



Vital News

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Tax Collectors' Pilot Update

The Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, in cooperation with the State of Florida Tax Collectors, have been piloting a new program which would allow tax collectors' offices to issue birth certifications.

The Real ID act requires that drivers have valid copies of their birth records to obtain or renew driver's licenses. We currently have 9 counties participating in the pilot program. The goal of this pilot is to allow the tax collector offices to provide to its citizens birth certifications and driver's licenses in the same office, and to eventually have the same opportunity in other counties. This ability to issue will enhance the public's access to obtain certifications; tax collectors often have more branch offices available than does the county health department vital statistics office, thus providing easier access. The tax collector will collect the county

fee for the issuance and transfer that amount to the county health department on a mutually agreed upon schedule; the county will lose no revenue with this partnership.

Both the Governor's office and the Surgeon General support this initiative.



Cause of Death on Electronic Death Records

With the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS), death records are now being registered much faster than in the old days. Staff in the Death Medical Certification Unit at the state office verify hundreds of records a day comparing cause of death (COD) information entered into e-Vitals by funeral directors to that shown on the certifier's fax attestations. This process results in most of these records being registered/completed within the same day.

If there is a problem during the review of a record it is placed in medical query for further review thus it will not be registered/completed right away and may take up to several days to resolve. Funeral directors may help alleviate some of these issues by ensuring they have entered the correct information from the fax attestation. A few reminders are: 1) remember to have the certifier initial any changes made on the fax, and remember to make notes on the Funeral Director's (FD) notes tab in these cases, 2) if the cause of death is illegible, the funeral director should call the certifier's office to verify what the doctor has written as the COD. If they are unable to confirm what is written, then enter

a note in the FD notes tab and the medical certification unit will make the determination, 3) if a different certifier signed the fax attestation as compared with the certifier originally listed, then be sure to change it in e-Vitals and make the appropriate notes, and 4) once the record is complete, review the record again before obtaining certified copies to make sure nothing was mistakenly entered or overlooked.

All in all, the funeral directors are doing an outstanding job and we really appreciate their efforts and cooperation. The funeral directors and staff truly help make EDRS the success it is! Keep up the good work.

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Spotlight on... Glades County



Spotlight on... Glades County

Glades County was created in 1921 and was named for the Florida Everglades. It is located in south central Florida on the western bank of Lake Okeechobee, the largest fresh water lake in Florida. Glades County is known for tourism, cattle, fishing, sugar cane, produce, and citrus industries. The total area of Glades County is 986 square miles; 774 square miles is land and 213 square miles is water. The population of Glades County is approximately 11,100 with approximately 2,780 families.

With over 8 years of experience, the vital statistics team includes Chief Deputy Registrar, Suzanne Wolff, and deputy registrars Jessica Frenes and Rebecca Sanchez. Last year, Suzanne's team issued over 1000 birth certifications and nearly 300 death certificates, and that's with no funeral homes in their county. Keep up the great customer service, Glades County Vitals!



Deputy Registrar Jessica Frenes and Chief Deputy Registrar, Suzanne Wolff. Deputy Registrar Rebecca Sanchez was not available.

Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee (CDRAC) Update

As goes the season, so does the membership of the Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee (CDRAC). Our former district three representative, Barbara Sarver, Pinellas County Chief Deputy Registrar left us for another position. We wish her well and hope she is having much success on her new job. With your help, we filled this vacancy with Jennifer West from Pinellas County. The committee has been happy to have her on board.

We would also, like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all of the new CDRs and LRs that have joined us within the last year. The CDRAC members are: Alexa Hudson (Brevard), Kathleen Patton (Clay), Willie Dean Mayo (Columbia), Mark Lemke (Collier), Pat Kennedy (Flagler), Lyana Icaza (Miami Dade), Gloria Robinson (Osceola), and Jennifer West (Pinellas). Please visit our web site at http://dohiws/Divisions/Planning_Evaluation/VS-Web/cdrac.html where you will find a profile on each of us and a district area map.

The CDRAC committee is here to assist the CDRs and the state office in the development and enhancement of vital statistics processes and programs. Please feel free to call us or send an email any time, because we represent you.

