

## Department of Justice

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(c) Notice is served by the PSOB Office upon an individual on the day that it is—

(1) Mailed, by U.S. mail, addressed to the individual (or to his representative) at his (or his representative's) last address known to such Office;

(2) Delivered to a courier or other delivery service, addressed to the individual (or to his representative) at his (or his representative's) last address known to such Office; or

(3) Sent by electronic means such as telefacsimile or electronic mail, addressed to the individual (or to his representative) at his (or his representative's) last telefacsimile number or electronic-mail address, or other electronic address, known to such Office.

(d) In the event of withdrawal or abandonment of a filing, the time periods prescribed for the filing thereof shall not be tolled, unless, for good cause shown, the Director grants a waiver.

(e) No claim may be filed (or approved) under the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(a) or (b), with respect to an injury, if a claim under the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796c-1 or Public Law 107-37, has been approved, with respect to the same injury.

(f) No claim may be filed (or approved) under the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796c-1 or Public Law 107-37, with respect to an injury, if a claim under the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(a) or (b), has been approved, with respect to the same injury.

### § 32.3 Definitions.

*Act* means the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act of 1976 (generally codified at 42 U.S.C. 3796, *et seq.*; part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968) (including (uncodified) sections 4 through 6 thereof (payment in advance of appropriations, rule of construction and severability, and effective date and applicability)), as applicable (*cf.* § 32.4(d)) according to its effective date and those of its various amendments (*e.g.*, Sept. 29, 1976 (deaths of State and local law enforcement officers and firefighters); Jan. 1, 1978 (educational assistance (officer died)); Oct. 1, 1984 (deaths of federal law enforcement officers and firefighters); Oct. 18, 1986 (deaths of rescue squad and

ambulance crew members); Nov. 29, 1990 (disabilities); Oct. 3, 1996 (educational assistance (officer disabled)); Oct. 30, 2000 (disaster relief workers); Sept. 11, 2001 (chaplains and insurance beneficiaries); Dec. 15, 2003 (certain heart attacks and strokes); and Apr. 5, 2006 (designated beneficiaries)); and also includes Public Law 107-37 and section 611 of the USA PATRIOT Act (both of which relate to payment of benefits, described under subpart 1 of such part L, in connection, respectively, with the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, or with such terrorist attacks as may occur after Oct. 26, 2001), as well as the proviso under the Public Safety Officers Benefits heading in title II of division B of section 6 of Public Law 110-161.

*Adopted child*—An individual is an adopted child of a public safety officer only if—

(1) The individual is legally adopted by the officer; or

(2) As of the injury date, and not being a stepchild, the individual was—

(i) Known by the officer not to be his biological first-generation offspring; and

(ii) After the officer obtained such knowledge, in a parent-child relationship with him.

*Authorized commuting* means travel (not being described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796a(1), and not being a frolic or a detour) by a public safety officer—

(1) In the course of actually responding (as authorized) to a fire-, rescue-, or police emergency, or to a particular and extraordinary request (by the public agency he serves) for that specific officer to perform public safety activity (including emergency response activity the agency is authorized to perform), within his line of duty; or

(2) Between home and work (at a situs (for the performance of line of duty activity or action) authorized or required by the public agency he serves), or between any such authorized or required situs and another—

(i) Using a vehicle provided by such agency, pursuant to a requirement or authorization by such agency that he use the same for commuting; or

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(ii) Using a vehicle not provided by such agency, pursuant to a requirement by such agency that he use the same for work.

*Biological* means genetic, but does not include circumstances where the genetic donation (under the laws of the jurisdiction where the offspring is conceived) does not (as of the time of such conception) legally confer parental rights and obligations.

*BJA* means the Bureau of Justice Assistance, OJP.

*Cause*—A death, injury, or disability is caused by intentional misconduct if—

(1) The misconduct is a substantial factor in bringing it about; and

(2) It is a reasonably foreseeable result of the misconduct.

