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Division of Public and Behavioral Health NEWS RELEASE

Nevada Physicians Urged to Get Set Up on the State's Electronic Death Certificate System Now!

Carson City – Nevada doctors who haven't gotten set up on the state's electronic death certificate system are being asked to do so as quickly as possible to prevent hassles that are being faced by families already coping with a recent death.

"This is a big issue for the family and friends of the decedent," said Jason Lewis, with the Nevada Office of Vital Records. "They cannot receive a burial permit or death certificate without the certifier completing their portion of the death certificate. In some cases, services for the decedent have been postponed or held without the remains of the decedent."

On January 1, 2016, the state began requiring doctor signatures indicating cause of death to be completed electronically. This new requirement was approved on February 20, 2013, but just went into effect about four weeks ago. Although officials report a slight increase in the percentage of death records from this same time last year, there still have been difficulties for some certifying physicians.

Common problems that health officials have heard about could have been prevented, such as:

- Physicians' user name and password was deleted or sent to their email spam folder.
- Login instructions were not followed.
- Firewall is blocking access to the system.

The electronic certification system has faced no technical problems, and several certifiers have been signing electronically for much of the system's nine-year existence. The state Office of Vital Records has met with and sent numerous letters to funeral homes, medical professionals and the State Board of Medical Examiners since August 2015. When a funeral home, family member or friend of a decedent contacts the Office of Vital Records about a physician not signing a death record electronically within 48 hours, those individuals have the right to file a complaint with the Board of Medical Examiners.

For more information, contact Jason Lewis at the Office of Vital Records, at 775-684-4162.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cody L. Phinney".
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