

## WILL I STILL DEAL WITH FUNERAL DIRECTORS?

Your contact with the funeral director will be greatly reduced with EDRS. The funeral director will still need your confirmation that you will sign the death record for your patient, just as they do now. They will not need to go back and forth to your office with a paper record, as in the past. You may get a call from the funeral director, the medical examiner, or state office staff, asking for clarification on an entry you made. Other than that, you should not be hearing from the funeral director.

## HOW DO I SIGN UP?



EDRS statewide implementation is being conducted by medical examiner district. The Chief Deputy Registrar (CDR) at the county health department will know when training is being done in their area. If you wish to let us know of your

intent to be an online user when we get to your area, you can contact the CDR or you can call the state office Quality Assurance Unit.

**Physicians or funeral directors wishing to be *online* users will be trained via an online tutorial. Upon successful completion of the tutorial, you will be granted access to the system.**

The system will alert the funeral director if the physician is an online user. At that time, once the funeral director has completed the demographic information, the online user will receive the email telling them to complete the medical certification.

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# FLORIDA VITAL STATISTICS



## ELECTRONIC DEATH REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Completing the  
Medical Information

Questions?  
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# EDRS—Electronic Death Registration System

## DEATH REGISTRATION—WHAT HAS CHANGED?

The Bureau of Vital Statistics has moved to electronic filing of Florida Death records. This means the record is filed online, via the Internet, using the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).

## WHAT IS EDRS?

EDRS, or the Electronic Death Registration System, is the method by which death records are registered in Florida through a secure Internet site. EDRS provides the



user direct access to the state database for entry of death record information. EDRS increases accuracy and timeliness while improving statistics for state

and national surveillance systems.

Funeral directors will be online users and will complete the demographic information on the decedent within EDRS once they have met with the family. The record will then be sent electronically to the physician for certifying the medical information on the decedent.

## HOW DOES THIS IMPACT THE CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN?

You can be an **online user** and complete the medical certification electronically, using EDRS; **OR** you can be an **offline user** and complete the medical certification via **Fax Attestation**. The fax is system generated and looks much like the medical portion of the paper death record

## OFFLINE PHYSICIAN

The offline physician is one who signs few death records a month and does not want to worry about changing passwords every month when they might not even have a record that month.

EDRS allows for the offline physician to receive a **Fax Attestation** for certifying the medical information on the death record.

FLORIDA DEATH RECORD Fax Attestation		
Confidential and Time Sensitive Information		
TRACKING NO:	Date & Time Sent:	9/9/2010 5:14:35 PM
TO (Certifying Physician):	phone number:	
FROM (Funeral Facility):	phone number:	
<small>To certify the cause of death, complete medical information below starting with TIME OF DEATH (item 32). Once completed, sign in the box at the bottom of page, and fax to Vital Statistics at 1-888-555-1212. For information about completing the cause of death, please visit our web tutorial at: www.doh.state.fl.us</small>		

Once the funeral director completes the demographic information within EDRS, a Fax Attestation is sent by the system to the offline physician. The physician receives and prints the system generated fax and completes the medical information, signs and dates the Fax Attestation.

The physician then faxes the Fax Attestation back to the system. The funeral director receives an email, indicating a record is waiting medical completion. The funeral director then enters the medical information, as provided by the physician on the Fax Attestation, into EDRS. If the funeral director has a question about what was written, the physician will receive a phone call, asking for clarification. Otherwise the information is entered and the record moves to **State Office Confirmation** status, to ensure the medical information was entered correctly and as provided by the physician. State office staff will compare the faxed image as well as what the funeral director entered. If clarification is needed, staff may call either the physician or the funeral director. If all is OK, the record goes to **Registered/Completed** status and is available for certification.



## ONLINE PHYSICIAN

Online users are frequent users of the system—physicians who normally sign several death records a month. Hospice physicians, oncologists, cardiologists, some family physicians, etc. would be likely online users due to their volume.

If the physician is an online user, he/she will receive an email that a record is waiting for their completion of the medical certification. The physician clicks on the link in the email that goes directly to that record OR he/she signs on and pulls up the record. At that point, the physician completes the medical information. The record goes through a series of online edit checks to authenticate the physician as a registered user in the system.



EDRS has a built-in library of possible trauma “buzzwords” that automatically sends an email to the medical examiner (ME) alerting them to the fact there is a possible trauma that needs their review. The ME reviews the record and may have a question for the physician, so you might receive a call asking for clarification on something you entered. If there is a fracture, for example, and it is pathological in nature, then the ME most likely will allow the record to be completed “as is”. If, however, the fracture was from a fall, the ME will most likely take jurisdiction of the case and the ME record will be the official death record. The certifying physician’s record will be come part of the history of the record only.

If there is nothing in the cause of death that would alert the medical examiner, such as a possible trauma, then the record goes to a **Registered/Completed** status and is available for the family to obtain certifications.