*Certification* means a formal assertion of a fact (or facts), in a writing that is—

(1) Expressly intended to be relied upon by the PSOB determining official in connection with the determination of a claim specifically identified therein;

(2) Expressly directed to the PSOB determining official;

(3) Legally subject to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 1001 (false statements) and 1621 (perjury), and 28 U.S.C. 1746 (declarations under penalty of perjury), and expressly declares the same to be so;

(4) Executed by a natural person with knowledge of the fact (or facts) asserted and with legal authority to execute the writing (such as to make the assertion legally that of the certifying party), and expressly declares the same (as to knowledge and authority) to be so;

(5) In such form as the Director may prescribe from time to time;

(6) True, complete, and accurate (or, at a minimum, not known or believed by the PSOB determining official to contain any material falsehood, incompleteness, or inaccuracy); and

(7) Unambiguous, precise, and unequivocal, in the judgment of the PSOB determining official, as to any fact asserted, any matter otherwise certified, acknowledged, indicated, or declared, and any provision of this definition.

*Certification described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796c-1 or Public Law 107-37,*

means a certification, acknowledging all the matter specified in §32.5(f)(1) and (2)—

(1) In which the fact (or facts) asserted is the matter specified in §32.5(f)(3);

(2) That expressly indicates that all of the terms used in making the assertion described in paragraph (1) of this definition (or used in connection with such assertion) are within the meaning of the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796c-1 or Public Law 107-37, and of this part; and

(3) That otherwise satisfies the provisions of the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796c-1 or Public Law 107-37, and of this part.

*Chaplain* means a clergyman, or other individual trained in pastoral counseling, who meets the definition provided in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(2).

*Child of a public safety officer* means an individual—

(1) Who—

(i) Meets the definition provided in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(3), in any claim—

(A) Arising from the public safety officer's death, in which the death was simultaneous (or practically simultaneous) with the injury; or

(B) Filed after the public safety officer's death, in which the claimant is the officer's—

(1) Biological child, born after the injury date;

(2) Adopted child, adopted by him after the injury date; or

(3) Stepchild, pursuant to a marriage entered into by him after the injury date; or

(ii) In any claim not described in paragraph (1)(i) of this definition—

(A) Meets (as of the injury date) the definition provided in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(3), *mutatis mutandis* (i.e., with "deceased" and "death" being substituted, respectively, by "deceased or disabled" and "injury"); or

(B) Having been born after the injury date, is described in paragraph (1)(i)(B)(1), (2), or (3) of this definition; and

(2) With respect to whom the public safety officer's parental rights have not been terminated, as of the injury date.

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*Commonly accepted* means generally agreed upon within the medical profession.

*Consequences of an injury that permanently prevent an individual from performing any gainful work* means an injury whose consequences permanently prevent an individual from performing any gainful work.

*Convincing evidence* means clear and convincing evidence.

*Crime* means an act or omission punishable as a criminal misdemeanor or felony.

*Criminal laws* means that body of law that declares what acts or omissions are crimes and prescribes the punishment that may be imposed for the same.

*Department or agency*—An entity is a department or agency within the meaning of the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(8), and this part, only if the entity is—

- (1) A court;
- (2) An agency described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(9)(B) or (C); or
- (3) Otherwise a public entity—
  - (i) That is legally an express part of the internal organizational structure of the relevant government;
  - (ii) That has no legal existence independent of such government; and
  - (iii) Whose obligations, acts, omissions, officers, and employees are legally those of such government.

*Determination* means the approval or denial of a claim (including an affirmation or reversal pursuant to a motion for reconsideration under §32.27), the determination described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(c), or any recommendation under §32.54(c)(3).

*Director* means the Director of BJA.

*Direct and proximate cause*—Except as may be provided in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(k), something directly and proximately causes a wound, condition, or cardiac-event, if it is a substantial factor in bringing the wound, condition, or cardiac-event about.

