Administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA),
the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program provides death benefits to the eligible survivors of public safety
officers who are fatally injured in the line of duty, disability benefits to public safety officers catastrophically
injured in the line of duty, and education benefits to the eligible spouses and children of fallen and
catastrophically injured officers. BJA’s PSOB Office is honored to review the more than 1,000 claims submitted
each year on behalf of America’s fallen and injured public safety heroes and their loved ones.

With the recent outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease, or COVID-19, America’s law enforcement officers,
firefighters, and other first responders face a new health risk as they continue to selflessly serve their
communities.

Under the current Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) Act and its implementing regulations, conditions
caused by infectious diseases, viruses, and bacteria may be found to be an injury sustained in the line of duty.

To establish eligibility for benefits under the PSOB Act in connection with a public safety officer’s death or
disability due to COVID-19, the PSOB Act and regulations require that the evidence show that it is more likely
than not that the disease resulted from the public safety officer’s exposure to the disease or the virus that
causes the disease, SARS-CoV-2, while performing a line of duty activity or action. In general, BJA will find that
the evidence shows a public safety officer with COVID-19 contracted it in the line of duty, when (1) the officer
had engaged in line of duty action or activity under circumstances that indicate that it was medically possible
that the officer was exposed to the virus, SARS-CoV-2, while so engaged; and (2) the officer did contract the
disease, COVID-19, within a time-frame where it was medically possible to contract the disease from that
exposure. In addition, in the absence of evidence showing a different cause of death, BJA generally will find
that the evidence shows a public safety officer who died while suffering from COVID-19 died as the direct and
proximate result of COVID-19.

As the PSOB Office receives claims based on COVID-19 exposure, it will work closely with survivors, officers,
and agencies to obtain whatever evidence may be needed to support each claim, through all available
information, including incident reports and related documents.

For questions regarding the PSOB Program or filing a claim, please do not hesitate to visit PSOB’s online portal
at www.psob.gov or email the PSOB Director at AskPSOB@usdoj.gov.

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Management and Budget implementing memoranda, the Department will not cite, use, or rely on any guidance document that is not
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