



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS DEATH BENEFITS TRUST
APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT OF FUNERAL AND OTHER RELATED BURIAL EXPENSES AS DEATH
BENEFITS OF COVERED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Pursuant to the provisions of Mississippi Code Annotated Section 45-2-1 (3), effective from and after July 1, 2024, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety shall make a payment, as provided in this section, in the amount not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to pay funeral and other related burial expenses when a covered individual dies or receives accidental or intentional bodily injury that results in the loss of the covered individual's life. A "covered individual" is a law enforcement officer or firefighter, including volunteer firefighters, as defined in the statute, when employed by a state board, commission, department, division, bureau or agency, or a county, municipality or other political subdivision of the state, which employs, appoints or otherwise engages the services of covered individuals. This payment may be made directly to the funeral home chosen by the next of kin and is subject to the availability of funds.

COVERED EXPENSES

Eligible expenses covered under the Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Death Benefits Trust are generally defined as those related to preparing a body for burial and any services prior to burial. Typically, they are payable to a funeral home and include such items as transportation of the body, embalming, cremation and services of the funeral director and staff. **Funeral and burial services** as well as purchase of a casket, urn, or other repository customarily and traditionally used for the deceased bodily remains are eligible expenses under the trust fund. DPS will pay for one casket or urn (or other similar receptacle) but will not cover both.

Funeral and burial assets are not eligible for reimbursement under the trust fund. Asset expenses are usually purchases used for the final interment of the deceased's remains, such as burial spaces and burial space items.

Eligible Funeral and Burial Services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Basic services of funeral director/staff
- Embalming
- Other preparations of the body
- Visitation at the funeral chapel or other facility
- Funeral service at the funeral chapel or other facility
- Memorial service at the funeral chapel or other facility
- Graveside service
- Transfer of remains to funeral home
- Funeral coach
- Funeral sedans/limousine
- Service vehicle
- Forwarding of remains
- Receiving of remains
- Direct cremation

Other Eligible Funeral and Burial Related Expenses include the following:

- Casket, urn, or other repository customarily and traditionally used for the deceased bodily remains, and
- Death Certificate(s)—limit of ten (10).

Excluded Funeral and Burial Assets include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Burial Agreements, also known as burial contracts or burial funds
- Cremation Society Agreements
- Annuity-Funded Burial Agreements
- Insurance-Funded Burial Agreements
- Burial Spaces
- Burial Space Items

Funeral and Burial Asset Definitions

- Burial Space—A burial space is a(n): cemetery or burial plot, gravesite, crypt, mausoleum, niche, or other similar space used for the final resting place of the deceased.
- Burial Space Items—Burial space items are improvements or additions to such burial spaces including, but not limited to, the following: headstones, markers, or plaques, engraving, a one-time payment of preservation or perpetual care, and arrangements for the opening and closing of the gravesite.

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact DPS Legal Division at
DeathBenefitsTrust@dps.ms.gov.*



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS DEATH BENEFITS TRUST
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COVERED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Pursuant to the provisions of Mississippi Code Annotated Section 45-2-1 (3), effective from and after July 1, 2024, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety shall make a payment in the amount not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to pay funeral and other related burial expenses when a covered individual dies or receives accidental or intentional bodily injury that results in the loss of the covered individual's life. This payment may be made directly to the funeral home chosen by the next of kin and is subject to the availability of funds.

PART 1: REQUEST FOR FUNERAL AND OTHER RELATED BURIAL EXPENSES (The Deceased Individual's Next of Kin should complete this section as well as provide the Requested Documents #1-3.)

NAME OF DECEASED INDIVIDUAL _____ EMPLOYER/AGENCY OF DECEASED INDIVIDUAL _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ DATE OF DEATH _____ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____

NAME OF NEXT OF KIN _____ HOME ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED _____ AMOUNT REQUESTED _____

REMIT PAYMENT TO:

NAME OF COMPANY OR INDIVIDUAL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
STREET/P.O. BOX _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

If payment is being made to a funeral home or related business, please provide the following business contact information:

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON _____ CONTACT'S EMAIL ADDRESS _____ CONTACT'S PHONE NUMBER _____

By my signature below, I hereby attest that the attached invoice for funeral and other related burial expenses is true and accurate and that payment should be remitted as shown above.

SIGNATURE OF NEXT OF KIN _____ DATE _____

PART 2: EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION (The Chief Law Enforcement Officer or Director of the agency where the deceased individual was employed should complete this section and provide the Requested Document #4.)

By my signature below, I hereby attest that above named deceased individual was employed at or a member of our department or agency upon the date of their death.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PRINTED NAME _____
AND TITLE _____ AGENCY _____

ATTACH TO THIS REQUEST THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

1. Copy of a contract for services or invoice for services rendered;
2. Completed W-9 for company/funeral home if a direct payment is being issued;
3. An attested copy of the covered employer's record showing deceased's date of hire or date of membership; and
4. If a volunteer, proof of the deceased's service as an active part-time or on-call member of the department within the six months prior to death.

Submit this form, along with the required documents list above, to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety Legal Division at Post Office Box 958 in Jackson, Mississippi 39205. Please contact DPS Legal Division at DeathBenefitsTrust@dps.ms.gov if you have any questions or concerns.