

A Message from
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL
LISA MADIGAN



Your dedication to serving our nation in the Armed Forces has earned you a number of rights and benefits. In some cases your service requires you to make the ultimate sacrifice. The Line of Duty Compensation Act is a benefit available to your dependents and survivors. The compensation under this Act will help your family financially in their time of need.

To help you and your family in preparation for deployment, I created the Military and Veterans Rights Hotline, 1-800-382-3000; TTY: 1-800-964-3013. Experienced staff members in my office are standing by to assist Illinois' servicemembers and their families during these difficult times.

We must always be prepared for whatever may come. I urge you to call the Military and Veterans Rights Hotline to find out more about how to protect your family.

Thank you for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

Lisa Madigan
Attorney General



LISA MADIGAN
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

For a copy of the
Beneficiary Designation Form or
Application for Compensation,
please visit our website or call the
Military and
Veterans Rights Hotline.

**Military and
Veterans Rights Hotline**

1-800-382-3000

TTY: 1-800-964-3013



Illinois Attorney General's Office

www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov

**The Line of Duty
Compensation Act:
Helping Servicemembers'
Families in Need**



The Line of Duty Compensation Act and Members of the Armed Forces 820 ILCS 315

This law provides financial benefits for the beneficiaries of Armed Forces members killed in the line of duty, as defined in the law.

Definitions

Killed in the Line of Duty: Losing one's life while on active duty in connection with the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Armed Forces Member: An Illinois resident who is:

- o A member of the Armed Forces of the United States;
- o A member of the Illinois National Guard while on active military service pursuant to an order of the President of the United States; or
- o A member of any reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States while on active military service pursuant to an order of the President of the United States. (This includes Illinois residents who are on active military service through the National Guard of another state, commonwealth, territory, or the District of Columbia.)

Duty Death Benefit

A claim must be made within two years of the date of death of an Armed Forces member killed in the line of duty. Compensation shall be paid to the person designated by the Armed Forces member.

Amount of Compensation

For an Armed Forces member killed during the year 2013, the available compensation is \$336,700.36. For 2014, the compensation is \$342,088.00.

Beneficiary Designation

If the Armed Forces member does not designate a beneficiary (using the specific beneficiary designation form) or if no designated beneficiary survives at the death of the Armed Forces member killed in the line of duty, the compensation shall be paid in its entirety according to the designation made on the most recent version of the Armed Forces member's Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) election and certificate. If no SGLI form exists at the time of the Armed Forces member's death, the compensation shall be paid in accordance with a legally binding will left by the Armed Forces member.

Filing a Claim

To make a claim under this law, beneficiaries can obtain a claim form from the Attorney General's Office, the Secretary of State's website (www.cyberdriveillinois.com), or the Court of Claims. Completed claim forms should be filed with the Illinois Court of Claims.

The following information must be provided to the Court of Claims to make a complete application for compensation under this Act:

- o Name, address, and title or position in which the Armed Forces member was serving at the time of his or her death;
- o Name and address of person(s) designated by the Armed Forces member to receive compensation and percentages if more than one beneficiary. If no designated beneficiary, provide the name and address of the personal representative of the estate of the Armed Forces member;
- o Full factual account of the circumstances resulting in the death of the Armed Forces member; and
- o Any other information the Court of Claims reasonably requires.

Interest Penalties

In directing payment of a claim made under the Line of Duty Compensation Act, the Illinois Court of Claims must direct the Comptroller to add an interest penalty if payment of the claim is not made within 6 months after a claim is filed in accordance with the Line of Duty Compensation Act. If payment is not issued within the 6 month period, an interest penalty of 1% of the award shall be added for each month or fraction thereof after the end of the 6 month period, until final payment is made.

Additional Compensation

The compensation provided in this Act is in addition to, and not a substitution for, any pension rights, death benefits, or other compensation otherwise payable by law.

See also the Illinois National Guard Compensation Act., 20 ILCS 1825/1, et seq.

