



**GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Policy and Procedure Manual**

**#21**

Effective: 01jan14

Revised:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS (PSOB)**

The Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) (under the Department of Justice) was enacted in 1976 to assist in the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers and firefighters. The PSOB Act was designed to offer peace of mind to men and women seeking careers in public safety and to make a strong statement about the value that American society places on the contributions of those who serve their communities in potentially dangerous circumstances. As defined by Congress in Public Law 90-351, Section 1217, a public safety officer is an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation and includes law enforcement officers, firefighters and ambulance crew members.

The PSOB Program provides death benefits in the form of a one-time financial payment to the eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths are the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. Medical causes such as heart attacks and stroke are also covered.

The PSOB provides disability benefits for firefighters who have been permanently and totally disabled by a catastrophic personal injury sustained in the line of duty if that injury permanently prevents the firefighter from performing any substantial and gainful work. Medical retirement for a line-of-duty disability does not establish eligibility for PSOB benefits,

The PSOB includes the Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance (PSOEA) Act, which provides financial assistance for higher education for the spouses and children of firefighters who have been permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty. This benefit is available only after the PSOB death or disability claim has been completed and benefits have been awarded. This assistance can be used for tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies and other education-related costs, and is reduced by the amount of other governmental assistance that a student is eligible to receive.

The PSOB officer works with national firefighter groups to provide visibility and emotional support to firefighters. The national Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) provides peer counseling, training, and technical assistance for the families and co-workers of firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Eligible beneficiaries include spouses, children, surviving parents and beneficiaries on file at the time of the firefighter's death. Eligible children include any biological natural, out-of-wedlock, adopted or posthumous child, or stepchild who is 18 years old or younger. Children between 19 and 22 may be eligible if a full-time student at the time of the firefighter's death, and children over 18 who are incapable of self-support at the time of the officer's death due to a disability.



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**PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS (PSOB) [FORM]**

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PSOB CONTACT INFORMATION: Contact Information: Phone 1-888-744-8513 / website: [www.psob.gov](http://www.psob.gov) / email: [askPSOB@usdoj.gov](mailto:askPSOB@usdoj.gov) / Address PSOB Office, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 810 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC 20531

NOTE: This form is completed and signed by all members upon entry into the Galena Fire Department

**Designation of Beneficiaries Form for the U.S. Department of Justice  
Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program**

**Who Receives PSOB Benefits if the claim is approved?**

Benefits are paid to survivors according to the following criteria:

1. If there is a spouse and no child\* or children - All benefit to the spouse.
2. If there is a spouse and child or children - One-half to the spouse and one-half to the child or children in equal shares.
3. If no spouse and children only - All to the children in equal shares.
4. If no spouse or children - The individual(s) designated by the officer as PSOB beneficiary on file with the officer's agency, or If no designation - The individual designated as the beneficiary on the most recently executed life insurance policy on file with the officer's agency.
5. If none of the above - To the officer's parents in equal shares.

\*Child is defined as any natural, illegitimate, adopted, or posthumous child or stepchild of a deceased public safety officer who, at the time of the officer's death, is 18 years old or under; 19-22 years of age and a full-time student; or 19 years of age or older, and incapable of self-support due to a physical or mental disability.

This form is for use in declaring a beneficiary for any PSOB benefits that your survivors may be eligible for in the event of your death. The circumstances in which the beneficiaries identified here might be eligible for the PSOB benefit are identified in Step 4 above and would not apply if there is an eligible spouse or children. Should you wish to complete this form, it must be retained with official department records.

**I, (Print Full Name) \_\_\_\_\_, as a member of the Galena Fire Department, hereby designate the following beneficiary(s) for any PSOB benefits that may be paid in the event of my death.**

Name	Address	Relationship	Percent (%)
<b>(Must total 100%)</b>			

Officer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_