*Direct and proximate result of an injury*—Except as may be provided in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(k), a death or disability results directly and proximately from an injury if the injury is a substantial factor in bringing it about.

*Disaster relief activity* means activity or an action encompassed within the duties described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(9)(B) or (C).

*Disaster relief worker* means any individual who meets the definition provided in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(9)(B) or (C).

*Disturbance* includes any significant and negative alteration, any significant negative deviation from the objectively normal, or any significant deterioration.

*Divorce* means a legally-valid divorce from the bond of wedlock (i.e., the bond of marriage), except that, otherwise, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a spouse (or purported spouse) of an individual shall be considered to be divorced from that individual within the meaning of this definition if, subsequent to his marriage (or purported marriage) to that individual (and while that individual is living), the spouse (or purported spouse)—

- (1) Holds himself out as being divorced from, or not being married to, the individual;
- (2) Holds himself out as being married to another individual; or
- (3) Was a party to a ceremony purported by the parties thereto to be a marriage between the spouse (or purported spouse) and another individual.

*Drugs or other substances* means controlled substances within the meaning of the drug control and enforcement laws, at 21 U.S.C. 802(6).

*Educational/academic institution* means an institution whose primary purpose is educational or academic learning.

*Eligible payee* means—

- (1) An individual (other than the officer) described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(a), with respect to a claim under subpart B of this part; or
- (2) An individual described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(b), with respect to a claim under subpart C of this part.

*Emergency medical services* means—

- (1) Provision of first-response emergency medical care (other than in a permanent medical-care facility); or
- (2) Transportation of persons in medical distress (or under emergency conditions) to medical-care facilities.

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*Emergency response activity* means response to a fire-, rescue-, or police emergency.

*Employed by a public agency*—A public safety officer is employed, within the meaning of the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796c-1 or Public Law 107-37, by a public agency, when he—

(1) Is employed by the agency in a civilian capacity; and

(2) Is—

(i) Serving the agency in an official capacity (with respect to officers of any kind but disaster relief workers); or

(ii) Performing official duties as described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(9)(B) or (C) (with respect to disaster relief workers).

*Employee* does not include—

(1) Any independent contractor; or

(2) Any individual who is not eligible to receive death or disability benefits from the purported employer on the same basis as a regular employee of such employer would.

*Employment in a civilian capacity* refers to status as a civilian, rather than to the performance of civilian functions.

*Filing* means any claim, request, motion, election, petition, or appeal, and any item or matter (e.g., evidence, certifications, authorizations, waivers, legal arguments, or lists) that is, or may be, filed with the PSOB Office.

*Fire protection* means—

(1) Suppression of fire;

(2) Hazardous-material response; or

(3) Emergency medical services or rescue activity of the kind performed by firefighters.

*Fire-, rescue-, or police emergency* includes disaster-relief emergency.

*Firefighter* means an individual who—

(1) Is trained in—

(i) Suppression of fire; or

(ii) Hazardous-material response; and

(2) Has the legal authority and responsibility to engage in the suppression of fire, as—

(i) An employee of the public agency he serves, which legally recognizes him to have such (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) him to have such); or

(ii) An individual otherwise included within the definition provided in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(4).

*Functionally within or -part of*—No individual shall be understood to be functionally within or -part of a public agency solely by virtue of an independent contractor relationship.

*Gross negligence* means great, heedless, wanton, indifferent, or reckless departure from ordinary care, prudence, diligence, or safe practice—

(1) In the presence of serious risks that are known or obvious;

(2) Under circumstances where it is highly likely that serious harm will follow; or

(3) In situations where a high degree of danger is apparent.

*Hazardous-material response* means emergency response to the threatened or actual release of hazardous materials, where life, property, or the environment is at significant risk.

