

Electronic Death Registration

ROVER is Launched

Results from our ROVER pilot testing with the Medical Examiner's Office and select funeral homes in the Oklahoma City Metro area provided us with invaluable information to help develop the system further and get it ready for use to register death certificates.

We tested the many complex routes that a death certificate can travel on its way to registration. We found that ROVER could handle most of the challenges presented to it. However, we also found a few that ROVER could not, and these were critical to ROVER's functionality. The development team repaired and refined and redesigned and revisited these problem areas.

We also found that certain technological advances in desktop personal computers presented some unanticipated challenges. This wasn't just a problem for ROVER, but for many software applications in general. The developmental team had to come up with ways of dealing with these problems as well.

After we received the

solutions to these problems, we tested and retested the system to identify bugs that were still present.

When we addressed these bugs, we went back to the Medical Examiner's Office to implement ROVER there. We are currently in the process of training their personnel to use ROVER and working with them to incorporate ROVER into their workflow processes. It will take some time for the ME's Office to establish its best practices for using ROVER, but the process has begun and records have been entered and certified.

Shortly after beginning work at the ME's Office, we started bringing funeral homes on to ROVER to begin entering their death registration data. By the end of March we had four facilities using ROVER with more scheduled to be added. It's a small beginning, but it's a beginning nonetheless.

As we have shared before, it is our plan to make ROVER available to the

industry in a controlled roll out so we can monitor the system's performance and address any bugs that we may encounter. We will start with the Oklahoma City Metro, followed by the Tulsa Metro, followed by the Lawton, Enid, and McAlester areas.

We will not be providing ROVER demonstrations any more. Instead, we will be visiting facilities to set them up on the system and have them start using the real thing. The ROVER training we provide has been approved by the Oklahoma Funeral Board for one hour of PDU Seminar credit. We will provide the documentation you will need to verify your training with the Funeral Board.



Vital Records Training Pages and Resources

Reprinted by request

We have reorganized the Vital Records training pages on the Oklahoma State Department of Health website. It is our hope this makes the information more accessible and user friendly. It includes basic instructions on how to complete a death certificate and a stillbirth certificate. In addition,

a special web address was created that will bypass the surfing through the website and go straight to the "Training & Materials" page. From there you can choose which training material you would like to view. A special thank you goes out to Rebecca Moore for making this reorganization possible.

The special web address is : <http://vrtraining.health.ok.gov>.

You can also access applications for certified copies of death certificates and stillbirth certificates at other locations on our website. If you need help finding these resources, give us a call and we will talk you through the process.

ROVER Training and Enrollment Team

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ROVER System Requirements

For the system to run at optimal performance, your computer should have the following features:

- Internet Explorer 6.0 or later
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Laser Printer
- Broadband Internet Connection



Center for Health Statistics



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We Collect, Analyze, and Disseminate
Health Statistics to Help Create a State of
Health.

Please Send Us Your E-mail Address

To be as efficient and inclusive as possible, we are collecting as many e-mail addresses as we can from funeral homes and physicians. This will allow us to broadcast mass communications, such as this newsletter. We're anticipating some 1000 users eventually being registered to use ROVER to complete death certificates. We must be able to disseminate information as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Please send your e-mail address to AskROVER@health.ok.gov. Also, please let us know if the e-mail address we may have for you needs to be changed and/or updated. This will be a constant "work in progress" and we thank you for your help.

Issues With Decedent's Address

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We have recently encountered confusion regarding the use of Rural Routes (RRs), Highway Carriers (HCs), and Post Office (PO) boxes in Item 8f of the death certificate. In accordance with federal guidelines, we offer the following:

- PO boxes are never allowed and will result in the death certificate being rejected.
- At this time, RRs and HCs with their corresponding box numbers will be allowed. However, once the county of residence has been assigned 911 addresses, these will be required for entry in Item 8f.

Please be aware that, due to the limitation of characters in the ROVER address field, we are not always able to enter directions as written on the current paper certificates.

Examples of Occupation and Industry

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Examples of usual occupations may include such things as claim adjuster, farmhand, coal miner, janitor, store manager, college professor, or civil engineer. Corresponding examples of industry would be insurance, farming, coal mining, hardware store, retail clothing, university, or government.

Usual Occupation and Kind of Industry

Reprinted by request

Occupation and industry must be completed for decedents 14 years of age or older. This information is used to study deaths related to jobs. For example, this information identified the link between lung disease and asbestos exposure in shipbuilding and construction.

Item 16 - Decedent's Usual Occupation. Enter the usual occupation of decedent. This is not necessarily his/her last occupation. Never enter "retired." Enter kind of work decedent did during most of his/her working life. If decedent was a homemaker but had worked outside the household

during his/her working life, enter that occupation. If decedent was a homemaker and never worked outside the household, enter "homemaker." Enter "student" if decedent was a student at time of death and was never regularly employed or employed full time during his/her working life.

Item 17 - Kind of Business / Industry. Kind of business to which occupation in Item 16 is related. DO NOT enter organizations names. If decedent was a homemaker, enter either "own home" or "someone else's home" as appropriate. If decedent was a student, enter type of school.

OSDH is on the
web at
health.ok.gov



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