

DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		Policy and Procedure
Special Services		P&P-M-100
Support Services to Surviving Families of Line-of-Duty Death		
Effective Date: 06-27-18 Supersedes: 10-17-14	Approval: Sheriff	Number of Pages: 2
References:	Reevaluation Date: Annually	Standards: CALEA 22.2.3, 22.2.4 COM 3.2.4

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office to support members or families of members who are killed or are seriously injured in the line of duty (while performing a law enforcement function on or off duty). The office will provide liaison assistance to interact with surviving family members in a professional manner. Assistance is provided whether the death was a deliberate criminal act or accidental (i.e., automobile crash, training accident etc.). The Sheriff may institute this policy or certain sections within, to support member's families in cases of natural death or suicide. This policy is only a guideline for the Sheriff's Office to utilize in incidents of line of duty deaths and may be modified at any time at the discretion of the Sheriff and/or his designees. The Office will also provide clarification and information of survivor benefits as well as emotional support during this traumatic period of readjustment for the surviving family. This policy is intended to assist the Sheriff's Office and its members in dealing with spouses and their families of critical incidents. <COM 3.2.4>

II. PROCEDURE

Coordination of events following a line-of-duty death of a sheriff's deputy or member of this Office is an extremely important and complex responsibility. Professionalism must be exhibited at all times as an obligation to the member's survivors and to the law enforcement community.

In order to provide the best possible services and support for the member's family, specific tasks may be assigned to selected members of the Office. Any member assigned to one of these specific roles is encouraged to use all available resources of the office, to include, designation of specific duties, authority and responsibilities to fellow members. Titles of specific roles are as follows:

- Notification Officer
- Hospital Liaison Officer
- Family Liaison Officer
- Benefits Coordinator
- Office Liaison Officer
- Public Information Officer
- Funeral Liaison Officer

Members are encouraged to maintain an up-to-date *Confidential Line-of-Duty Death Information* form. The form can be obtained online on PowerDMS and turned into the

Chaplain or Professional Standards. This completed form will be kept in a secure file. The member can update the form at any time but should review the information at each annual performance evaluation session. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that the member has received the form and it is completed and current.

All members' information will be maintained in the strictest of confidence and utilized only for which it was intended.

By Order of the Sheriff