

661—291.2 (100B) Eligibility. The beneficiary of a volunteer emergency services provider who is killed in the line of duty is eligible for a lump-sum payment of \$100,000 from the volunteer emergency services provider death benefit program, provided that application is made to the program in accordance with requirements established in this chapter and all eligibility criteria are satisfied.

291.2(1) Application. Application forms for the volunteer emergency services provider death benefit program may be obtained on request from the fire marshal division. The fire marshal may accept a legible copy of a completed application for the federal Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program as an application for payment of benefits from the volunteer emergency services provider death benefit program. Completed application forms shall be mailed or delivered to the Volunteer Emergency Services Provider Death Benefit Program, Fire Marshal Division, Department of Public Safety, State Public Safety Headquarters Building, 215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. A completed application form shall be accompanied by a letter from the chief or other responsible supervisory official of the department in which the volunteer emergency services provider was serving at the time of the line-of-duty death, certifying that the death of the volunteer was the direct and proximate result of a traumatic personal injury incurred in the line of duty as a volunteer. Any evidence or proof available to the chief or responsible supervisory official to support the claim shall accompany the letter.

291.2(2) Definitions. The following definitions apply to the volunteer emergency services provider death benefit program.

“Beneficiary” means the surviving spouse of the volunteer emergency services provider who died in the line of duty. If there is no surviving spouse, and there is a surviving child or surviving children of the volunteer emergency services provider, then “beneficiary” means the surviving child of the member. If there is more than one surviving child, the children are cobeneficiaries who shall share equally in the lump-sum payment of the death benefit. If there is no surviving spouse or child of the volunteer emergency services provider, “beneficiary” means the surviving father or mother of the volunteer emergency services provider if either or both survives at the time of the line-of-duty death of the volunteer emergency services provider. If both the mother and father of the volunteer emergency services provider survive at the time of the line-of-duty death of the volunteer emergency services provider, then the father and mother are cobeneficiaries who shall share equally in the lump-sum payment. If there is no surviving spouse, child, or parent at the time of the line-of-duty death of the volunteer emergency services provider, then “beneficiary” means the estate of the deceased volunteer emergency services provider.

“Line-of-duty death” means the death of a volunteer emergency services provider which was the direct and proximate result of a traumatic personal injury incurred in the line of duty as a volunteer. The death is not a line-of-duty death if any of the following apply:

1. The death resulted from stress, strain, occupational illness, or a chronic, progressive, or congenital illness including, but not limited to, a disease of the heart, lungs, or respiratory system, unless a traumatic personal injury was a substantial contributing factor to the volunteer emergency services provider's death.

However, if the death was the direct and proximate result of a heart attack or stroke, the volunteer emergency services provider shall be presumed to have died as a result of a traumatic personal injury if the provider engaged in a nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activity within the scope of the provider's duties and the death resulted while engaging in that activity, while still on duty after engaging in that activity, or not later than 24 hours after engaging in that activity, and the presumption is not overcome by competent medical evidence to the contrary. For purposes of this paragraph, “nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activity” includes, but is not limited to, nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical law enforcement, fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, emergency medical services, prison security, disaster relief, emergency response, and training exercise activities. “Nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activity” does not include activities of a clerical, administrative, or nonmanual nature.

2. The death was caused by the intentional misconduct of the volunteer emergency services provider or by such provider's intent to cause the provider's own death.

3. The volunteer emergency services provider was voluntarily intoxicated at the time of death.

4. The volunteer emergency services provider was performing the provider's duties in a grossly negligent manner at the time of death.

5. A beneficiary who would otherwise be entitled to a benefit under this chapter was, through the beneficiary's actions, a substantial contributing factor to the volunteer emergency services provider's death.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/17/09]