



PERTINENT INFORMATION CONCERNING DEATH CERTIFICATES

What is a Death Certificate? A Death Certificate is an official statement, signed by a physician, specifying the Cause, Date, and Place of a person's death.

Certified copies of a death certificate vary from county to county in the State of Florida. It is our duty to assist you in ordering as many certified copies of a death certificate. The fee is determined by each individual county as follows:

Palm Beach/Martin/Broward Counties:	\$15 per copy
Miami-Dade County:	\$20 first copy, \$16- 2 nd copy thereafter
St. Lucie County:	\$14.00

A certified copy of a death certificate is usually required. Certified copies may be obtained at your local County Vital Statistics Office. A certified copy of a death certificate is identified by its raised seal on a special security paper.

A partial list of agencies that may require a death certificate are alphabetically ordered as follows:

- Banks and Financial Institutions
- Brokerage companies
- County Clerk of Court where decedent owned real estate property
- Credit Card Companies (usually requires a photocopy of death certificate)
- Insurance Companies (***Generally only agency requiring a copy with Cause of Death**)
- Internal Revenue
- Pension Funds
- Real Estate Sale
- Social Security Administration (SSA – Applicable for Survivor's Benefits Only)
- Vehicle Transfer of title/registration
- Veterans Administration

Who can receive a Death Certificate? Death certificates can only be issued to the Next-of-Kin of a deceased consisting of: *Decedent's spouse, Parent, Child/ren, Sibling, Life Insurance Beneficiary, or Grandchild*) if of legal age 18 or older or to persons with a legal right to the certificate.

- Cause of Death is usually only a requirement for the purposes of insurance.
- The Cause of Death in Florida becomes public information 50 years following the time of death. Prior to that, a person's Cause of Death is considered confidential by Florida Law.