Log In and Launch EDRS

1. Log in to HCS at https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/public/hcs_login.html
2. Enter your User ID and Password, then click Sign in.
3. Click on EDRS in your My Applications list. (If you don’t see the link, refer to the steps in this guide to Add EDRS to HCS My Applications.)
4. Click on your office for the case you are entering. Note: If you are associated with more than one office, be sure to select the office that the case is ‘owned’ by, or you cannot access the case.

Search for a Case You Do Not Yet Own – Start/Edit New Case

Most cases in New York State are created by the medical facility, not the funeral firm. Therefore, you are usually searching to take ownership of an existing case’s personal information rather than starting a new case. Begin by searching for the case in EDRS:

1. Select Life Events > Death > Start/Edit New Case in the menu bar or click the Death Start/Edit New Case Fast Links button.
2. Enter the required information for the decedent’s First and Last names, Date of Death, and Sex.
3. Click Search.
4. On the Search Results page:
   a. If you find the case in the search results, click the Decedent’s Name, which is a link directly into the existing case.
   b. If you do not find the case in the search results, check with the medical provider to confirm how the decedent’s information was entered in EDRS, and then try searching again.
   c. If you find the case in the search results but the name is not an active link, this means the case is either already owned by a different funeral firm, or the case has been Dropped to Paper or Abandoned. (If owned by a different funeral firm, it may need to be transferred to your firm.)
   d. If you are certain the case has not yet been created in EDRS, click the Start new case button, which looks like the following:

      If case does not appear above, start new case

   Review the pop-up message to confirm you intend to create a new case, and then click the Create Entirely New Case button.

   NOTE: After the case has been created and is owned by your office, you can use Locate Case to access the case for continuing work on the case.

Locate Case to Find a Case You Own

1. Select Life Events > Death > Locate Case from the menu bar, or click the Fast Links Death Locate Case button.
2. Enter some of the decedent’s information, such as First or Last name, Date of Death, or a portion of the name along with the wildcard (%). You need only give a small amount of search criteria.
3. Click Search.
   If you are unsure of the spelling of the decedent’s name, you can click the Soundex button instead of Search, to expand your search to include cases with similar letters or sounds.
4. Click the Decedent’s Name, which links directly into the existing case.

Validation Symbols and Rules

Validate each page after entering the requested information. The system checks for errors. A validation symbol appears to the left of each page in the Death Registration Menu on the left side of the screen. The validation symbol must be either green or yellow to sign the certificate.

- Red X: Information is still needed on this page; it is incomplete.
- Yellow dot: Information is complete on this page; however, some field errors were overridden. This may happen if information entered conflicts with system rules. After saving overrides and re-validating, the page is still marked with the yellow dot on the Death Registration Menu, the overridden error messages remain on the page, and the affected field(s) remain shaded yellow.
- Green check: Information is complete and acceptable for this page.
Enter Death Certificate Information
1. Complete and validate each page in the Personal Information section.
2. If the Place of Death in the Medical Certification section has not already been completed by the medical certifier, you may enter that information if known.
3. On the Disposition page, verify that the Filing Registrar Office has been filled in and is accurate based on the Place of Death. Edit if needed.
4. If necessary, notify medical personnel to complete and certify the Medical Certification section.
5. Click Print Forms and review a Working Copy of the death certificate to confirm that all necessary information is displaying/printing and is accurate. The Working Copy link is Print Working Copy – For Draft Review.

View Your Work Queue Summary
You can use your Work Queue to monitor your tasks on the cases you own. The Registration Work Queue Summary gives you easy access to all your active cases in all phases of completion.
1. Click the Registration Work Queue Summary button or select Queues > Registration Work Queue Summary from the menu bar.
2. On the Registration Work Queue Summary page, click on the desired Queue Name (workflow category).
3. Click on the Registrant (decedent name) to access the case.

Change Case Ownership to a Different Funeral Firm
If a case is owned by a funeral firm but needs to permanently change ownership to a different firm or facility, follow the steps below.

Relinquish Case
Funeral director who currently owns the case:
1. Use Death > Locate Case to search for and open the case.
2. Click Relinquish Case in the Other Links section of the left navigation bar. In the pop-up box click OK.

Funeral director becoming the new owner of the case:
1. After logging into the office taking ownership, select Death > Start/Edit New Case to search for the case.
2. On the Death Search Results page, click the hyperlinked Decedent’s Name to open the case.
3. A pop-up message asks you to confirm that you want to take ownership of the case. Click OK.
4. On the Disposition page, verify and edit as necessary, the funeral director and funeral firm name and location.

Transfer a Case
If you need to transfer a case you started to another funeral director or medical professional,
1. Access the case in EDRS.
2. Click Transfer Case in the Other Links section of the left navigation bar.
3. Check the Transfer Personal Ownership To: box.
4. Click the eraser (pencil icon) to clear your firm as owner.
5. Use the Look-up tool (magnifying glass icon) to locate the new owner of the case.
6. Add any notations to the message and click Save.

After the case is both medically Certified and Signed by the funeral director, the case automatically goes to the local registrar for review and registration.
Process a Trade Call

A Trade Call can be established in EDRS while the case is not signed. The case originator is the Trade Call firm acting on behalf of the firm hired by the decedent.