Simultaneous Death

Simultaneous Death is when both a husband and wife die at the same time or exact time of death cannot be determined. The **medical examiner** must make the determination of simultaneous death because it relates to the time of death. These are usually cases where there was some sort of accident and the exact time of death cannot be determined or possibly a homicide or murder/suicide where the exact time of death cannot be determined. Making the correct selection on the death record is important to families when settling estates and inheritance matters.

In EDRS, "Married - Simultaneous Death" should be selected under Marital Status on the Spouse Tab. The name of the spouse should be entered in the Surviving Spouse's Name field. Time of Death entries must be the same for the husband and wife in cases of simultaneous death.

The medical examiner and funeral director must communicate with one another in cases where simultaneous death is a possibility as the medical examiner does not have access to the Spouse Tab and the funeral director will be the one entering the information.

Decedent	Spouse	Decdnt Hist	Parent/Informant	Disposition
Surviving Spouse				
Marital Status				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> DIVORCED MARRIED MARRIED, BUT SEPARATED MARRIED-SIMULTANEOUS DEATH NEVER-MARRIED UNKNOWN WIDOWED </div>				
Country			City	
County			City	

Questions should be directed to the Helpdesk at 1-866-295-5902 or to the Quality Assurance Unit at 904-359-6900 ext. 9020.

June CDR/DR Training

Congratulations to the graduating class of the June 2013 Chief Deputy Registrar/Deputy Registrar Training Workshop: Sonja Burford (Taylor County), Nellie Graham (Gadsden County), Aaron Kissler (LR of Gadsden County), Barbara Squire (Gadsden County), Rhonda Butler (Franklin County), Kathie Paterson (Franklin County), Mary Gill (Bay County), Tasheema Grimes (Seminole County), Carol Kudlesky (Clay County), Teresa Woerman (Clay County), and Pam Nunnery (Gulf County). We learned a lot through this interaction and hope to make the next CDR-DR Training Workshop even better. The roster is currently full for the next training workshop which will be held here at the state office

on September 25-27, 2013.

The training is designed with the new CDR or DR in mind, but “being new” isn’t a pre-requisite, and anyone who wants a refresher is always welcome to attend. Previously we’ve tried to hold at least two workshops a year; however, we are going to extend that offering to four times a year beginning in 2014. The September workshop will be the last for 2013, but never fear we’ll have another workshop available in late January 2014. We are currently building our waiting list for the January training, but space is limited. If you would like to add your name to the waiting list contact Lorraine Kratz, Quality Assurance Field Representative at 904-359-6900 ext. 1136.

Changes in Latitude

Records Registration is pleased to announce the appointment of **Connie Matthews** as the new Helpdesk Health Services Manager.

Connie has been an integral part of the Helpdesk Unit since its inception. She brings with her a strong sense of leadership, teamwork, and experience from her “past life” in the private sector.

Please join us in congratulating Connie on this next chapter in her vital statistics career.



Welcome Aboard

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

Chief Deputy Registrar

Debra Weston.....	Gadsden County
Stella Villanueva.....	St Johns County

Bits n’ Pieces

CDRs:

- A reminder to run your **Safety Paper Usage Report DAILY**. If you need assistance, contact the Vitals Helpdesk at 866-295-5902.
- Remember, counties with birthing facilities should be receiving a reconciliation report weekly. If not, contact Michele Watterson, 904-359-6900, ext 1144.

Funeral Directors’ Corner

- Fax attestation changes involving **Date of Death, Facility of Death, County of Death, City of Death or Cause of Death, WILL** require a new fax attestation signed by the certifier. You must contact the certifier, have the certifier strike through the incorrect information and write in the correct information on the new fax attestation version in order for the medical unit to update the record.
- All medical amendments are to be submitted **via mail**. Faxed medical amendments and copies of medical amendments sent through the fax attestation system **are not acceptable**.

“Example is a language everyone can read.” ~ Unknown author

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Date: _____

Address as shown on current newsletter _____

New Mailing Address: _____

PLEASE MAIL NAME CHANGE OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT
P.O. BOX 210
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32231-0042

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Bureau of Vital Statistics
Quality Assurance Unit (HPEVSR) P.O. Box 210
Jacksonville, FL 32231-0042

