



BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Program

The Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance (FLEDA) Act (42 U.S.C. 3796d) was enacted in October 1996 to enhance the appeal of service in civilian Federal law enforcement agencies by providing financial assistance for higher education to the spouses and children of Federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The FLEDA Act also makes this assistance available to the spouses and children of Federal law enforcement officers permanently and totally disabled by catastrophic injuries sustained in the line of duty.

Background

Many States provide higher education benefits for the families of State and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. By enacting the FLEDA Act, Congress and the President have extended educational assistance to the families of Federal law enforcement officers. In so doing, a significant statement is being made about how vital Federal law enforcement officers are to our Nation's public safety.

The FLEDA Act recognizes that benefits available to these families through the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, are often consumed by basic needs and are not sufficient to support costs of higher education. For many families, however, access to higher education is instrumental in their ability to move forward in the aftermath of a line-of-duty tragedy.

FLEDA Program Benefits

The FLEDA Program provides an educational assistance allowance to eligible survivors of Federal law en-

forcement officers whose deaths or permanent and total disabilities are the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

FLEDA benefits are intended for the sole purpose of deferring educational expenses, which may include tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and fees consistent with the educational, professional, or vocational objectives set forth by the applicant in his or her application for assistance. The allowance was established in the amount of \$404 per month for full-time students, \$304 for three-quarter-time students, and \$202 for half-time students. The amount of assistance is subject to change consistent with the current computation of educational assistance allowance set forth in Title IV of the Higher Education Act, Section 3532 of Title 38, United States Code.

FLEDA Program Effective Dates

The FLEDA Act makes program benefits available retroactively to the families of Federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty on or after May 1, 1992. The effective date for the families of permanently and totally disabled Federal law enforcement officers is October 3, 1996.

Eligibility for FLEDA Benefits

The FLEDA Act stipulates that FLEDA benefits are to be provided directly to dependents who attend a program of education at an eligible educational institution and are the children or spouses of Federal law enforcement officers whose deaths or permanent and total disabilities are covered by the PSOB Act (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.). Federal officers' children are no longer eligible

for assistance, however, after their 27th birthday, absent a finding by the Attorney General of extraordinary circumstances. Assistance under the FLEDA Program is available for a period of 45 months of full-time education or training or for a proportional period of time for a part-time program.

For More Information

For more information about the Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Program, to obtain a copy of the FLEDA regulations and application form, or to share your observations and recommendations, please contact:

Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Program

Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program
Bureau of Justice Assistance
633 Indiana Avenue NW.
Washington, DC 20531

Tel: 1-888-SIGNAL13 (744-6513)
Fax: 202-307-3373
World Wide Web: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
Tel: 1-800-688-4252
World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask them to place you on the BJA mailing list.

Department of Justice Response Center

1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480
Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

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