

What do you need death certificates for?

The death record is filed with the Iowa Department of Public Health. The local County Recorder oversees issuing certified death certificates. Your funeral director will obtain them for you on your behalf. Most families comfortably order two to five certified copies, but more is not uncommon. We will offer guidance on the number needed with the help of this checklist. Iowa certified copies are \$15 each. Some of these places will not keep the certified copy you present and instead give it back to you. The funeral director can order additional certified copies for one year from the date of death.

Certified copies of death certificates are likely needed for the following cases.

- ☐ For the estate attorney or trust officer
- ☐ Transfer of real estate
- ☐ Filing insurance claims, one for each insurance company
- ☐ Obtaining union benefits
- ☐ Transfer of automobile, boat, trailer or camper title (a photocopy may work)
- ☐ Transfer of financial investments (one for each investment company)
- ☐ Closing of bank or credit union accounts
- ☐ Phone and utility companies (a photocopy may work)
- ☐ Entry into a bank safe deposit box
- ☐ Filing for Social Security benefits
- ☐ Embassy or consulate requirements (for international shipping)
- ☐ Filing for Veteran's Administration benefits
- ☐ For loans and credit cards
- ☐ To qualify for bereavement time compensation from some employers
- ☐ Personal requests from immediate family members (a photocopy may work)
- ☐ **Estimated Total Number**

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