

DEATH CERTIFICATES

Certified copies of the death certificate will be needed to settle many estate issues. The number needed will vary from person to person. These may or may not apply to you depending on the circumstances. Do not over order, additional copies can be ordered at any time.

NOTE: Photocopies are not accepted in most cases.

- a) **Life Insurance** – One for each insurance company, even if there is more than one policy through that company.
- b) **Attorney** – You will need 1 or 2 copies for any attorney that will be settling estate issues.
- c) **Probate Attorney** – There will be several additional death certificates needed if the estate is to be probated.
- d) **Veteran Benefits** – You are entitled to one “Government Use” copy of the death certificate that may be used for VA purposes.
- e) **Banks** – You need one death certificate for each bank, even if there are multiple accounts with that bank. You would also need one for banks that hold Certificates of Deposit (CD's). If you ask, many banks will make a copy of your original and return it to you.
- f) **Stocks** – If the stock is individually or jointly owned, you need one for each company. If a broker holds the stock, you should only need one for each brokerage company used.
- g) **Bonds** – Savings Bonds may be cashed in with one copy regardless of the number of bonds. Corporate investment bonds will require one death certificate for each company.
- h) **Bureau of Motor Vehicles** – You will need one death certificate to transfer the title on any vehicle. You may apply to transfer up to 2 vehicles on a surviving spouse benefit in most states. You should also cancel the driver's license of the deceased.
- i) **Employer** – The employer of the deceased may need one copy for any available death benefits.
- j) **IRA's** – Each financial institution that holds an IRA account will need a death certificate. 401K/403B/Retirement Plans will also need one.
- k) **Health Insurance** – May need a death certificate. Some health insurance policies have life insurance riders.
- l) **Income Tax** – You will need one for each county, state and federal income tax filing.
- m) **Property Tax** – Each county where the deceased owned property will require a death certificate.