



SOCIAL SECURITY

September 9, 2004

Dear Funeral Director:

We are writing to you to announce our new procedures for The Statement of Death by the Funeral Director (SSA-721).

If you use the Minnesota Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) to register deaths, beginning September 14, 2004 you will no longer need to send to SSA a separate SSA-721 to report an individual's death.

We still need your help to get information to the potential survivors who may be entitled to benefits. You can help us by distributing the last two pages of the SSA-721 to families as you register the decedent's information. These pages provide valuable information about potential benefits that may be payable and how to apply for these benefits.

If you do NOT use the Minnesota EDRS, then we ask that you to continue to send us the SSA-721. Once you begin using the automated process, you may stop sending the SSA-721.

Thank you for your assistance in this process

Sincerely,

Brian Cronin

Brian Cronin
Director Office of Payment Policy