*Heart attack* means—

(1) A myocardial infarction; or

(2) A cardiac-event (i.e., cessation, interruption, arrest, or other similar disturbance of heart function), not included in paragraph (1) of this definition, that is—

(i) Acute; and

(ii) Directly and proximately caused by a pathology (or pathological condition) of the heart or of the coronary arteries.

*Illegitimate child*—An individual is an illegitimate child of a public safety officer only if he is a natural child of the officer, and the officer is not married to the other biological parent at (or at any time after) the time of his conception.

*Incapable of self-support because of physical or mental disability*—An individual is incapable of self-support because of physical or mental disability if he is under a disability within the meaning of the Social Security Act, at 42 U.S.C. 423(d)(1)(A), applicable *mutatis mutandis*.

*Independent contractor* includes any volunteer, servant, employee, contractor, or agent, of an independent contractor.

*Injury* means a traumatic physical wound (or a traumatized physical condition of the body) directly and proximately caused by external force (such as bullets, explosives, sharp instruments, blunt objects, or physical blows), chemicals, electricity, climatic

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conditions, infectious disease, radiation, virii, or bacteria, but does not include—

(1) Any occupational disease; or

(2) Any condition of the body caused or occasioned by stress or strain.

*Injury date*—Except with respect to claims under the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(k) (where, for purposes of determining beneficiaries under the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(a), it generally means the time of the heart attack or stroke referred to in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(k)(2)), injury date means the time of the line of duty injury that—

(1) Directly and proximately results in the public safety officer's death, with respect to a claim under—

(i) Subpart B of this part; or

(ii) Subpart D of this part, by virtue of his death; or

(2) Directly (or directly and proximately) results in the public safety officer's total and permanent disability, with respect to a claim under—

(i) Subpart C of this part; or

(ii) Subpart D of this part, by virtue of his disability.

*Instrumentality* means entity, and does not include any individual, except that no entity shall be considered an instrumentality within the meaning of the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(8), or this part, unless, as of the injury date,

(1) The entity—

(i) Is legally established, -recognized, or -organized, such that it has legal existence; and

(ii) Is so organized and controlled, and its affairs so conducted, that it operates and acts solely and exclusively as a functional part of the relevant government, which legally recognizes it as such (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) it to be such); and

(2) The entity's—

(i) Functions and duties are solely and exclusively of a public character;

(ii) Services are provided generally to the public as such government would provide if acting directly through its public employees (*i.e.*, they are provided without regard to any particular relationship (such as a subscription) a member of the public may have with such entity); and

(iii) Acts and omissions are, and are recognized by such government as (or,

at a minimum, not denied by such government to be), legally—

(A) Those of such government, for purposes of sovereign immunity; or

(B) The responsibility of such government, for purposes of tort liability.

*Intention*—A death, injury, or disability is brought about by a public safety officer's intention if—

(1) An intentional action or activity of his is a substantial factor in bringing it about; and

(2) It is a reasonably foreseeable result of the intentional action or activity.

*Intentional action or activity* means activity or action (other than line of duty activity or action), including behavior, that is—

(1) A result of conscious volition, or otherwise voluntary;

(2) Not a result of legal insanity or of impulse that is legally and objectively uncontrollable; and

(3) Not performed under legal duress or legal coercion of the will.

*Intentional misconduct*—A public safety officer's action or activity is intentional misconduct if—

(1) As of the date it is performed,

(i) Such action or activity—

(A) Is in violation of, or otherwise prohibited by, any statute, rule, regulation, condition of employment or service, official mutual-aid agreement, or other law; or

(B) Is contrary to the ordinary, usual, or customary practice of similarly-situated officers within the public agency in which he serves; and

(ii) He knows, or reasonably should know, that it is so in violation, prohibited, or contrary; and

(2) Such action or activity—

(i) Is intentional; and

(ii) Is—

(A) Performed without reasonable excuse; and

(B) Objectively unjustified.