1. The funeral firm performing the Trade Call takes ownership of the case in EDRS using Start/Edit New Case to search for the case. This firm and director information auto-populates the Disposition page. Do not change this information.
2. Click Trade Calls in the Other Links section of the Death Registration Menu.
3. Use the Lookup tool to locate and select the funeral firm handling the preparation and disposition. If not found, type the firm information. This firm information will print on the forms.
4. If known, type the Funeral Director information. This information is saved but does not print.
5. Click Save, then click Return. A checkmark now appears to the right of Trade Call in the Death Registration Menu.
6. Complete and Sign the case.

NOTE: The original firm retains ownership of the case, with the Trade Call firm having access to the case if selected from the search results.

Print Forms

- Print Working Copy – For Draft Review: You should always generate a Working Copy before Signing to verify the accuracy and completeness of the case. The Working Copy contains a side-margin ‘watermark’ noting that it is not the official death certificate. If the case has already been Certified and Signed, the Working Copy includes those two electronic signatures. The local registrar’s signature never prints on the Working Copy. Set your printer properties to Fit to Page/Shrink to Fit, so that the entire form prints out on letter-sized paper.
- Burial-Transit Permit: Can be printed after the case has been signed/registered by the local registrar.
- Drop to Paper: Stops all electronic processing of the case, converting it to a paper version. The Drop to Paper print-out becomes the official death certificate. The case cannot be completed electronically by anyone after this is selected. Drop to Paper should only be used if the next person who needs to work on the case in not able to use EDRS at this time. Drop to Paper is only available while the case has just one owner and has been Certified or Signed by that one owner. Set your printer properties to Fit to Page/Shrink to Fit, to print on letter-sized paper.

Handle Cremation Clearance

Certain registration districts in New York State require Cremation Clearance from a Medical Examiner before the case can be registered. When Cremation is the Method of Disposition specified on the Disposition page in EDRS, upon validating the page two error messages display pertaining to the cremation clearance process.

Cremation clearance is currently being processed manually, external to EDRS. Therefore, all cremation cases need to apply an “override” on the two error messages, even in districts that do require cremation clearance.

To override the error messages, click in the two Override boxes to select them, click Save Overrides, then Validate Page again. The validation indicator on the Death Registration Menu remains yellow to indicate that the page has passed validation with overrides.

In districts where cremation clearance is not required, no further action is needed after overriding and re-validating the two cremation clearance error messages.

In districts where cremation clearance is required, use your existing process for obtaining clearance from the medical examiner. You probably need to provide the medical examiner with a Working Copy print-out of the death certificate. After the medical examiner approves the cremation, you should document the approval in a Comment in EDRS. To create your comment, click Comments in the Death Registration Menu, under Other Links.

Then click Create a New Comment. Select Comment Type: Other Comments and enter the information about the cremation clearance. Click Save, and then click Close.

EDRS FH QRG_Updated Jan 2020
EDRS Website: www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/edrs
For assistance, contact the EDRS Call Center at 1-844-866-EDRS (3377) or email edrs@health.ny.gov
Make Corrections After Signing, Before Registered

Before a case is Registered, corrections can be made electronically in EDRS (if the case has not been Dropped to Paper, which stops all electronic processing of the case).

1. Access the case in EDRS using either the Locate Case button or Life Events > Death > Locate Case from the menu bar.
2. Go to the Sign page and click Unsign.
3. Click OK in the confirmation message pop-up box.
4. Make necessary changes and click Validate Page.
5. Go to the Sign page, then read the Affirmation statement and click on the checkbox.
6. Click Affirm.

Note: After the case is Registered, any needed corrections are to be submitted to the Local Registrar on paper.

Add EDRS to HCS My Applications

If EDRS is not listed in My Applications on the HCS Home page, then you can add it to your list.

1. In the top menu bar in HCS, click My Content, and then click All Applications.

2. On the Health Commerce System Applications page, click E in the Browse by line above the application list. Then find Electronic Death Registration System in the list.

3. In the far right column click the green circled plus sign to add the application to HCS Home page.

Return to the HCS Home page. EDRS is now listed in My Applications.

Things to Remember

Select the right office – If you are affiliated with more than one medical facility, be sure you select the appropriate office when signing into EDRS. The ME/Coroner’s office is the County Department of Health.

Once a case has been created in EDRS, it cannot be deleted. The New York State process is for the medical facility or medical examiner/coroner to create the case, and then the funeral director later takes ownership of the Personal Information in the case.

Validation results – If an error message displays but the data is valid, click on the Override checkbox, click Save Overrides, then Validate Page again. The validation indicator on the Fetal Death Registration Menu remains yellow to indicate that the page has passed validation with overrides, and your overridden error message(s) remain visible.

Changes after error Override – If you change information after overriding errors, you may need to uncheck the Override checkbox(es) and click Save Overrides again. Click Validate Page again, and then recheck and save any remaining errors that still need to be overridden. Re-validate the page.

Don’t type; look it up – Avoid typing text in fields that have the Look-up tool or the Places Look-up icon available. Search using the Look up tool and add a wildcard character (%) before and/or after your search text to find more possible results.