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December 11, 2015

RE: Electronic Signatures Required for Death Certificates

To: All EDRS Users

The January 1, 2016 deadline requiring all statements of cause of death (death records) to be submitted and signed electronically is approximately 3 weeks away. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 440.165 (5) requires the statement of cause of death to be signed electronically by the certifier.

NAC 440.165 Statement of the cause of death. ([NRS 440.120](#), [440.380](#), [440.410](#))

5. The statement of the cause of death must be submitted electronically by the certifier to an electronic death registry system approved by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and attested to by the certifier by means of an electronic signature.

With our deadline approaching, the Office of Vital Records is providing this last letter to all funeral homes and certifiers of the medical certificate of death. On December 31, 2015 at approximately 1:30 PM, the Office of Vital Records will disable the drop to paper option in the Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS). Therefore, the ability to print a paper death certificate for a certifier's signature will not be available.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, we have and continue to receive a tremendous amount of new user applications on a daily basis. Even though we have many new EDRS users, the amount of electronic records has essentially remained the same. The Office of Vital Records highly recommends that funeral homes start pushing electronic records to those certifiers. This will allow more certifiers to be familiar with the system to help minimize possible delays starting January 1, 2016.

The Office of Vital Records would like to remind funeral homes that our office will be issuing burial permits when a certificate of death is properly executed and complete pursuant to Nevada

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Revised Statute (NRS) 440.500. The exception will be coroner cases. As another reminder, funeral homes should remember to communicate with certifiers or their staff when a record is assigned to their queue.

NRS 440.500 Burial and removal permits: Issuance; contents; death from infectious, contagious or communicable disease.

1. Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, if a certificate of death is properly executed and complete, the local health officer shall then issue a burial or removal permit to the funeral director. The permit must indicate the name of the cemetery, mausoleum, columbarium or other place of burial where the human remains will be interred, inurned or buried.
2. In case the death occurred from some disease that is held by the Board to be infectious, contagious, or communicable and dangerous to the public health, no permit for the removal or other disposition of the body may be granted by the local health officer except under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Board.
3. The Board may by regulation provide for the issuance of the burial transit permit prior to the filing of the completed death certificate if that requirement would result in undue hardship.

The Office of Vital Records would like to remind certifiers that neglect or refusal to execute a medical certificate of death may result in a fine of no more than \$250.00 pursuant to NRS 440.720. In addition, a complaint may also be filed with the State of Nevada Board of Medical Examiners. Funeral homes and families will be encouraged to file a complaint. The Office of Vital Records highly recommends to all certifiers not to delay in accessing EDRS. Please ensure that you are able to log in successfully to avoid unnecessary delays for the decedent's family and/or funeral home come January 1, 2016.

NRS 440.720 Neglect or refusal of physician to execute medical certificate of death. Any physician who was in medical attendance upon any deceased person at the time of death who neglects or refuses to make out and deliver to the funeral director, sexton or other person in charge of the interment, removal or other disposition of the body, upon request, the medical certificate of the cause of death shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$250.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jason Lewis
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