

Death Certificate Information

The following is some general information regarding death certificates:

Death certificates are generated through our office and sent to a physician or medical examiner for medical certification. Once completed by the medical provider, the death certificate is taken to the county health department, processed, and returned to us. We will call you as soon as they are available for you to come and pick up from our office. The whole process usually takes about 3 weeks before we call you. Please be sure to bring photo ID with you when you come to pick them up.

The death certificate is used to take care of financial/business matters of the deceased. In the State of Oregon, it comes in 2 formats – long and short. They both cost the same amount and can be used for most all business matters except for real estate property transferring and life insurance policies.

- **Long Form** *includes the cause of death*. You will need a long form for life insurance policies or other benefit claims related to the cause of death.
- **Short Form** *does not include the cause of death, only fact of death.* You will need a short form for any property transferring in the person's name.

All other financial/business matters can use either the short or long form. In the State of Washington, there is only a long form.

Note: If a business entity says they need a death certificate we recommend that you ask if they will accept a photocopy. Some may want to see the original and take a copy for their records returning the certified copy back to you.

Following is a list of entities that will typically require a certified copy of the death certificate. This is only a general list and may not include all of the entities that will require one. It is important to check with each institution for their specific requirements.

- Banks where the deceased held accounts
- Stocks
- Bonds
- Life Insurance Policies
- Annuities
- Real Estate Property
- Social Security (They may or may not require one. They will advise you when you call them.)
- Retirement benefits