New Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Process

FIMR, or Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, is a group of local partners who monitor fetal and infant death in a community. Fetal and infant mortality are one of the factors considered when assessing the overall public health of a community. In order to possibly obtain a better understanding of the reasons for the Fetal and Infant Mortality for a county, local FIMR abstractors work with the county health department to obtain certain data related to those deaths.

The chief deputy registrar (CDR) has a key role in this important public health issue. If an infant subsequently dies, the CDR accesses e-Vault Print for the reports related to infant and fetal deaths and, upon request, provides the FIMR representative a copy of the birth/death record data from e-Vault. FIMR representative(s) must present a copy of the signed Data Use Agreement (DUA) on file with the state office, with their name shown as being eligible to receive the requested data. To initiate a DUA with the state office, the request must be submitted through the Bureau of Vital Statistics State Registrar, Meade Grigg and Deputy State Registrar, Ken Jones. The subsequently approved DUA is valid for one year from the date approved.

Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) Update

The implementation of the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) has been successful in bringing the following Medical Examiners Districts online: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 23 & 24. The recent success has allowed us to schedule the remaining 15 districts to be completed ahead of schedule. The training schedule can be monitored on our website at: http://floridavitalstatisticsonline.com. Funeral Directors need to stay in touch with their CDRs for the upcoming training and any other actions needed from them. Our helpdesk has been busy processing all the user forms for each district. We would like to remind all potential EDRS users to complete the user access forms and take the on-line tutorials at: http://icattlearning.com/. Questions regarding EDRS can be directed to Penny Higginbotham, EDRS Project Lead, 904-359-6900 ext. 1171, penny.higginbotham@doh.state.fl.us, or posted on the Vital Statistics’ webpage.

Florida’s Top 20 First Names for 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Jayden</td>
<td>1. Isabella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Jacob</td>
<td>2. Sophia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Daniel</td>
<td>3. Emma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Michael</td>
<td>4. Olivia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Noah</td>
<td>5. Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Anthony</td>
<td>6. Mia</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Joshua</td>
<td>7. Ava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Elijah</td>
<td>8. Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Mason</td>
<td>10. Chloe</td>
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</tbody>
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Spotlight on... Bay County

Bay County is located on the Gulf of Mexico in the Panhandle of Northwest Florida and was created on July 1, 1913. The Bay County Health Department dates back to the late 1930s when a group of citizens saw a growing need for a county health unit in Panama City.

Today, the health department serves a population of approximately 164,000, which increases with seasonal visitors in the spring and summer. The vital statistics’ team may be small in size but large in customer service. Leading the staff is Chief Deputy Registrar, Mary Hay (pictured on the left), with Arlene Conkin, DR (pictured on the right). Together the team has 29 years of combined service to the department. Last year their office issued nearly 9,000 birth certifications, and more than 10,000 death certificates, serving 9 local funeral homes. With the Electronic Death Registration (EDR) starting in March, it will be an exciting time for the Bay County vitals’ staff. Keep up the good work, Mary and Arlene!

Disposition of Fetal Remains Less than 20 Weeks Gestation

When there is a delivery of fetal remains that has not reached the 20th week of gestation, many families still wish to have a funeral service for that child. In these instances, funeral directors have asked about obtaining medical examiner approval for final disposition since many of these deliveries result in cremation. Section 11G-2.001(3)(c), Florida Administrative Code, reads, “Fetal deaths for which cremation, anatomic dissection or burial at sea of the remains is intended must be referred to the medical examiner for investigation. For the purposes of this section, “fetal death” is defined by Section 382.002, F.S.”

Based on the above reference, medical examiners do not have to be notified of disposition of any fetal deaths less than 20 weeks gestation. Funeral directors cannot complete a burial transit permit as they are used for deaths and fetal deaths that meet the definition as outlined in s. 382.002, F.S. From a vital statistics perspective, s. 382.002, F.S. does not allow for a vital record to be filed.

Questions on how to account for these cases on the monthly reports and embalmers’ affidavits should be directed to the Division of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services, the regulatory board over the practice of funeral directing.

Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee (CDRAC) Update

The Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee has been busy participating in changes to multiple procedures and policies. As always, they had major input into the annual revision of the CDR Operations Manual; they played a significant role in the construction of the new FIMR process, and have been involved in streamlining the EDRs Fax Attestation process. CDRs will continue to play a role in the successful rollout of the EDRS as they will continue to be the point person when funeral homes have reluctant physicians not wanting to sign the death certificate and in monitoring filing times for compliance issues.

We welcome the newest CDRAC member, Kathleen Patton, CDR for Clay County. Kathleen filled the position vacated by Janie Carpenter’s retirement last fall. Regrettfully, we must wish one of our seasoned CDRs, CDRAC member, and CDRAC chair, Luz Perez, Hillsborough County, a fond farewell as she enters the next chapter of her life. Retirement. Lucy will be greatly missed. There is another vacancy, soon to be filled, created when Chris Mashintonio, Charlotte County, recently retired. The next Vital News issue will announce her replacement, Lucy’s replacement, and the new CDRAC chair.