



WOUNDED OFFICER CRITERIA

A Wounded Officer is a law enforcement officer who through no fault of their own;

- **has suffered a Catastrophic Injury:** Any debilitating injury, debilitating illness, debilitating disease, occurring in the line of duty that as a direct result renders the officer incapacitated and unable to perform their full duties as a law enforcement officer as determined by their agency.

By

- **Criminal Causes:** Any law enforcement officer, acting in the line of duty, who is catastrophically injured as a result of any criminal act by another.

Or

- **Accidental Causes:** Any law enforcement officer who is catastrophically injured in an accidental way as a result of a line of duty incident.

Or

- **Natural Causes:** Any law enforcement officer who is catastrophically injured of natural causes (heart attack, brain aneurysm, etc.) due to physical exertion during or following a stressful event while on duty.

Including but not limited to:

- Struggle with a suspect
- Foot chase or other pursuit of a suspect
- Required departmental training

The law enforcement officer will only be eligible if it is determined to be ⁽¹⁾ there is a direct relationship between the injury and physical exertion during or following a stressful on duty incident or ⁽²⁾ that the injury was caused by physical exertion during or following a stressful on duty incident and documented by a certified medical professional. Written proof may be required via fax or U.S. mail. Natural cause catastrophically injury that occurs while on-duty but not during or following a physical exertion during a stressful event will not be eligible.

Or

- **Health Related Causes:** Any law enforcement officer who is catastrophically injured as a result of any health related cause (illness, disease, infection, etc.) that is a direct result of the officer's law enforcement duties.

Including but not limited to:

- Contraction of an infectious disease or illness such as AIDS
- Contraction of an infection or illness as a result of a duty related illness
- Health related issues due to a HAZMAT incident

Evidence of a direct relation between a duty related incident and the contraction of a disease or illness documented by a certified medical professional.

Or

- **Off Duty Causes:** Any law enforcement officer who is catastrophically injured off duty while acting in an official capacity to prevent loss of property, injury, or death, or is targeted because of his/her duties as a law enforcement officer.

DISQUALIFYING CIRCUMSTANCES

Any law enforcement officer whose catastrophic injury meets one of the following conditions shall be ineligible to be included.

- Catastrophic injuries attributed to voluntary alcohol or controlled substance abuse or while the victim officer is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance
- Catastrophic injuries caused by the intentional misconduct of the officer
- Catastrophic injuries caused by the officer's intention to bring about his/her own injuries
- Catastrophic injuries attributed to an officer performing his/her duty in a grossly negligent manner at time of injury
- Off-duty automobile accidents where the officer is not involved in any type of duty related activity
- Off-duty law enforcement officers serving as overseas peace keepers, government contractors, or active-duty military
- Private law enforcement, security, or corrections officers working for for-profit law enforcement companies (even if holding a state law enforcement commission)
- Catastrophic injuries occurred as a result of employing agency policy violation or violation of laws within the state the officer is employed
- Catastrophic injuries occurred during “everyday life” experiences unrelated to law enforcement function.

DEFINITIONS

Line of Duty Catastrophic Injury: Any law enforcement officer who has been catastrophically injured as a direct and proximate result of activities or actions performed in the line of duty. This includes law enforcement officers who, while in an off-duty capacity, act in direct response to an emergency situation involving the general public or a violation of the law.

Law Enforcement Officer: A law enforcement officer is any marshal, police officer, deputy sheriff, agent, or employee of any other title employed by a municipal, city, county, state, or federal agency and has powers of arrest. Any employee of a public authority, railroad, private institution of higher education, or otherwise holds a police commission from a state are considered law enforcement officers. Volunteer/Auxiliary officers/deputies who are granted powers of arrest while on duty are also considered law enforcement officers.

Correctional & Detention Officers: Officers who are employed as correctional or detention officers by any city, county, regional, state, or federal jail or corrections department are considered law enforcement officers even if they do not have power of arrest outside the confines of the facility to which they are employed. The officer in question must be employed in a position that gives him/her primary or limited responsibility for the custody and security of suspected or convicted criminal offenders.

Military Law Enforcement Officers: Military personnel (civilian, enlisted or commissioned officers) who act as law enforcement officers for their agency are considered law enforcement officers for the purpose of solely being honored on the WOI web page. Military police officers will not be included if the injury occurs as a result of combat during a time of war, military conflict, military exercise, or military operation. Military police officers will only be considered if their death occurs while conducting conventional law enforcement duties.

Investigators/Special Agents (civilian, enlisted or commissioned officers) for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Army Criminal Investigation Command, Coast Guard Investigative Service, Marine Corps Criminal Investigation Division, or Naval Criminal Investigative Service shall be eligible to be included while assigned to war time areas for criminal or investigative purposes.

Wounded Hero: Any law enforcement officer who through no fault of his or her own:

- was catastrophically injured in the line of duty and was forced to retire due to the injuries sustained. The extent of the injuries are so great that although the officer wanted and tried to remain on the job, the officer was unable to and had to retire; or
- was catastrophically injured in the line of duty and was permanently unable to return to full duty due to the injuries sustained. The officer may be able to perform other positions within his or her department but are unable to perform the duties of a full time combat law enforcement officer; or
- was catastrophically injured in the line of duty but was permitted to keep his or her sworn status to assist the officer due to inadequacies of the pension system or lack thereof. The

officer would have retired due to the injuries sustained but was unable to do so because of shortfalls in the pension system; or

- has sustained a mental impairment due to a catastrophic event which occurred in the line of duty and such mental impairment results in the officer being medically retired. Any physical injuries sustained may have healed, but the mental scars remain and are incapacitating, rendering the officer permanently unable to perform his or her job as a law enforcement officer.

Gunfire (Accidental Causes): is defined as an incident in which an officer is the victim of an accidental/unintentional discharge of a firearm by the victim officer or another officer; is the victim of a case of mistaken identity by another officer; or, is wounded as the result of friendly-fire during a shooting involving one or more suspects and one or more other officers. The category "Gunfire" is defined as any incident in which an officer is the victim of a shooting by a criminal in the commission of a crime; or, is the victim of a discharge of a weapon by a civilian.