

WHAT TO DO WHEN AN IN-SERVICE UFT MEMBER PASSES AWAY

1. UFT in-service members have a death benefit through the UFT Welfare Fund. The schedule of benefits is listed below:

<u>AGE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Under 40	\$30,000
40-44	\$20,000
45-49	\$15,000
50-54	\$ 9,000
55-59	\$ 6,000
60-64	\$ 4,000
65-59	\$ 2,500
70 and older	\$ 1,600

The family should write to the UFT Welfare Fund, 52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004, and ask for a Death Benefit Notification Form. A certified copy of the death certificate and the birth certificate must be submitted with the claim form.

2. Surviving Dependent Coverage- this coverage continues UFT Welfare Fund Benefits for the month in which the death occurs and for three months after that. It provides Fund benefits for dependents covered prior to the death of our member.
3. All members of New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) have a \$1,500 accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy. The family should call 1-800-626-8101 or send a note to NYSUT Member Benefits, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110-2455. A certified copy of the death certificate must be submitted with the claim.
4. Most members of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) have a death benefit as part of the pension system. The beneficiary of a person who dies before retirement may be entitled to benefits.
The family should write to the Teachers' Retirement System, 55 Water Street, New York, NY 10041, for an application to claim this benefit. Or, call TRS at 1-888-869-2877 (1-888- 8NYC-TRS).
For additional information they may call or write the UFT Pension Department at 52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004 (212-598-6866).
5. Paraprofessionals are entitled to a straight \$2,500 life insurance policy from the UFT. To claim this benefit, the family should write to the UFT Accounting Department, 52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004.
6. Many of our members have AFT and NYSUT life insurance policies, administered by Marsh Affinity Group Services (formerly Wohlers prior to July 1, 2000), Plan Administrator PO Box 9186, Des Moines, IA 50306. If there is a possibility that a member might have life insurance with Marsh Affinity Group Service, the family should write to them at the above address to request information. Or, call their Customer Service Department at 1-888-38- NYSUT (888-386-9788). When writing, be sure to give the exact date of death.
7. Notify the UFT District Representative at the appropriate UFT borough office: Bronx (718) 379-6200, Brooklyn (718) 852-4900, Manhattan (212) 598-6800, Queens (718) 275-4400, Staten Island (718) 605-1400.

8. Notify the deceased member's school payroll secretary. Be sure to Request the following:
 - a. possible pay due
 - b. days remaining in the Cumulative Absence Reserve (CAR)
 - c. pro-rated summer pay.
 - d. Personnel Memo #25, 1996-97. This memo provides information on various agencies to contact and legal obligations.
 - e. Personnel Memo #11. This memo provides information on health plans available to a survivor on a direct payment basis. The Welfare Fund can provide any new information concerning Health Benefits for survivors of a deceased member. Inquire about COBRA, which allows you to retain the Health & Welfare benefits the member had prior to death at 2% above cost for up to 36 months.
9. Call the Social Security Administration, 1-800-772-1213 for information about survivors' benefits.
10. It is suggested that the family speak with a personal attorney, tax consultant and family insurance agent regarding estate issues.
11. Professional counseling staff at the UFT Health and Cancer Helpline can assist families in finding resources to deal with the practical and emotional issues faced by survivors. Call the Helpline at (212) 539-0500.
12. An obituary may be placed in the *New York Teacher*. Send a brief memorial message to *New York Teacher*, 52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004
13. Other organizations and agencies to contact:
 - Magazine subscriptions
 - Post Office
 - Other Insurance Companies
 - Credit card companies
 - Motor Vehicle Bureau