



## SOCIAL SECURITY

July 9, 2012

Dear Funeral Director:

We are writing to you to announce our new procedures for The Statement of Death by the Funeral Director (SSA-721).

Beginning July 9, 2012, if you use Louisiana's Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) to register deaths, then you will no longer need to send to SSA a separate SSA-721 to report an individual's death.

With any automated process, there might be cases that do not process correctly and you may receive requests to provide the SSA-721. We ask that you assist the Field Offices so that we can all continue to deliver professional service to the families of the deceased.

We still need your help to get information to the potential survivors who may be entitled to benefits. You can help us by distributing the last two pages of the SSA-721 to families as you register the decedent's information. These pages provide valuable information about potential benefits that may be payable and how to apply for these benefits.

If you do NOT use Louisiana's EDRS, or if you cannot verify the SSN, then we ask that you continue to send us the SSA-721.

Thank you for your assistance in this process

Sincerely,

*Peter C. Monaghan*

Peter C. Monaghan, Director  
Office of Enumeration and Medicare Policy