



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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Title: Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)

Dear Funeral Directors,

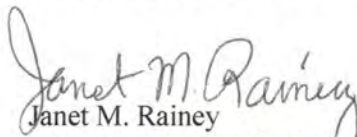
For the past three years, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH)'s Division of Vital Records (DVR) and Office of Information Management and Health IT has diligently worked on adding a module to the Virginia Vital Events and Screening Tracking System (VVESTS) for the electronic filing of death records. Today, I am happy to announce the implementation of the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).

The EDRS was developed based on the *Codes* and Regulations governing the DVR and the data requirements gathered from the various stakeholders (i.e. physicians, funeral directors, deputy registrars and hospital staff) involved in the death registration process. The attached document provides a brief introduction to the EDRS.

New with the implementation of the VVESTS-EDRS is the creation and designation of Facility User Administrators (FUA). Any facility with five or more staff persons needing access to the VVESTS system must appoint a VVESTS Facility User Administrator (FUA). This person will be given the authority to setup new users and manage passwords for VVESTS users in their facility.

In the coming week, we will start the Web-based Training and registration for the VDH Division of Vital Records' VVESTS-EDRS. For information on the classes and using EDRS, please visit http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Vital_Records/edrs

Thank you in advance for your support of this system. We hope that you share our excitement as we move into the next generation of the VVESTS application. We know that the VVEST-EDRS will be beneficial for our reporting facilities and all of the stakeholders involved in death registration within the Commonwealth. Most importantly, we believe implementation of the EDRS allows for more timely and efficient services to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.


Janet M. Rainey
Director and State Registrar

Cc: Debbie Condrey, Chief information Officer

What Funeral Directors Should Know About Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)

What Is EDRS?

The primary purpose of an EDRS is to enable the participants of death registration to file death records with local and state registrars electronically. An EDRS provides for on-line access so that decedent fact-of-death and cause-of-death information can be registered electronically by multiple death registration participants working on the same case. With an EDRS, funeral directors will be better able to serve families by obtaining copies of death certificates with fewer errors faster and more efficiently.

EDRS Potential Benefits

- Provides for paperless filing of a death record
- Eliminates the need to physically track down physicians to obtain signatures
- Facilitates on-line collaboration among multiple death registration system users, including funeral homes, hospitals, physicians, medical examiners, and local and state registrars
- Supports the completion and filing of a death record that is partially an electronic record and partially a paper certificate if all participants are not on-line
- Improves the timeliness and quality of death data
- Saves time and effort by enabling death certificate completion electronically
- Reduces rejection of death certificates
- Reduces errors by verifying the decedent's SSN by automatically matching with SSA files
- Enables faster death registration at the Division of Vital Records Office, which will speed turnaround time for obtaining certified copies for families
- Allows for the printing of forms (i.e. transit permits, affidavits, ect.) at the funeral home

EDRS FEATURES

- User-friendly death record data entry screens
- Highly secure and Internet-accessible
- Available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week; except for system maintenance
- Accommodates hospitals, private physician practices and medical examiners
- On-line help and instructions built into the system
- Help desk support during normal business hours

REQUIREMENTS TO USE EDRS

- A Personal Computer (PC) with a Windows based operating system. Macintosh (Apple) operating systems are not currently supported.
- Internet Explorer (IE) 6.0 or above as your web browser. The latest version of IE may be downloaded from the following link <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/internet-explorer/download-ie> free of charge.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader. Download link - <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> - free of charge.
- A printer. A laser printer is recommended.

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