

## WHAT IS EDR?

The primary purpose of an EDR system is to enable the participants of death registration to file death records with local and state registrars electronically. An EDR system 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 EDR system, funeral directors will be better able to serve families by obtaining copies of death certificates with fewer errors faster and more efficiently.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

The National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) represents all health statistics and vital records agencies in the United States.

#### **NAPHSIS**

801 Roeder Road, Suite 650  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
(301) 563-6001  
[www.naphsis.org](http://www.naphsis.org)

WHAT FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

## ELECTRONIC DEATH REGISTRATION



# ELECTRONIC DEATH REGISTRATION (EDR) SYSTEM 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, nursing homes, physicians, medical examiners and coroners, 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
- Reduces errors by verifying the decedent's SSN by automatically matching with SSA files
- Enables faster death registration at the Vital Records Office, which will speed turnaround time for obtaining certified copies for families
- Improves fraud prevention by using electronic authentication
- Allows for the printing of the burial transit permit at the local funeral home
- Supports electronic trade calls between funeral homes
- Provides the capability to electronically order certified copies for the family

## ONLINE VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Through online verification of Social Security Number (SSN), a decedent's SSN reported through electronic death registration will be transmitted to the Social Security Administration (SSA) to be electronically verified. Funeral directors will receive notification through the EDR system about the accuracy of the SSN as compared with the decedent's name, sex, and date of birth reported on the death record.

The potential benefits of online verification of SSN include:

- Reducing decedent's SSN errors on death certificates
- Improving accuracy of the SSN reported to SSA
- Speeding notification of fact-of-death to SSA

## EDR SYSTEM FEATURES

- User-friendly death record data entry screens
- Highly secure and Internet-accessible
- Available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week
- Accommodates large funeral home firms and small funeral homes
- On-line help and instructions built into the system
- Help desk support

## STEPS THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR SHOULD TAKE TO BRING EDR TO THEIR STATE

- Contact your local funeral director association to see what progress is being made toward an EDR system in your state
- Contact your state's Vital Records Office to see what progress is being made toward an EDR system
- Invite state Vital Records staff to attend key funeral director meetings to discuss EDR
- Work with your state Vital Records staff to prepare legislative packages to assist in EDR development and implementation
- Communicate with physicians, medical examiners and coroners about their roles in the EDR process
- Involve yourself in an EDR participants advisory group

## NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (NFDA)

The following constitutes the official 2003 NFDA stance on the establishment of a national electronic death certificate and registration system:

*That NFDA continue to support the adoption of a national uniform death certificate and the implementation of a national electronic death registration system by the federal government providing financial incentives to eligible vital records districts for implementation.*