



Vital News

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2013 Legislative Session

House Bill 171, Disposition of Human Remains addresses certain areas specific to funeral directors, and amends several Sections of Chapter 382, Florida Statutes. Section 382.002, F.S., further clarifies the definition of “final disposition” to include anatomical donation and that the donation constitutes final disposition; clarifies the definition of funeral director as a licensed funeral director or direct disposer licensed pursuant to Ch. 497, F.S. Section 382.006, F.S. clarifies language that Burial Transit Permits can be issued by the department to be consistent with the implementation of the statewide Electronic Death Registration System implemented by the department in 2012. Section 382.008, F.S. clarifies which individuals are responsible for filing a death certificate in the absence of a funeral director. This section further defines the primary or attending physician’s role in attending to decedent and what constitutes providing care to decedent “... treated the decedent through examination, medical advice, or medication during the 12 months preceding the date of death..” Section 382.011, F.S. provides a 12-month parameter, clarifying the medical examiner’s role and that of the primary or attending physician when treating the decedent and the certifying of the decedent’s death certificate.

Senate Bill 585, Law Enforcement eliminates a requirement that the Bureau of Vital Statistics recall the local file copy of a missing child’s birth certificate from the county vital statistics office in the county of the missing child’s birth. The bill allows the bureau to officially issue a certified copy of a missing adult or child’s birth certificate upon request of the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse.

Both bills are effective July 1, 2013.

NAPHSIS ANNUAL MEETING

The Department of Health sent five staff to the annual meeting of the National Association of Public Health statistics Information Systems (NAPHSIS), held in Phoenix the first week of June. More than 300 public health vital records professionals were present, sharing innovations in vital record registration practices, statistics, vital record security, public health research, and more.

Ken Jones, Deputy State Registrar is on the board of directors and sits on several NAPHSIS committees: By-laws, Finance, and Registration. His presence brings home a good bit of activity for the Florida bureau which keeps us in touch with what is going on nationally. Florida also has representatives sitting on the Communications, Inter-Jurisdictional Exchange, and Security committees.

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Volusia County is located in the east-central part of Florida, bordered by the St. Johns River to the west and the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. The county was founded on December 29, 1854 and was named after the then-largest-community, Volusia. At the time the county had as few as 600 residents.

In 1942, the Volusia County Health Department opened their doors to the public and relocated to their current location in 1977. Today the Volusia County Health Department serves a much larger community of over 494,000 residents. With over 30 years of experience, the vital statistics team, lead by Chief Deputy Registrar, Jane Gray, includes Deputy Registrars Marianna Masci, and Michelle Mantz.

Last year, serving 37 funeral homes and cremation societies, Jane's team issued over 12 thousand birth certifications and more than 44 thousand death certified copies. CDR Jane Gray exclaims, "EDRS is great. Our clients are very pleased with how fast they can receive the certificates and that they can get them in any county."

The Florida Department of Health in Volusia County Vital Statistics Office is a two-time recipient of a NACCHO "Certificate of Promising Practice" (2012 and 2013), for their "Electronic Storage of Vital Statistics Files". This began as "green initiative" (VCHD Strategic Plan) but ultimately improved customer service. They are very proud of this recognition and we are too! Congratulations, Volusia County Vital Statistics! Your clients will certainly appreciate too the outstanding customer service you provide them daily. Keep up your good work!



Left to right: Jane Gray, Chief Deputy Registrar; Michelle Mantz and Marianna Masci, Deputy Registrars

Surfing the Net?

Do you like hopping the Wi-Fi waves? Are you the Kahuna of Kilobytes? Well, get ready fellow surfers! There's a new Department of Health website coming your way this summer. That's right, the new and highly improved Department of Health website will debut on July 1, 2013 and we firmly believe that you are going to LIKE IT!

More details will be forthcoming but for now, imagine a website based on the information you are seeking rather than one based on any particular Office, Agency, Bureau or Division. Need a birth certificate? The link will be right on the home page, easy to find and simple to use. Sound good? You bet it does!

Stay tuned on July 1; get your keyboards waxed up and your suntan lotion ready because this is going to be one BIG wave!

Funeral Directors' Corner

- ♦ **Funeral Directors**, remember to *tab through* fields when working in EDRS. There are edits and quality checks that run when the user tabs out of a field that may not fire if the user clicks their mouse to navigate on the screen.
- ♦ **Medical Examiners**, on an existing EDRS record a funeral home has started, be sure to use the correct Take Over Jurisdiction pathway (Requests_Finish/Complete_Take over jurisdiction) when taking over jurisdiction.

Welcome Aboard

The following appointments have been made to the position of registrar in the county health departments:

Chief Deputy Registrar

Angel Whidden..... Hardee County
Sonja Burford..... Taylor County

Local Registrars

Kelli Wells MD..... Duval County
Mark Lander..... Hamilton County
Mary Garcia..... Putnam County
Swannie Jett, PhD..... Seminole County
Joe Pietrangelo..... Bradford/Union Counties

Changes in Latitude



Quality Assurance is pleased to announce Lorraine Kratz as the newest member of the Quality Assurance team. Lorraine was the Registration Unit supervisor and has 20+ years experience in various sections within Vital Statistics. We're sure you'll be just as pleased as we are to have Lorraine on our team!

We are thrilled to announce Neia Castellon has been selected as the new Registration Supervisor, filling the position vacated by Lorraine. Neia was the Supervisor in the Corrections Unit and has been with the bureau for more than 7 years. Join us in congratulating Mrs. Castellon in her new role!



The Records Amendment Section is pleased to announce Rhonda Deese has been selected for the supervisor position in the Correction Unit, filling the position vacated by Neia. Rhonda has worked in the unit for several years and brings her previous experience as a manager in retail with her. Please join us in congratulating Rhonda.

After 35 years of service, Darlene Newmans, supervisor in Client Services, retired in late March. The state office staff as well as our county registrars and hospitals certainly miss Darlene and all she brought to the position. We wish her a happy retirement!



As always, someone's leaving brings a new face into the picture. We are delighted Jim Ballard has come out of retirement and has been selected to fill Darlene's vacated Health Services Manager position in Vital Records. As most of you are aware, Jim brings with him the knowledge and supervisory/management skills he has acquired during his original tenure. He will be a great asset to our team as we move forward in how we *issue and preserve* Florida's vital records. Welcome back, Jim!



It's with mixed emotions that we announce, Jana Duffy, has decided to leave us in order to pursue a new calling. Jana was a member of the Quality Assurance team since 2006. She was instrumental in bringing the electronic birth registration system to all of our birthing hospitals and centers in the state.

We are sad she has left us, but wish her the very best success the next chapter in life. Good luck, Jana!



The Chief Deputy Registrar Operations Manual (COM) has been updated.

This manual is intended for department use only and is available for downloading at the Department of Health [intranet](#) site. CDRs should be sure all staff have a copy for reference.

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."—Albert Pike