*Involvement*—An individual is involved in crime and juvenile delinquency control or reduction, or enforcement of the criminal laws (including juvenile delinquency), only if he is an officer of a public agency and, in that capacity, has legal authority and -responsibility to arrest, apprehend, prosecute, adjudicate, correct or detain

(in a prison or other detention or confinement facility), or supervise (as a parole or probation officer), persons who are alleged or found to have violated the criminal laws, and is recognized by such agency, or the relevant government (or, at a minimum, not denied by such agency, or the relevant government), to have such authority and responsibility.

*Itemized description of representative services provided*—A description of representative services provided is itemized only when it includes—

(1) The beginning and end dates of the provision of the services;

(2) An itemization of the services provided and the amount of time spent in providing them; and

(3) An itemization of the expenses incurred in connection with the services provided for which reimbursement is sought.

*Kinds of public safety officers*—The following are the different kinds of public safety officers:

- (1) Law enforcement officers;
- (2) Firefighters;
- (3) Chaplains;
- (4) Members of rescue squads or ambulance crews; and
- (5) Disaster relief workers.

*Law enforcement* means enforcement of the criminal laws, including—

(1) Control or reduction of crime or of juvenile delinquency;

(2) Prosecution or adjudication of individuals who are alleged or found to have violated such laws;

(3) Prison security activity; and

(4) Supervision of individuals on parole or probation for having violated such laws.

*Line of duty activity or action*—Activity or an action is performed in the line of duty, in the case of a public safety officer who is—

(1) A law enforcement officer, a firefighter, or a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew—

(i) Whose primary function (as applicable) is public safety activity, only if, not being described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796a(1), and not being a frolic or detour, it is activity or an action that he is obligated or authorized by statute, rule, regulation, condition of employment or service, official mutual-aid agreement, or other law, to perform

(including any social, ceremonial, or athletic functions (or any official training programs of his public agency) to which he is assigned, or for which he is compensated), under the auspices of the public agency he serves, and such agency (or the relevant government) legally recognizes that activity or action to have been so obligated or authorized at the time performed (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) it to have been such); or

(ii) Whose primary function is not public safety activity, only if, not being described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796a(1), and not being a frolic or detour—

(A) It is activity or an action that he is obligated or authorized by statute, rule, regulation, condition of employment or service, official mutual-aid agreement, or other law, to perform, under the auspices of the public agency he serves, and such agency (or the relevant government) legally recognizes that activity or action to have been so obligated or authorized at the time performed (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) it to have been such); and

(B) It is performed (as applicable) in the course of public safety activity (including emergency response activity the agency is authorized to perform), or taking part (as a trainer or trainee) in an official training program of his public agency for such activity, and such agency (or the relevant government) legally recognizes it to have been such at the time performed (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) it to have been such);

(2) A disaster relief worker, only if, not being described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796a(1), and not being a frolic or detour, it is disaster relief activity, and the agency he serves (or the relevant government), being described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(9)(B) or (C), legally recognizes it to have been such at the time performed (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) it to have been such); or

(3) A chaplain, only if, not being described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796a(1), and not being a frolic or detour—

(i) It is activity or an action that he is obligated or authorized by statute,

rule, regulation, condition of employment or service, official mutual-aid agreement, or other law, to perform, under the auspices of the public agency he serves, and such agency (or the relevant government) legally recognizes it to have been such at the time performed (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) it to have been such); and

(ii) It is performed in the course of responding to a fire-, rescue-, or police emergency, and such agency (or the relevant government) legally recognizes it to have been such at the time performed (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) it to have been such).

*Line of duty injury*—An injury is sustained in the line of duty only if—

(1) It is sustained in the course of—

(i) Performance of line of duty activity or a line of duty action; or

(ii) Authorized commuting; or

(2) Convincing evidence demonstrates that such injury resulted from the injured party's status as a public safety officer.

*Mental faculties* means brain function.

