



# Town of Lexington

## Police Department

**Subject:** Line of Duty Injuries or Death

Reference: 55.2.6

**Effective Date:**

January 1, 2011

**Review Date:**

Annually

**By Order of:** Mark J. Corr, Chief of Police

**Policy &  
Procedure**

# 55D

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

From time to time, police officers are called upon to make notifications involving a death or serious injury to residents within the community. Although this is a difficult task it can be more traumatic when the notification is due to a death or serious injury of a member of the Lexington Police Department.

There is a strong bond that joins members of the “police family.” When a traumatic incident occurs, the way in which the notification is handled seriously impacts the emotional well being of the affected family, friends and coworkers. Incidents involving the death or serious injury to members of the police family act as a reminder of our vulnerability.

Death notifications involving fellow employees can be particularly traumatic for the notifying officers. These officers may be haunted for years with the memories of delivering such terrible news. A debriefing with a counselor may be appropriate in some cases and should be sought through the Town of Lexington Employee Assistance Program or otherwise if needed.

It is the policy of the Lexington Police Department that the next-of-kin of deceased or seriously injured officers while in the line of duty shall be promptly and considerately notified. Whenever possible, the Chief of Police shall be primarily responsible for this notification.

## PROCEDURES [55.2.6]

- A. Death, Serious Injury or Illness of a Police Officer or Any Employee of the Lexington Police Department.

Should any employee of this Department be killed, be seriously injured, or become seriously ill on duty, the **Chief of Police shall be notified immediately.**

- B. It shall be the duty of the Chief of Police, or his/her designee in the absence of the Chief, to perform the following duties:

1. Notify family members in a timely fashion;
  - a. A close personal friend of the officer, a member of the clergy, or other person close to the family may accompany the Chief or his designee.
  - b. Notification should be done inside the home in a direct but sympathetic manner.
  - c. Remain on scene as long as necessary.
2. Assist the family at the hospital;
3. Offer support for the family at the funeral and burial;
4. Assist the family with legal and benefit matters;
5. Arrange counseling for the family on financial matters or other problem areas;
6. Support family during criminal proceedings, if any; and
7. Maintain contact with the family to see that their needs are being met.
  - a. Utilize organizations such as Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) to pre-plan support and locate additional resources and benefits available:

New England Concerns of Police Survivors  
26 Summit Avenue  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02143  
<http://www.ma-cops.org/>  
<http://www.ma-cops.org/contactus.htm>

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

**55D-Line of Duty Injuries or Death**

P.O. Box 3199- South Highway 5  
Camdenton, Missouri 65020  
573-346-4911 - phone  
573-346-1414 - fax  
[cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org) - email

- C. All other protocols, as defined in departmental policy 55C- Death & Injury Notification shall apply.