

# What Happens When an Injured Worker Dies?

## Accrued compensation

If the injured worker was receiving compensation such as temporary total disability or permanent partial disability, the surviving spouse or another dependent may be entitled to any unpaid compensation due to the injured worker up to the date of death. BWC refers to this as accrued compensation.

## Who can collect the accrued compensation?

Individuals who may be entitled to collect the accrued compensation are:

- o The surviving spouse;
- o Dependent children;
- o Anybody that provided services or paid a bill related to the injured worker's death (e.g., funeral expenses).

## How do I apply for accrued compensation?

Use the *Application for Accrued Compensation (C-6)* available online at [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov), and submit it to BWC, along with proof of relationship to the injured worker. Adequate documentation can be a marriage certificate from the surviving spouse or a birth certificate from a dependent child. BWC may require additional documentation if the relationship is unclear or there are multiple requests for the accrued compensation.

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## Death benefits

If the injured worker died as the result of a workplace accident or occupational disease, dependents may be eligible for ongoing death benefits.

## Who is eligible?

Individuals who may be eligible for death benefits include:

- o The surviving spouse;
- o Dependent children under the age of 18 years old;
- o Dependent children 18 to 25 years old who are attending an accredited educational institution full time;
- o Dependent children 18 years or older that are physically or mentally incapacitated;
- o Certain other dependent family members.

## How do I apply for death benefits?

Use the *Application for Death Benefits and/or Funeral Expenses (C-5)*, available online at [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov).

## What are the death benefits?

BWC calculates and divides benefits among all eligible dependents. BWC distributes benefits every two weeks. They continue until the dependent is no longer eligible.

BWC may also pay or reimburse funeral and medical expenses in an allowed death claim. The maximum payment for funeral expenses is \$5,500.

## How does the process work?

Once BWC receives the request for benefits, a claims service specialist will contact the applicant to discuss and request any other documentation and/or information needed. Once BWC makes a decision, the applicant will receive notification by mail.

If you have questions about accrued compensation or death benefits, log onto [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov) or call 1-800-644-6292.