*Natural child*—An individual is a natural child of a public safety officer only if he is a biological child of the officer, and the officer is alive at the time of his birth.

*Occupational disease* means a disease (including an ailment or condition of the body) that routinely constitutes a special hazard in, or is commonly regarded as a concomitant of, an individual's occupation.

*Official capacity*—An individual serves a public agency in an official capacity only if—

(1) He is officially authorized, -recognized, or -designated (by such agency) as functionally within or -part of it; and

(2) His acts and omissions, while so serving, are legally those of such agency, which legally recognizes them as such (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) them to be such).

*Official duties* means duties that are officially authorized, -recognized, or -designated by an employing entity, such that the performance of those duties is legally the action of such entity, which legally recognizes it as such (or,

at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) it to be such).

*Official training program of a public safety officer's public agency* means a program—

(1) That is officially sponsored, -conducted, or -authorized by the public agency in which he serves; and

(2) Whose purpose is to train public safety officers of his kind in (or to improve their skills in), specific activity or actions encompassed within their respective lines of duty.

*Officially recognized or designated member of a department or agency* means a member of a department or agency, or of an instrumentality, of a government described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(8), who is officially recognized (or officially designated) as such a member by the same.

*Officially recognized or designated public employee of a department or agency* means a public employee of a department or agency who is officially recognized (or officially designated) as a public safety officer, by the same.

*Officially recognized or designated public employee member of a squad or crew* means a public employee member of a squad or crew who is officially recognized (or officially designated) as such a public employee member, by the public agency under whose auspices the squad or crew operates.

*OJP* means the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

*Parent* means a father or a mother.

*Parent-child relationship* means a relationship between a public safety officer and another individual, in which the officer has the role of parent (other than biological or legally-adoptive), as shown by convincing evidence.

*Performance of duties in a grossly negligent manner at the time of death or catastrophic injury* means gross negligence, as of or near the injury date, in the course of authorized commuting or performance of line of duty activity or a line of duty action, where such negligence is a substantial contributing factor in bringing such death or injury about.

*Posthumous child*—An individual is a posthumous child of a public safety officer only if he is a biological child of the officer, and the officer is—

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(1) Alive at the time of his conception; and

(2) Deceased at or before the time of his birth.

*Prison security activity* means correctional or detention activity (in a prison or other detention or confinement facility) of individuals who are alleged or found to have violated the criminal laws.

*PSOB determining official* means, as applicable, any of the following:

- (1) The PSOB Office;
- (2) The Hearing Officer; or
- (3) The Director.

*PSOB Office* means the unit of BJA that directly administers the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program.

*Public employee* means—

(1) An employee of a government described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(8), (or of a department or agency thereof) and whose acts and omissions while so employed are legally those of such government, which legally recognizes them as such (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) them to be such); or

(2) An employee of an instrumentality of a government described in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(8), who is eligible to receive disability benefits (or whose survivors are eligible to receive death benefits) from such government on the same basis as an employee of that government (within the meaning of paragraph (1) of this definition), or his survivors, would.

*Public employee member of a squad or crew* means a member of a squad or crew who is a public employee under the auspices of whose public agency employer the squad or crew operates.

*Public employee of a department or agency* means a public employee whose public agency employer is the department or agency.

*Public safety activity* means any of the following:

- (1) Law enforcement;
- (2) Fire protection;
- (3) Rescue activity; or
- (4) The provision of emergency medical services.

*Qualified beneficiary*—An individual is a qualified beneficiary under the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796c–1 or Public Law 107–37, only if he is an eligible payee—

(1) Who qualifies as a beneficiary pursuant to a final agency determination that—

(i) The requirements of the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(a) or (b) (excluding the limitations relating to appropriations), as applicable, have been met; and

(ii) The provisions of this part, as applicable, relating to payees otherwise have been met; and

(2) Whose actions were not a substantial contributing factor to the death of the public safety officer (with respect to a claim under subpart B of this part).

