

Hero's Honor Special Death Benefit QRG - Employer

Any unit participating in the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund (1977 Fund) with full time, fully paid Police Officers and Firefighters, are already covered.

This QRG outlines the process for enrollment in the Hero's Honor Special Death Benefit. Refer to [Positions Requiring Payment for Coverage](#) and [Positions Covered by Statute without Unit Purchasing the Coverage](#) sections of this QRG to decide if your employees are eligible according to the statutes,

Hero's Honor Special Death Benefit

- Enrollment Period
- Eligibility
- Eligible Employer
- Positions Covered by Statute without Unit Purchasing Coverage
- Positions Requiring Payment for Coverage
- Coverage Period
- Special Death Benefit Claim

All referenced codes are available online at the Indiana General Assembly website at [IGA | 2024 Indiana Code](#) or Indiana Administrative code at [Indiana Administrative Code – Title 35 Board of Trustees of the Indiana Public Retirement System](#). These sites include House Enrolled Acts/House Bills (HEA/HB) and Senate Enrolled Acts/Senate Bills (SEA/SB).

Enrollment Period

Open enrollment period for the Hero's Honor Special Death Benefit is from November 1 through November 30 each year.

The [Hero's Honor Enrollment Form for Special Death Benefit Coverage \(State Form 57192\)](#) available from the [Administering PERF/TRF and the 1977 Fund as Employer](#) page or the [About the Hero's Honor Line of Duty Special Death Benefit](#) page of the [INPRS website](#) must be completed, signed, dated, and submitted **annually** to continue participation in the Hero's Honor Special Death Benefit.

Eligibility

With respect to a police officer:

- A post-secondary educational institution, other than a state educational institution, or
- An operator that enters into an operating agreement that maintains a police officer for a public use airport.

With respect to a firefighter:

- A post-secondary educational institution, other than a state educational institution, which is located in Indiana, maintains a fire department, employs firefighters for the fire department, and is accredited by the North Central Association, or
- An operator that enters into an operating agreement for the operation of a public use airport that maintains a fire department and employs firefighters for the fire department.

With respect to an Emergency Medical Service Provider:

- Employer who provides emergency medical services for a political subdivision

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Positions Covered by Statute without Unit Purchasing the Coverage

- Assistant Emergency Management Director
- Chaplain eligible under [IC 5-10-10-4.7](#)
- City Police Officers/Firefighters – who are covered by pension plans, prior to the 1977 Fund, administered by local units
- City / Town Police Reserve Officer
- Community Corrections Officer
- Conservation Enforcement Officer
- Correctional Officer
- County Coroner (effective as of July 1, 2023)
- County Police Officer
- County Police Reserve Officer
- County Sheriff
- Deputy County Coroner (effective as of July 1, 2023)
- Eligible Emergency Management worker
- Employee of Indiana Department of Homeland Security
- Deputy Emergency Management Director
- Deputy Town Marshal
- Division Fire Investigator
- Eligible Emergency Management worker
- Emergency medical service provider not identified in [IC 5-10-10-4.8](#) or [IC 5-10-10-4.9](#) who is employed by a political subdivision and not eligible for death benefit* (*See [IC 5-10-10-4\(14\)](#))
- Employee of Indiana Department of Homeland Security
- Excise Police Officer
- Firefighter Employed by a State University Fire Department
- Gaming Agent
- Gaming Control Officer
- Member of a consolidated law enforcement department established under [IC 36-3-1-5.1](#)
- Member of the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Fund
- Motor Carrier Inspector
- Probation Officer
- School Resource Officer – not otherwise entitled under the 1977 Fund, the 1953 Fund, or the 1925 Fund
- State educational institution police officer appointed under [IC 21-39-4](#)
- State Police Officer
- Town Marshal
- A person who is: (a) employed by a political subdivision (as defined in [IC 36-1-2-13](#)); and (b) appointed as a special deputy under [IC 36-8-10-10.6](#).
- A school corporation police officer appointed under [IC 20-26-16](#).

Positions Requiring Payment for Coverage

- Emergency medical service providers employed by a person who has contracted with a political subdivision
- Emergency medical service providers performing air ambulance services employed by a health care system affiliated with a state educational institution
- Police officers and firefighters* who work for post-secondary educational institutions (non-state)
- Police officers employed by an operator**
- Firefighters who work for a public use airport that maintains a fire department

*accredited by the North Central Association

**under [IC 8-22-3-34\(b\)](#)

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Coverage Period

A one calendar year coverage period for the Special Death Benefit begins on January 1 (if payment is made before January 1) or upon receipt of payment within the calendar year on or after January 1. No matter when the payment is received, the coverage ends December 31 of that calendar year. The [Hero's Honor Enrollment Form for Special Death Benefit Coverage \(State Form 57192\)](#) must be submitted **annually**. INPRS Finance invoices you upon receipt and review of the enrollment form.

1. INPRS Finance maintains a record of the coverage period.
2. If an eligible officer leaves employment, you are not entitled to a refund or credit.
3. If a replacement officer is hired, the \$100 payment already made covers the replacement for the remainder of the coverage period. The [Hero's Honor Enrollment Form for Special Death Benefit Coverage \(State Form 57192\)](#) must be submitted to INPRS Finance to correct individuals shown as being covered. The address is on the form.
4. If new officers are hired, additional payments are due. The additional payments are not prorated. You are responsible for communicating new hire information to INPRS Finance using the [Hero's Honor Enrollment Form for Special Death Benefit Coverage \(State Form 57192\)](#). The invoice is sent to your named contact. Payment is due within 30 days of invoicing. Coverage begins on the later of January 1 or the date the payment is received.
5. You are not entitled to any refunds or credits if no benefits are paid.

Special Death Benefit Claim

1. To submit a claim for the Hero's Honor Special Death Benefit, the claimant must complete, sign, date, and notarize the [Claim for Public Safety Officer Line of Duty Death Benefit for a Spouse, Child, or Dependent Parent as Beneficiary \(State Form 51014\)](#). The form is available from the ['77 Fund Member Forms](#) page of the INPRS website.

NOTE: If the [Claim for Public Safety Officer Line of Duty Death Benefit for a Spouse, Child, or Dependent Parent as Beneficiary \(State Form 51014\)](#) is for a Line of Duty Death resulting from an Exposure Risk as set out in [IC 5-10-13-1](#), the [Affidavit for Line of Duty Disability Exposure Risk \(State Form 57143\)](#) must be on file with the employer and submitted to INPRS. Failure to comply with this will result in the loss of the presumption contained in [IC 5-10-13.5](#).

2. INPRS pays the Hero's Honor Special Death Benefit of **\$150,000 for death prior to July 1, 2020**, or **\$225,000 for death on or after July 1, 2020**, only if
 - a. the eligible officer died in the line of duty, as defined in [IC 5-10-10-2](#) and
 - b. the death of an eligible officer occurred during a coverage period.
3. Submit all required forms to the address on the forms. Retain a copy of all submissions.