

Funeral home access to death certificates

Authority to request

Minnesota Statutes, section 144.225, subdivision 7, paragraph (b) allows a licensed mortician to request death certificates on behalf of an eligible person within 180 days of the decedent's time of death.

In relation to the decedent, an eligible person is:

- A child, spouse, parent, or sibling
- A grandparent or grandchild
- A personal representative, successor, or trustee to administer the decedent's estate or trust
- A person or entity who demonstrates that a certified vital record is necessary for the determination or protection of a personal or property right

Request electronically

A licensed mortician (or designee) may submit a request for death certificates through Minnesota Registration & Certification (MR&C).

1. Locate the death record in MR&C.
2. Select *Request death certificate* from the follow-on action dropdown list.
3. Complete the online form and submit.

After 180 days

Licensed morticians and funeral home staff may help a decedent's family order death certificates more than 180 days after the death.

- Help the family choose the certificate that best meets their needs by explaining the difference between fact of death, cause of death, and VA certificates.
- Advise on who is and is not eligible to request a death certificate.
- Direct the family to a local vital records office so that they can get a certificate in person or by mail.

Licensed morticians and funeral home staff may also:

- Apply for certificates as a requester authorized by an eligible family member. The family member must sign a written statement that authorizes the licensed mortician to buy certificates on their behalf. The statement must include the decedent's name and date of death, and the person's relationship to the decedent. Submit the statement to an issuance office with the paper application.
- Order certificates as a successor of the decedent under Minnesota Statutes, section 524.1-201 (52) and with a claim under Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.15.

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To obtain this information in a different format, call:
651-201-5970.