



National Cremation S O C I E T Y[®]

Ordering Death Certificates

One of the concerns that most families have very early in dealing with issues surrounding the death of a loved one is how to access certified copies of the death certificate. **Please keep in mind we follow through with the necessary paperwork to obtain the death certificates however, sometimes the doctor will hold up this process.**

National Cremation Society will file the original death certificate in a timely manner following the physician/medical examiner certifying the death. The family may secure certified death certificates once the certificate has been filed, with the attached “*Death Certificate Ordering Form*”. The timeline of filing will vary, depending on the circumstances of the death and the availability of the physician/medical examiner to certify the death. If the “*Order Form*” is filled out and sent to the county health department, the county will return to you the number of certified copies you order, as soon as they are available.

What do I need death certificates for?

Generally, but not always, you will need certified copies of the death certificate for the following items:

- Claims on life insurance policies
- Social security may need a copy if there are survivor benefits
- Transfer of title on real estate
- Transfer of title on automobiles
- Transfer of checking accounts
- Pension resolutions
- Transfer of stocks or bonds
- Filing Federal and State income tax reports
- Obtaining union benefits
- Qualifying for bereavement time with some employers
- Copies for family members involved in processing assets in the estate
- Personal copies for family members for their records

The number of copies of death certificate will vary depending on the needs of the family and the assets of the deceased.

If you have questions regarding your need, call the agency or organization you are working with and see if a certified certificate is needed for transacting the business or claim.

If you have legal counsel assisting you, they will instruct you on how many certified copies of the death certificate will be needed.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our office – National Cremation Society 425-277-1192.