



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

Health Services

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March 5, 2008

Dear Colleague,

The Center for Health Statistics (CHS) is proud to announce the completion of initial statewide rollout of our new Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS). The EDRS software is now available for use by all funeral homes throughout the state. This letter is to inform you of an upcoming change in the fillable pdf file that our office has made available for the past two years, either as a standalone file or as part of the *Director's Assistant* software.



This pdf file has always been considered a temporary measure, while we developed and implemented the EDRS project. Now that EDRS is available statewide, we will be discontinuing use of this fillable pdf file. Effective for deaths occurring on May 1, 2008 or later, the pdf death certificate file will no longer be accepted by the State Registrar or your local County Registrar. The only pdf-based death certificates that will be accepted for deaths occurring on or after May 1st are those created by the EDRS program. (The system can be used to create pdf files – referred to as Drop-to-Paper – if the medical certifier is not using the electronic system, but the funeral home is.) County Registrar staff will be instructed on how to identify an EDRS-generated pdf. One noticeable difference is that the EDRS pdf files have a barcode on the upper left that identifies the record in the system.

Using EDRS has several advantages. If the medical certifier is using the system, death certificates are registered 2 days faster, on average. We currently have 735 medical certifiers using EDRS and are adding 60-90 more each month. We are also expecting the large medical practice organizations, such as OHSU, Kaiser, Peace Health, Providence and Legacy, to begin using the system within the next few months.

There are benefits to using EDRS with the Drop-to-Paper functionality even if the medical certifier is not using the system. You can verify the SSN through the system, typically within minutes. With this online verification, you do not need to submit SSA Form 721. You will also be quickly notified if there is a discrepancy between the information on the death certificate and in the SSA records, which allows you to verify

If you need this information in alternate format, please contact:

Sandy Elledge, (971) 673-0279

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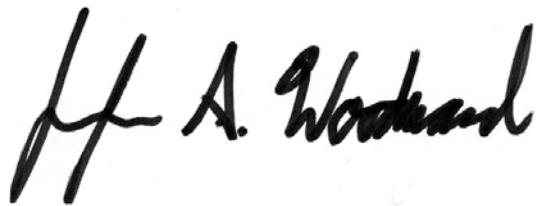


information with the family. This should help reduce the number of correction affidavits needed. If you do need to submit an affidavit for any corrections, this can be done through the system, with the correction completed and replacement certificates available within one business day. You will be able to order your certified copies directly through the system in the near future. Finally, Drop-to-Paper records are registered at the County office, the same as paper records, so there are no registration delays with using EDRS for all your death certifications.

So to summarize, for all deaths occurring on or after May 1, 2008, your options are to use EDRS for your portion of the death certificate or use the 3-part paper form available from our office. To help you with transitioning to EDRS – which we strongly encourage – we will provide extra training opportunities before May 1st. These will include training for first-time EDRS users as well as refresher training for those who haven't used the system in awhile. If you are interested in getting training on the EDRS software, please call our office at 971-673-0279.

If you need further information about EDRS, including our upcoming training plans, please check out the project Web page at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/. You may also call Mike Day, the project Communications Coordinator, at 971-673-1196 or Karen Hampton, the OVERS Manager, at 971-673-1191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer A. Woodward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jennifer A. Woodward, Ph.D.
Registrar/Manager
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