

# Changes for Funeral Directors

## Minnesota Statutes, section 144.221 and 149A

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### Highlights

The 2005 Minnesota Legislature passed changes to

- Minnesota Statutes, section 144.225, subdivision 7 and now allows for siblings to have access to certified death certificates
- Minnesota Statutes, section 144.221 requiring a death record (the fact of death) to be filed with the state registrar within five days after death and prior to final disposition.
- Minnesota Statutes, section 144.214, subdivision 4, which defines "designated mortician", has been repealed.
- Minnesota Statutes, chapter 149A for the use of transit permits, disposition permits and disinterment/reinterment permits.

All changes are effective August 1, 2005

### Transit Permits

Initial removal from place of death and changes in custody (i.e., from one funeral home to another) of the deceased are the only transportations that require documentation.

The "Certificate of Removal" is already required by Minnesota Statutes, section 149A.90 and will continue to be required for all removals and will be used as the Transit Permit (Transfer of custody) whenever there is a change in the custody of a body.

A "generic" version of this form will be provided by the Minnesota Department of Health, Mortuary Science Section.

Movements of the body in and out of registration districts, transportation between counties, and all other transportation within the state that do not involve a transfer of custody will **NOT** require Transit Permits.

### Disposition Permits

The current "Burial-Removal-Transit" permit will be obsolete effective August 1, 2005.

A "Disposition" permit issued by the State Registrar is required before a body can be buried, entombed or cremated.

The new disposition permit must be issued from the electronic death registration system (MN VRV2000) upon filing a fact of death. Funeral directors not using MN VRV2000 must obtain a disposition permit by filing the completed death worksheet with a local registrar.

Disposition permits issued by another state when the death occurred out of state will be recognized and used as the disposition permit in Minnesota.

### Disinterment/Reinterment Permits

A new form will be provided by the Commissioner of Health to be used for disinterment and/or reinterment. It will be issued by a licensed mortician or the State Registrar.

Written authorization must be obtained from the person or persons legally entitled to control the body or remains. If opposition to a disinterment exists, a court order must be received that specifically orders the disinterment.

Amending the death record to reflect reinterment is NOT required. However, families are to be informed of the option and process to request an amendment.

Sending copies of permits to the commissioner is no longer required.

### More Information

Mortuary Science Section @ 651-282-3829 or [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/osr/deathreg/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/osr/deathreg/)