



AFSCME Public Safety Protection Plan

AFSCME continues to fight for better pay, benefits and safe workplaces, and to uphold the standard of professionalism for our public safety members across the country. This benefit provides added protection for on-the-job legal actions.

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) Legal Defense Fund (LDF) is the nation's largest and most successful legal defense fund ***run by and for public safety officers***. The fund has been in existence since 1974 and currently has more than 123,000 public safety participants.

Cost to member: Only \$5.00 per month!

Benefits include:

Coverage for Acts or Omissions Within the Scope of Employment

CIVIL:

When your employing agency defends and indemnifies you, the Plan will provide you with an experienced attorney to monitor your case to ensure you receive quality representation, free of any conflicts of interest between you and the employer or other involved officers. The civil monitor will also be available to answer your questions and address your concerns about the case throughout the process. If your employing agency refuses to defend you, then you will be provided with your own experienced, independent civil attorney to represent you in the case.

If there is:

- A legal conflict of interest between you and your employer;
- Inadequate representation by your employer;
- A considerable likelihood that punitive damages could be awarded against you; or
- If your employer refuses to represent you for an act or omission within the scope of your employment;

You will be provided with independent counsel by the Legal Defense Fund.

CRIMINAL:

Full representation by an experienced criminal attorney from the onset of the investigation through trial. This benefit is available no matter what agency does the investigation: *Local, State, Federal or FBI.*

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COVERAGE:

Customary and Usual Services:

- Investigators
- Expert Witnesses
- Polygraphers
- Court Reporters
- Court Costs
- Conflict coverage - each member gets separate counsel

NO CAP ON BENEFITS: The defense of peace officers in an era in which they are targets of harsh discipline, multi-million-dollar civil actions and federal grand juries can be very expensive. In its entire history, the LDF has never cut a members' benefits because it was "too expensive." This is a record that few legal plans can match.

EXPERIENCED LIST OF PANEL ATTORNEYS: The PORAC Legal Defense Fund only engages highly experienced and well-qualified attorneys, with a history of representing public safety personnel.

24-HOUR COVERAGE: The PORAC Legal Defense Fund has attorneys available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to handle emergency or critical incidents. **Call (888) 556-5631.**

- Criminal – AFSCME members enrolled in the Plan will receive representation by an experienced criminal defense attorney from the first indication of potential criminal exposure (e.g. shooting, death in custody, use of force resulting in serious physical injury) arising from an act or omission within the scope of employment.
- Civil – AFSCME members enrolled in the Plan will receive representation by an experienced civil attorney when a member is sued for an act within the scope of employment, but the employing agency refuses to defend the member. When the member's employing agency defends, but fails to fully indemnify that member, the Plan will provide an experienced attorney to monitor the case.

ELIGIBILITY: Only dues-paying AFSCME members of participating Locals are eligible. We recommend that Locals sign up 100% of their membership wherever possible. However, PORAC LDF requires that ***at least "50% plus one"*** of all eligible members enroll to qualify for the benefit.

For more information about the AFSCME Public Safety Protection Plan, please contact Genevieve Marcus, AFSCME Advantage Coordinator, at 202-429-1217.