



Los Angeles County **Sheriff's Department**



Injury and Health Support Unit

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) cares for the well-being of its members. The Injury and Health Support Unit (IHSU) was created specifically to assist Department members experiencing an injury or illness. Since inception, IHSU has expanded the scope of services provided, while also fine tuning the unit's name to more accurately reflect the thoughtful and sensitive care we offer employees, retirees, and grieving family members.

IHSU serves as liaison and advocate to all Department personnel experiencing injury or illness. Our office seeks to support and expedite the healing process, allowing employees to return to their optimum health. IHSU responds to all questions relating to claim processing and benefits for Department members and their families. IHSU also monitors personnel who are absent from work due to both industrial and non-industrial injury and illness.

IHSU is available and on-call 24 hours a day for urgent questions, serious injury, hospitalization, or death. If needed, the on-call representative can be reached through Sheriff's Information Bureau. In the event of a Department member's death, IHSU assists families by making notifications to all concerned entities, facilitating payments of benefits and insurances, and coordinating plans for funeral services.

IHSU assists eligible Department personnel in applying for service connected or non-service connected disability retirement (medical retirement), when the employee has permanent work restrictions precluding them from continuing in their classification. IHSU will complete and file the necessary applications with LACERA for all forms of disability retirement. This includes employees requesting salary supplement while continuing their career in a lower paying classification. It should be noted IHSU provides this service free of charge, while many attorneys charge \$5,000 to \$7,000 for the same process.

IHSU continues to provide services for thousands of retirees with future medical benefits. IHSU is also the point of contact for employees requiring ergonomic equipment, as well as new mothers requiring assistance with workplace lactation. The extremely broad scope of services provided by IHSU is all in support of our Department family.

Unfortunately, the workers' compensation system is inherently complex and cumbersome. There are County, State, and Federal guidelines governing workers' compensation making the process difficult to navigate, often leading employees to frustration. IHSU welcomes all inquiries, solicitations, and even complaints. We may be reached by phone at (213) 229-3199 or via email at IHSU@LASD.ORG. Each unit of assignment is assigned an IHSU specialist devoted to assisting its employees. Attached is a Departmental guide highlighting the IHSU representative(s) responsible for each unit of assignment. Also attached is a comprehensive progression of a typical workers' compensation claim.