*Representative services* include expenses incurred in connection with such services.

*Rescue activity* means search or rescue assistance in locating or extracting from danger persons lost, missing, or in imminent danger of serious bodily harm.

*Rescue squad or ambulance crew* means a squad or crew whose members are rescue workers, ambulance drivers, paramedics, health-care responders, emergency medical technicians, or other similar workers, who—

(1) Are trained in rescue activity or the provision of emergency medical services; and

(2) As such members, have the legal authority and -responsibility to—

- (i) Engage in rescue activity; or
- (ii) Provide emergency medical services.

*Spouse* means an individual's lawful husband, -wife, -widower, or -widow (*i.e.*, with whom the individual lawfully entered into marriage), and includes a spouse living apart from the individual, other than pursuant to divorce, except that, notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) For an individual purporting to be a spouse on the basis of a common-law marriage (or a putative marriage) to be considered a spouse within the meaning of this definition, it is necessary (but not sufficient) for the jurisdiction of domicile of the parties to recognize such individual as the lawful spouse of the other; and

(2) In deciding who may be the spouse of a public safety officer—

(i) The relevant jurisdiction of domicile is the officer's (as of the injury date); and



(ii) With respect to a claim under subpart B of this part, the relevant date is that of the officer's death.

*Stepchild*—An individual is a stepchild of a public safety officer only if the individual is the legally-adoptive or biological first-generation offspring of a public safety officer's current, deceased, or former spouse, which offspring (not having been legally adopted by the officer)—

(1) Was conceived before the marriage of the officer and the spouse; and  
(2) As of the injury date—

(i) Was known by the officer not to be his biological first-generation offspring; and

(ii) After the officer obtained such knowledge—

(A) Received over half of his support from the officer;

(B) Had as his principal place of abode the home of the officer and was a member of the officer's household; or

(C) Was in a parent-child relationship with the officer.

*Stress or strain* includes physical stress or strain, mental stress or strain, post-traumatic stress disorder, and depression.

*Stroke* means cerebral vascular accident.

*Student* means an individual who meets the definition provided in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(3)(ii), with respect to an educational/academic institution.

*Substantial contributing factor*—A factor substantially contributes to a death, injury, or disability, if the factor—

(1) Contributed to the death, injury, or disability to a significant degree; or

(2) Is a substantial factor in bringing the death, injury, or disability about.

*Substantial factor*—A factor substantially brings about a death, injury, disability, wound, condition, cardiac-event, heart attack, or stroke if—

(1) The factor alone was sufficient to have caused the death, injury, disability, wound, condition, cardiac-event, heart attack, or stroke; or

(2) No other factor (or combination of factors) contributed to the death, injury, disability, wound, condition, cardiac-event, heart attack, or stroke to so great a degree as it did.

*Suppression of fire* means extinguishment, physical prevention, or containment of fire, including on-site hazard evaluation.

*Terrorist attack*—An event or act is a terrorist attack within the meaning of the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796c-1(a), only if the Attorney General determines that—

(1) There is a reasonable indication that the event or act was (or would be or would have been, with respect to a *priori* prevention or investigation efforts) an act of domestic or international terrorism within the meaning of the criminal terrorism laws, at 18 U.S.C. 2331; and

(2) The event or act (or the circumstances of death or injury) was of such extraordinary or cataclysmic character as to make particularized factual findings impossible, impractical, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome.

