

# PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS



## REVIEWING PSOB CLAIMS

U.S. Department of Justice



## Reviewing PSOB Claims

Just as public safety officers, agencies, and survivors are unique, each Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) claim is unique. Information specific to the fallen officer and agency is requested by the PSOB Office to establish the eligibility of each claim and potential beneficiaries according to the PSOB Act and its regulations. Because the PSOB Office cannot determine a claim without key information, one of the PSOB Office's highest priorities is conducting early and consistent outreach on cases to decrease the time it takes to obtain this information and provide survivors and surviving agencies with an outcome on their case. Below are the steps involved in each PSOB claim review.

1. Survivors ("Claimants") and the fallen public safety officer's agency, often along with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation or Concerns of Police Survivors, work together to initiate a PSOB claim.
2. The PSOB Office receives the information submitted regarding the circumstances of the death.
3. The PSOB Office reaches out to the agency or Claimants if there are follow-up questions or additional information is required to continue the review of the case.
4. As needed, the PSOB Office works with forensic pathologists to review autopsy and toxicology reports and to understand any medical issues relevant to the determination of the case.
5. The PSOB Office works with the Bureau of Justice Assistance's PSOB Legal Counsel to determine if the circumstances of the death meet the requirements of the law and regulations.
6. Once a decision is made, the PSOB Office mails a copy of the Determination and notification letters to the Claimants and agency.
7. If approved, the benefit is paid by the Treasury Department to the eligible Claimants.
8. If not approved, the PSOB Office Determination provides detailed information regarding the PSOB appeals process.



**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice

### PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS OFFICE

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