



how it works

WHAT MATTERS ARE COVERED?

This is a legal defense fund.

It is designed to provide professional legal representation in the defense of charges brought against any member by anyone, whether public or private, and whether civil, criminal or administrative in nature, as long as those charges arise out of an incident that occurred during the coverage period and that is related to the performance of a member's official duty or authority, regardless of the member officer's duty status at the time of the incident or at the time legal representation becomes necessary.



it's your defense

LEGAL
DEFENSE
FUND

IS THERE ANY WAY THAT I CAN LOSE MY BENEFITS UNDER THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND EVEN THOUGH I AM OTHERWISE QUALIFIED?

Yes. One way is for you to choose your own attorney instead of selecting and notifying the Legal Defense Fund attorneys of your difficulty initially. The Legal Defense Fund is not obligated to pick up the case in midstream.

Another way is for you to fail to cooperate with the Legal Defense Fund attorneys in your own defense. During the course of their representation of you the Legal Defense Fund attorneys will ask you to assist them in many ways, such as obtaining names and addresses of witnesses, preparing for hearings, filling out interrogatories, and producing documents and records within your control. Your repeated failure to assist in your defense will jeopardize your continued representation by the Legal Defense Fund.

Finally, if your employer or an insurer will defend and indemnify you without reservation of any rights, then you are not entitled to representation by the Legal Defense Fund.

HOW LONG HAS THE FIRM BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND?

Reardon, Joyce & Akerson, P.C. has been associated with the Legal Defense Fund since its inception in 1974, having been part of Reardon & Reardon.

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO JOIN THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND?

Any member in good standing of Massachusetts Police Association, Inc. can join the Legal Defense Fund.

WHAT DO I GET WHEN I JOIN THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND?

You get the professional legal services of attorneys experienced in police misconduct law, including the expenses of litigation, at no additional charge to you beyond your yearly membership fee.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The annual membership fee is \$250 for a full calendar year and is prorated for those that join after January 1st of each year.

Although the membership fee is subject to change in the future, it is fixed for the calendar year that it covers.

Members cannot and will not be asked to pay increases or surcharges of any sort during the coverage period.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT KINDS OF CHARGES OR LEGAL ACTIONS DOES THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND COVER?

The Legal Defense Fund covers all charges, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or otherwise. It does not matter if the charges are brought by a private individual, by a police department, by a City Council, Board of Selectmen, or Town Manager, or by any federal, state, county, or local board, committee or commission.

As long as the charges arise out of the conduct of your official duties or authority and the charges arise out of an incident that occurred during your membership you are covered by the Legal Defense Fund.

HOW LONG DOES THE COVERAGE LAST?

The coverage period runs from the date that the application and membership fee are received and accepted by the Chairman of the Legal Defense Fund Committee.

You are covered for all job-related incidents that occur from that date until the end of the calendar year. It is the date of the underlying incident that controls coverage questions, not the date that you are sued or that you are suspended or that you are charged.

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT THIS LEGAL DEFENSE FUND DOES NOT COVER?

It does not cover any action in which a member is a plaintiff or the initiator of an action.

That is, it does not cover a situation where a member wants to bring criminal or civil charges against another person. It does not cover a situation where a member wants to go into court or before an administrative body to redress some grievance by way of a lawsuit or legal action.

This does not mean that the Legal Defense Fund attorneys would not be willing to perform these kinds of legal services for the member. It means simply that the Legal Defense Fund does not pay for that legal representation so that any such representation by the Legal Defense Fund attorneys is a matter of individual negotiations between the attorneys and the member.

For Further Information:

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LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

LEGAL HELP

in the know

