

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 8th 2019
To: Members of House Labor and Commerce Committee
From: Elise Sorum-Birk, Staff to Representative Josephson
Re: Death Benefit Payment Information

Who are death benefit payments made to and how does this work when there are children?

I spoke to Scott Jordan with State of Alaska Risk Management and Bobbi Holsman with Alaska National Insurance Company to get clarification relating to how death benefits are generally paid.

Generally, death benefits are paid in regular installments.

The amount of those payments is based on a percentage of what the employee used to earn before the injury.

In the case of a surviving spouse and children, it is the general practice of both Alaska National and Risk Management to send checks only to the parent. According to Ms. Holsman, these checks are itemized to show which portion of money belongs to each recipient.

Sometimes individuals receiving death benefits may be able to negotiate a lump-sum settlement. In the case of a settlement, benefits of the children can not be settled by the parent.