

STATE OF NEVADA

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
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*Director*

TRACEY D. GREEN, MD  
*Chief Medical Officer*



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Division of Public and Behavioral Health**  
4150 Technology Way, Suite 104  
Carson City, Nevada 89706  
Telephone: (775) 684-4242 · Fax: (775) 684-4156

August 13, 2015

RE: Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS)

Dear Future EDRS Users,

The State of Nevada, Office of Vital Records is moving forward with its goal to have all persons or entities within the state to sign cause of death electronically. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 440.165 requires the statement of the cause of death to be submitted by means of electronic signature.

**NAC 440.165 Statement of the cause of death.** ([NRS 440.120](#), [440.380](#), [440.410](#))

1. The statement of the cause of death in a medical certificate of death must be:
  - (a) Written legibly; and
  - (b) Expressed clearly and concisely.
2. The State Registrar or local registrar shall return a medical certificate of death to the certifier to be corrected or made more definite if the statement:
  - (a) Consists of only the term "natural causes";
  - (b) Contains any other indefinite or obsolete term which denotes only the symptom of a disease or the conditions resulting from a disease;
  - (c) Is illogically or confusingly written; or
  - (d) Contains personal abbreviations or is written in shorthand.
3. Part I of the statement of the cause of death in the standard certificate of death approved by the United States Public Health Service may contain only the sequence of disease or the injury or other trauma directly resulting in death, as follows:
  - (a) Line "A" must show the immediate (primary) cause of death;
  - (b) Line "B" must show the contributory or intermediate cause of death; and
  - (c) Line "C" must show the underlying cause of death.

The underlying cause of death must be the last cause listed. If there is no intermediate cause, the underlying cause must be entered on line "B". If the immediate cause and the underlying cause are synonymous, only one entry is necessary.
4. Part II of the statement of the cause of death must show the diseases, injuries or other factors which are medically or statistically significant but not directly related to the cause of death.

5. The statement of the cause of death must be submitted electronically by the certifier to an electronic death registry system approved by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and attested to by the certifier by means of an electronic signature.
6. As used in this section, “electronic signature” means an electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a document and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the document.

The Office of Vital Records is encouraged by the progress made to add new users in the past few months. Online training presentations and manuals have been developed to assist current and future users in using the Vital Records System (VRS). They are available at [http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/BirthDeath/dta/Training/Birth/Death\\_Vital\\_Records - Training Education/](http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/BirthDeath/dta/Training/Birth/Death_Vital_Records_-_Training_Education/) then chose the physician and coroner presentation or manual.

The Office of Vital Records would like to stress the importance of all persons or entities signing cause of death to do so electronically. County and state registrars spend significant hours each week entering paper records into the system. Several entities drive many hours each week to have paper records signed and resigned due to errors. All those hours will be eliminated by the cause of death being signed electronically. Additionally, states are being encouraged to have 80% of death records submitted to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within 10 days from the date of death. We can only accomplish this goal by being completely electronic with signing the statement of cause of death.

Physicians will also benefit from signing electronically. Physicians will be able to sign from any computer at their leisure while still staying in compliance with NRS and NAC.

To achieve our goal, the Office of Vital Records will no longer be accepting paper records effective January 1, 2016. We encourage all future users to become electronic as soon as possible to allow us time to address any questions or issues you may encounter.

We understand that there may be concerns and/or questions about signing electronically. We would like to address all concerns and questions through a stakeholder meeting being held on Tuesday October 6, 2015. Please see the attached agenda.

Please complete the attached application and confidentiality agreement and send it back to [ovrhelp@health.nv.gov](mailto:ovrhelp@health.nv.gov). The Office of Vital Records will create a username and password then email the user back with that information along with system download instructions.

Sincerely,

Jason Lewis  
Program Officer III, Office of Vital Records  
775-684-4162

cc: Marta Jensen, Acting Administrator, DPBH  
Laura Freed, Deputy Administrator, DPBH  
Chad W. Westom, Bureau Chief, PAIS, DPBH