

Electronic Death Registration in New Jersey



- By taking advantage of current technologies, the EDRS will ensure that the State of New Jersey has a prompt, accurate reporting system with usage saving resources for all entities involved.
- The NJ Electronic Death Registration System is mandatory under New Jersey's state law. NJSA 26:8-24.1 states that "...**All participants** in the death registration process....**shall be required** to utilize the NJ-EDRS to provide the information that is required of them by statute or regulation.
- The NJ State Registrar's office has the management responsibility to roll-out the EDRS to participants and the legal authority to determine when death certificates will be mandated in the electronic system.
- Benefits of the NJ EDRS:
 - On-line collaboration among multiple users
 - Internet accessibility 24/7
 - Increased security and fraud prevention
 - The system performs audits of access to the system and to records.
 - Improved timeliness of death registration
 - Higher quality data with real-time edits
 - Reduces errors and rejection of death certificates
 - Promotes uniformity in demographic and death statistics
- The NJ EDRS is of vital importance for electronic disease surveillance systems and the Center for Disease Control.
- The NJ EDRS Rollout Plan
 - Pilot – Completed May 2007 in Mercer County with the training of Registrars, Funeral Directors and Medical Facilities.
 - Medical Examiners statewide were trained during the pilot
 - Phase I – June 2007 to January 2009 Training of:
 - 566 Local Registrar Offices - completed Oct. 2007
 - 800 + Funeral Homes - completed Jan. 2009
 - Phase II – Started Spring 2008
 - Training of Medical Facilities, LTC, Nursing Homes, Hospice
 - Over 950 Medical Facilities to be trained, includes staff and affiliated physicians
 - Physicians can self-register and utilize on-line tutorials
- As we move forward, the EDRS will provide many data analysis and reporting options for medical facilities.
- The EDRS is vastly more secure than the filing of the same information on a paper death certificate

The following statements are required to be accepted by all participants in the EDRS. If they are not accepted, the user will not have access into the system.

HIPAA Policy Statement

Public health reporting mandated by State law is not changed by HIPAA. Pursuant to N.J.S.A., the reporting and completion of vital record forms, specifically birth, death, and marriage continues under HIPAA 164.512 (a) and (b) (1). Although these documents may contain medical history these documents are not considered medical records. The data collected are utilized by the State in registering the event that has occurred and monitoring the factors involved in the event and for statistical reporting as allowed by State statute and regulation.

Social Security Administration Privacy Act

Federal and State rules and laws strictly prohibit the unauthorized collection, use, and disclosure of protected information of the decedent which includes but is not limited to Legal Name, Social Security Number, and residence information.

NJ-DHSS Confidentiality Statement

To protect the confidentiality of information and integrity of the protective measure designed into this system, all users are advised that *Unauthorized use of this system is prohibited by Title 18 of the United States Code*. Reverse engineering, deciphering, or any other attempt to produce non-executable forms of this program is not authorized and may be prohibited by federal and state laws. In addition, this software may process data protected by federal and state laws. Do not share access to or data from this system unless done under duly established procedures or written authorization of a competent authority. Information regarding unauthorized use of this software or access to protected data will be referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Department of Justice for prosecution. Penalties for unauthorized/inappropriate use may include termination, fine and or imprisonment, or may result in civil action. Please do not attempt to log on if you are not an authorized user.

The EDRS is mandatory under New Jersey state law.

NJ Statute 26:8-24.1 New Jersey Electronic Death Registration System (NJ-EDRS) states that "...All participants in the death registration process, including but not limited to, the State Registrar, local registrars, deputy registrars, alternate deputy registrars, sub-registrars, the State Medical Examiner, county medical examiners, funeral directors, attending physicians and resident physicians, licensed health care facilities, and other public or private institutions providing medical care, treatment or confinement to persons, **shall be required** to utilize the NJ-EDRS to provide the information that is required of them by statute or regulation."