*Voluntary intoxication at the time of death or catastrophic injury* means the following, as shown by any commonly-accepted tissue, -fluid, or -breath test or by other competent evidence:

(1) With respect to alcohol, (i) In any claim arising from a public safety officer's death in which the death was simultaneous (or practically simultaneous) with the injury, it means intoxication as defined in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(5), unless convincing evidence demonstrates that the officer did not introduce the alcohol into his body intentionally; and

(ii) In any claim not described in paragraph (1)(i) of this definition, unless convincing evidence demonstrates that the officer did not introduce the alcohol into his body intentionally, it means intoxication—

(A) As defined in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(5), *mutatis mutandis* (i.e., with "post-mortem" (each place it occurs) and "death" being substituted, respectively, by "post-injury" and "injury"); and

(B) As of the injury date; and

(2) With respect to drugs or other substances, it means intoxication as defined in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796b(5), as evidenced by the presence (as of the injury date) in the body of the public safety officer—

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(i) Of any controlled substance included on Schedule I of the drug control and enforcement laws (see 21 U.S.C. 812(a)), or any controlled substance included on Schedule II, III, IV, or V of such laws (see 21 U.S.C. 812(a)) and with respect to which there is no therapeutic range or maximum recommended dosage, unless convincing evidence demonstrates that such introduction was not a culpable act of the officer's under the criminal laws; or

(ii) Of any controlled substance included on Schedule II, III, IV, or V of the drug control and enforcement laws (see 21 U.S.C. 812(a)) and with respect to which there is a therapeutic range or maximum recommended dosage—

(A) At levels above or in excess of such range or dosage, unless convincing evidence demonstrates that such introduction was not a culpable act of the officer's under the criminal laws; or

(B) At levels at, below, or within such range or dosage, unless convincing evidence demonstrates that—

(1) Such introduction was not a culpable act of the officer's under the criminal laws; or

(2) The officer was not acting in an intoxicated manner immediately prior to the injury date.

[71 FR 46037, Aug. 10, 2006, as amended at 73 FR 76528, Dec. 17, 2008; 78 FR 29234, May 20, 2013]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 79 FR 35492, June 23, 2014, § 32.3 was amended by revising the definition of "Spouse", effective July 23, 2014. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 32.3 Definitions.

\* \* \* \* \*

Spouse means someone with whom an individual entered into marriage lawfully under the law of the jurisdiction in which it was entered into and from whom the individual is not divorced, and includes a spouse living apart from the individual, other than pursuant to divorce, except that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to determine whether an individual is a spouse of a public safety officer within the meaning of this definition when more than one individual is purported to be such a spouse, the PSOB Program will apply the law of the jurisdiction that it determines has the most significant interest in the marital status of the public safety officer:

(1) On the date of the officer's death, with respect to a claim under subpart B of this part or by virtue of such death; or

(2) As of the injury date, with respect to a claim not under subpart B of this part or by virtue of the officer's death.

\* \* \* \* \*

§ 32.4 Terms; construction, severability; effect.

(a) In determining the meaning of any provision of this part, unless the context should indicate otherwise, the first three provisions of 1 U.S.C. 1 (rules of construction) shall apply.

(b) If benefits are denied to any individual pursuant to the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796a(4), or otherwise because his actions were a substantial contributing factor to the death of the public safety officer, such individual shall be presumed irrebuttably, for all purposes, not to have survived the officer.

(c) Any provision of this part held to be invalid or unenforceable by its terms, or as applied to any person or circumstance, shall be construed so as to give it the maximum effect permitted by law, unless such holding shall be one of utter invalidity or unenforceability, in which event such provision shall be deemed severable herefrom and shall not affect the remainder hereof or the application of such provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other, dissimilar circumstances.

(d) Unless the same should expressly provide otherwise (e.g., by use of the word "hereafter" in an appropriations proviso), any amendment to the Act (or any statutory enactment otherwise directly referent or -applicable to the program that is the subject of this part), shall apply only with respect to injuries (or, in connection with claims under the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(k), shall apply only with respect to heart attacks or strokes referred to in the Act, at 42 U.S.C. 3796(k)(2)) occurring on or after the date it takes effect.

[73 FR 76531, Dec. 17, 2008]

§ 32.5 Evidence.

(a) Except as otherwise may be expressly provided in the Act or this part, a claimant has the burden of persuasion as to all material issues of