATH:** PSOB will recognize occupational cancer deaths since Jan. 1, 2020.

ARE RETIREES ELIGIBLE?

Yes, retirees are also covered. Their cancer diagnosis must have occurred after they worked for at least five years and no more than 15 years from their date of retirement. Their date of death can have occurred at any time as long as they meet the diagnosis criteria mentioned above.

IS THERE A DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS?

PSOB applications for occupational cancer deaths that occurred between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 18, 2025 **must be filed by Dec. 18, 2028**. Applications for cancer death occurring after Dec. 18, 2025, will have PSOB's typical three-year application window.

HOW CAN I CONTACT THE IAFF FOR HELP?

Email psob@iaff.org with any questions about the PSOB program. More information is also available at iaff.org/psob/faq or via the QR code below.

