
HOUSE BILL 1799

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Hoff, Wylie, Corry, Sutherland, Vick, Paul, Smith, and Goodman

Read first time 01/31/19. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing a short form for death
2 certificates; and amending RCW 70.58.082.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.58.082 and 2005 c 365 s 152 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) No person may prepare or issue any vital record that purports
7 to be an original, certified copy, or copy of a vital record except
8 as authorized in this chapter.

9 (2) The department shall adopt rules providing for the release of
10 paper or electronic copies of vital records that include adequate
11 standards for security and confidentiality, ensure the proper record
12 is identified, and prevent fraudulent use of records. All certified
13 copies of vital records in the state must be on paper and in a format
14 provided and approved by the department and must include security
15 features to deter the alteration, counterfeiting, duplication, or
16 simulation without ready detection.

17 (a) The department must establish rules regarding the content and
18 release of an abbreviated death certificate that may be requested
19 from a state or local registrar. The abbreviated death certificate
20 must include identifying information and information related to the
21 fact of death, but not include the following: (i) Information related

1 to the cause of the person's death; (ii) social security numbers; or
2 (iii) names of the decedent's parents.

3 (b) In any instance in which a death certificate must be provided
4 to a government agency and the cause of death is not material to the
5 filing, an abbreviated death certificate may be used and a government
6 agency must recognize the abbreviated death certificate as having the
7 full effect of a complete death certificate.

8 (c) All paper and online forms for requesting the release of an
9 abbreviated death certificate must include a notice stating that the
10 certificate might not contain sufficient information for all
11 purposes.

12 (3) Federal, state, and local governmental agencies may, upon
13 request and with submission of the appropriate fee, be furnished
14 copies of vital records if the vital record will be used for the
15 agencies' official duties. The department may enter into agreements
16 with offices of vital statistics outside the state for the
17 transmission of copies of vital records to those offices when the
18 vital records relate to residents of those jurisdictions and receipt
19 of copies of vital records from those offices. The agreement must
20 specify the statistical and administrative purposes for which the
21 vital records may be used and must provide instructions for the
22 proper retention and disposition of the copies. Copies of vital
23 records that are received by the department from other offices of
24 vital statistics outside the state must be handled as provided under
25 the agreements.

26 (4) The department may disclose information that may identify any
27 person named in any birth certificate (~~{vital}~~) vital record for
28 research purposes as provided under chapter 42.48 RCW.

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