



Vital News

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DEMOGRAPHIC AMENDMENTS IN THE EDRS WORLD

The statutory requirements for amending death records under the electronic death registration system (EDRS) remains the same, while our process of amending death records has taken on a new dimension, resulting in a new look for the certification. Clients are happy with the appearance of the certification and the clean/clear record for their family member.

Procedurally, the Records Amendment/Corrections Section reviews each incoming amendment request to ensure the affidavit is properly signed, the supporting documentation meets the statutory requirements, and the applicant is an eligible party to amend the record.

The affidavit is then scanned and linked to the electronic record, the requested/approved amendments are made, the record is updated and ready for certification.

The amended certification has a notation in the upper left hand corner stating "Amended" and in the lower portion of the certification a disclaimer appears, stating the record was amended on such date and any records issued prior to this date may be null and void.

Death amendments increased in the year 2012, possibly because users were getting used to the new system. The raw total of amendments processed for 2012 was 5,269; up from 4,503 in 2011.

The top five amended items for the month of December 2012 were:

1. Decedent's Name
2. Social Security Number
3. Spelling of Informant's Name
4. Spelling of Surviving Spouse's Maiden Name
5. Spelling of Mother's Maiden Name

For more information regarding demographic amendments to the death record, contact the Correction Section at: 904-359-6900, ext. 9005.

Florida's Top 20 First Names for 2012

MALE		FEMALE	
1. Jayden	11. Aiden	1. Isabella	11. Gabriella
2. Jacob	12. Matthew	2. Sophia	12. Sofia
3. Daniel	13. Ethan	3. Emma	13. Victoria
4. Michael	14. Christopher	4. Olivia	14. Elizabeth
5. Noah	15. Gabriel	5. Emily	15. Lily
6. Anthony	16. David	6. Mia	16. Ella
7. Joshua	17. William	7. Ava	17. Samantha
8. Elijah	18. Liam	8. Madison	18. Brianna
9. Alexander	19. Christian	9. Abigail	19. Alyssa
10. Mason	20. Lucas	10. Chloe	20. Layla

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Citrus County was first settled about 2,500 years ago by mound-building Native Americans who built the complex that now forms the Crystal River Archeological Site. The county was created in 1887 and named for its abundant citrus trees.

Since 1950, the Citrus County Health Department has served a fast growing population, now over 141,000 for an area of only 773.15 square miles.

With over 70 years of experience, the vital statistics team includes Chief Deputy Registrar, Sherry Jennings, and deputy registrars: Danny Thomas, Jennifer Swearingen, Barbara Starkey, Kyle Weaver, Lewis Smeltzer, and Anthony Waugaman. Last year, Sherry's team issued over 6,000 birth certifications and more than 10,000 death certificates, serving eight funeral homes.

For the newly implemented electronic death registration system (EDRS), Sherry notes, "Our funeral directors love the EDRS". Keep up the great customer service, Citrus County Vitals!



From L to R, front row: Deputy Registrars Danny Thomas, Jennifer Swearingen, Barbara Starkey, and CDR Sherry Jennings, and Deputy Registrar Anthony Waugaman
Back row: Deputy Registrars: Kyle Weaver, Lewis Smeltzer

How Do I Complete the Death Record When Disposition is Donation?

When the family elects to have their loved one's remains donated to a medical institution or other entity for medical research, the death record must indicate "Donation" for Final Disposition.

If the body is to be used by a hospital or a medical or mortuary school for scientific or educational purposes, the funeral director must complete the electronic record showing that institution's information. For an *electronic death record*, on the Disposition Tab, under Place and Method of Disposition, Place of Disposition Name, you must enter the name of that institution or donation entity, followed by the state and city where they are located. Under Method of Disposition, you must select Donation from the dropdown box. If filing a *paper record*, Place of Disposition must indicate the name of that institution or donation entity, followed by the state and city where they are located. Method of Disposition must indicate Donation.

Regardless of what happens to the remains that may be left after the institution completes their study, Donation must be designated on the death record.

An important thing to remember about Donation disposition is that the medical examiner must be notified (section 406.11, Florida Statutes). The electronic system sends an automatic notice to the medical examiner, allowing them to review the record, but for paper records, the funeral director must actually contact the medical examiner and provide a copy of the death record with the final cause of death.

Instructions on how to handle donations are outlined in the *Online EDRS Manual*, found on the home screen under the Help menu. They are also in the *Vital Records Registration handbook*, Chapter 5, Preparing the Death Certificate. The handbook can be found on the vitals website at: <http://floridavitalstatistics.com>.

Questions regarding the completion of death records should be directed to the Bureau of Vital Statistics Helpdesk at 1-866-295-5902.

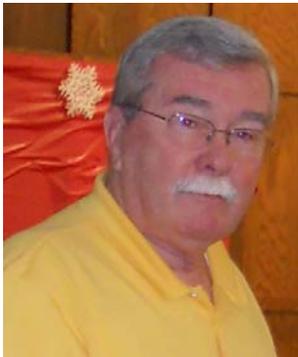
A New Hat for Florida's State Registrar, C. Meade Grigg

Florida's State Registrar, C. Meade Grigg, has been appointed Department of Health Deputy Secretary for Statewide Services. Mr. Grigg will continue in his role as state registrar and the vital statistics family is fortunate to be able to have him remain as our leader. We wish to congratulate Mr. Grigg on his appointment and wish him well as he moves forward with new opportunities to make life in the public health sector better for Florida families.



CHANGES IN LATITUDE

After 10 years working in Vital Statistics in just about every department, we are saying farewell to Cindy Russ. Cindy is not leaving the Department of Health; she has been given the opportunity, based on her 14 years of human resources experience, to work for the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories as a Personnel Liaison for Jacksonville, Miami, Pensacola, and Tampa. It is with mixed emotions she is saying goodbye, but she welcomes the challenge. We will miss you too, Cindy, but we'll be seeing you just around the corner.



After 13 years of service, Bill Hughes, Program Administrator over Administrative Services, retired in February. He plans on spending more time with his family and grandson. We wish him well.

Funeral Director's Corner

- Filing a death record for a **penal institution inmate** - if there is *no* Social Security number (SSN) or there are *multiple* SSNs, enter "Unknown" in the SSN field.
- Filing a death record for an **infant** - if the infant has not been named, do NOT enter "Baby Girl", "Infant Male", etc. in any of the name fields. Leave the first, middle, and suffix blank; enter only the surname in the last name field.

Welcome Aboard

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

Chief Deputy Registrar

****Correction to last issue's reporting****

Jennifer West is the new CDR for Pinellas County

Local Registrars

Winnie Holland.....Clay County
Robin Wright.....Hernando County
Mary Kay Burns.....Highlands County
Michael Napier.....Pasco County

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."—Marcel Proust