



MEMO

TO: Local Registrars
Local Health Department Administrators
Funeral Directors
Certifiers

FROM: Ivra J. Cross,
State Registrar

SUBJECT: EDRS Update

DATE: July 28, 2010

This memo is to provide an update regarding the Electronic Registration System and other information.

The Department of Health and Senior Services is pleased to announce that the governor recently signed into law, Senate Bill 754 that requires all data providers to use the electronic registration system. The current death registration system is a manual, paper-based system. This out-of-date technology is difficult to maintain and does not allow for early detection of disease and/or mortality trends. The statewide mandate to use the electronic system will allow the capability of electronic transmission of fact of death, demographic and cause of death information by funeral directors, certifiers and/or medical examiners/coroners for deaths occurring in the state of Missouri. The system will comply with the NCHS 2003 Revised U.S. Standard Certificate of Death and Report of Fetal Death. This electronic system is expected to reduce reporting delays, improve data quality, eliminate the need for unnecessary corrections, allow for Social Security Administration verification of the deceased's Social Security Number and allow for more rapid identification of sentinel events, such as influenza-related mortality, in a more secure environment than today's manual, paper-based system. The electronic registration will eventually phase out the role of the local registrar to issue certified copies from the paper certificate. However, the electronic system is designed to make certified copies available at the local level within 24 hours of successful registration through the state centralized database. This good news is a win-win situation for everyone involved in the registration process.

Staff continues to key paper records into the electronic system. Some errors that require correction affidavits continue to be observed. The ages not being calculated, transposing or incorrect Social Security Numbers, required fields left blank such as a time of death or manner of death, marital status, etc., cause delays in keying data into the electronic system and delays in issuing additional certified copies by the local registrar.

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On-Line Verification of Social Security Number

The testing and functionality component of the on-line verification software is scheduled to be complete by the first week in August.

Training

A training plan is being developed for implementation of the EDRS. As you may recall in previous updates, options that were being considered included training in Jefferson City, DHSS district offices, and/or arrange for data providers to participate in webinar trainings where travel to a facility should not be necessary. The first series of trainings will be scheduled for the fall, to be held in Jefferson City with a limited test group. This will allow an evaluation of functionality and quality of data and to develop frequently asked questions (FAQs) before the next series of trainings begin. As providers are trained, we anticipate adding those providers into the live production environment. This means that cases entered into the EDRS by funeral directors and certifiers will be actual cases that are handled by those funeral homes. We anticipate the next series of training to be conducted will be facilities that handle a large to medium volume of cases, and then on to smaller volume of cases. We are also proposing to work with the funeral directors and the certifiers that collaborate with each other on a regular basis so that these funeral directors and certifiers will begin to use the system at the same time.

Clarification of Embalming Statement

This is to clarify whether the embalmer is required to sign the embalmer's statement when the disposition of the deceased is to be removed out-of-state. If the body is embalmed in Missouri and the disposition is to remove out-of-state, the embalmer must sign the statement indicating the body was embalmed. If the body is removed out-of-state without being embalmed, there is no need for an embalmer to sign the statement. If the embalmer has a license authorized to embalm in other states, and embalms a deceased in another state who expired in Missouri then the statement must be signed.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this update, please contact Ivra J. Cross, at 573-526-0348 or ivra.cross@dhss.mo.gov.