



## POLICY DIRECTIVE

Policy:	<b>DOC 1.3.54 PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER DEATH</b>
Effective Date:	05/10/2016 <span style="float: right;">Page 1 of 2</span>
Revision Date(s):	12/30/2020; 04/24/2026
Signature/Title:	/s/ Eric Strauss, Director

### I. POLICY

The Department will provide assistance and support to the immediate survivors of a Department public safety officer who dies in the line of duty, as well as demonstrating fidelity to all public safety officers for off-duty deaths, retired officer's death, or line-of-duty death of an officer from a different jurisdiction.

### II. APPLICABILITY

All divisions, facilities, and programs Department-owned.

### III. DEFINITIONS (see Glossary)

### IV. REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Death of a Department Public Safety Officer

1. The family support officer:
  - a. will notify the union representative of the officer's death; and
  - b. will be responsible for obtaining:
    - 1) all the officer's personal belongings at the Department and returning them to the family; and
    - 2) all Department-issued equipment for return to the Department.
2. For line-of-duty deaths, the family support officer:
  - a. initially will assist as needed with the officer's family in the planning of memorial services, including offering assistance to the family in meeting their transportation or lodging needs for additional family who may be attending memorial services; and
  - b. will keep the family informed on all new developments relating to press releases, trial proceedings, and investigative findings and will notify, remind, and accompany the family members to all court proceedings relating to the officer's death or serious injury including probation and parole hearings if applicable.
3. The benefits coordinator is responsible for assisting the officer's survivors in obtaining benefits in a timely manner.

#### B. Mourning Band Protocol

1. The black mourning band:
  - a. should be worn straight across the center of the badge;
    - 1) for star badges, the mourning band should be worn from 11 to 5, as if looking at the face of a clock;
  - b. width should not exceed ½ inch; and
  - c. may not cover a badge number.
2. Upon the line-of-duty death of a Department public safety officer, the mourning band should be worn as indicated:

- a. Officers at the same facility or location should wear the mourning band from the time of death until 2400 hours 30 days following the death or at the discretion of the administrator.
  - b. Officers at other facilities or locations should wear the mourning band from the time of death until 2400 hours on the day of the memorial service.
3. For off-duty death of a Department public safety officer, including retirees, the mourning band should be worn while attending the memorial service and removed at the conclusion of the memorial service.
  4. On the day of any memorial service the Department observes honoring officers who have died in the line of duty, the mourning band should be worn from 0000 to 2400 hours.

### **C. Memorial Service Attendance**

1. The Department Director or facility administrator may approve any number of current employees to attend a memorial service for an on-duty death of a Department public safety officer during paid time while balancing the need for security and continued operations.
2. Employees who are not approved to use paid time may ask to attend the memorial service using annual leave or comp time by following the standard request process.

### **D. Line-of-Duty Death of a Public Safety Officer from Another Jurisdiction**

1. Upon the line-of-duty death of a public safety officer from another jurisdiction, the mourning band should be worn from the date of death and removed at the conclusion of the day of burial.
2. At the discretion of the Department Director or the facility administrator, up to two Department public safety officers may be designated to represent the Department on paid time to attend the memorial service of a line-of-duty death of a public safety officer from another jurisdiction.

## **V. CLOSING**

Provisions of this policy not required by statute will be followed unless the provisions conflict with negotiated labor contracts, which will take precedence to the extent possible.

Questions about this policy should be directed to Human Resources.

## **VI. REFERENCES**

- A. 44-4-401, MCA