



About the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)

New York State's Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) was developed as a secure web-based system to electronically register deaths. It is accessible anywhere that internet access is available. The purpose of EDRS is to:

- streamline the death registration process;
- improve the quality and timeliness of the data collected;
- reduce the time it takes to file death records, and
- improve communication among those responsible for filing.

Users authorized to complete a death certificate are granted access to the system. Among those who use the system are funeral directors and funeral firm staff, physicians and other medical certifiers and medical facility staff, medical examiners and coroners and their staff, and local Registrars, Deputy Registrars and sub-registrars of Vital Statistics.

Compared with the previous paper-based process, EDRS provides faster delivery of death certificates, reduced travel costs for funeral firms, improved disease tracking for public health purposes, and reduction in fraudulent filing of death benefits due to faster vital events tracking.

Benefits of EDRS

- Greater efficiency - participants access and sign/certify the same case online and interact electronically, thus reducing travel time and costs
- Higher data accuracy and reporting of required data items thereby reducing errors, queries and rejection of death certificates
- Consistency in reported demographics, cause-of-death information, and disease tracking for public health purposes
- Capability to report cause-of-death with increased accuracy, uniformity and timeliness as an integral part of patient care
- Electronic submission of supplemental cause-of-death information and referrals to Medical Examiners/Coroners by Physicians, Funeral Directors and Health departments for pending investigations
- Ease of filing death registrations with the state and complete order requests from a single database

Background Information on New York State Public Health Law for Registering of Deaths

New York State began registering deaths in the state in 1881. Public Health Law, Article 41, Title 4, Section 4140 designates the roles and processes established to register a death and arrange for disposition of a body. As of 1953, the death of each person who has died in this state shall be registered immediately and not later than seventy-two (72) hours after death or the finding of a dead human body.



On September 27, 2013, Governor Cuomo signed into Law, Chapter 352 of the Laws of 2013, which amends Article 41 of New York State Public Health Law (PHL) to add Section 4148.

Section 4148 establishes an electronic death registration system (EDRS). The law authorized and directed the Department of Health to design, implement and maintain a system for collecting, storing, recording, transmitting, amending, correcting and authenticating information relating to deaths occurring in New York State.

[Public Health Law §4148 \(Effective September 27, 2013\)](#)