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Vital Statistics

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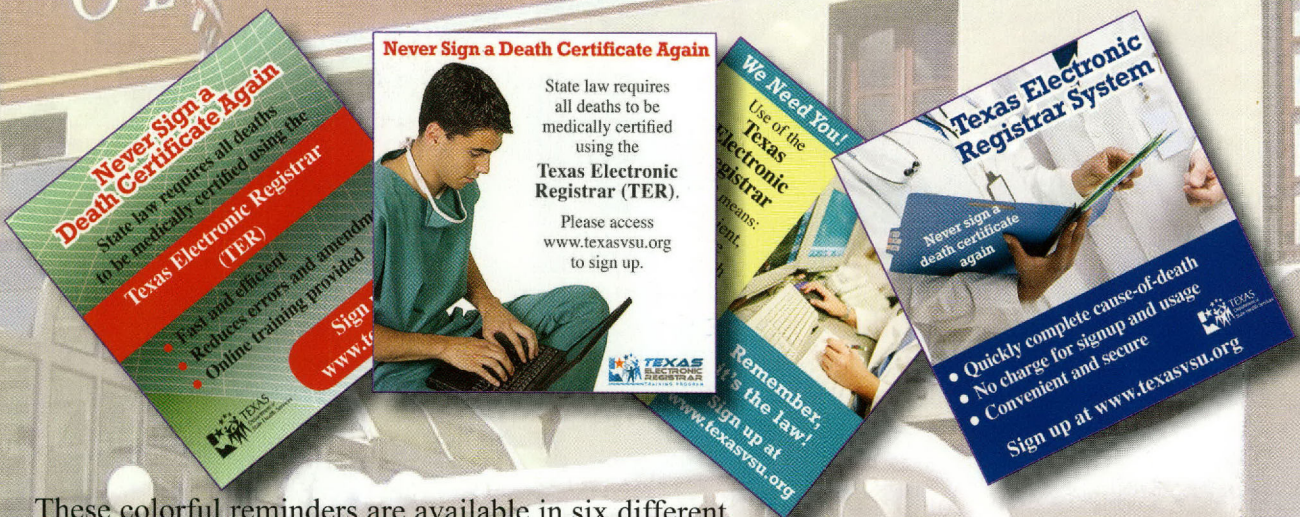
New TER Post-It-Note Reminder

By Iris Rodriguez

Funeral Directors...are you tired of dealing with drop-to-paper death records? Need help communicating TER compliance?

Texas Health and Safety Code section 193.002 requires that death certificates be filed electronically. However, not all parties have complied with the law and may need some reminding.

VSU would like to announce the TER Post-It-Note reminders that can be placed on every drop-to-paper record that is a result of non-participation in the TER system.



These colorful reminders are available in six different types and can be useful in increasing awareness of TER compliance, as they remind parties that they are required to sign-up to use TER in order to certify records electronically.

Samples of the TER Post-It-Note reminders will be mailed to you soon. If additional post-it notes are required please email your request to eli.puentes@dshs.state.tx.us.

*Don't Forget the
2010 Regional
Conferences!!!*

Coming in June and July. Keep an eye on our website for the dates and cities at www.texasvsu.org!

55th Annual Vital Statistics Conference

By Catherine Roche

The 55th Annual Texas Vital Statistics Conference, “Reinventing Vital Statistics for Tomorrow’s Challenges”, was a huge success. There were 575 individuals from across Texas in attendance including local registrars, county and district clerks, justices of the peace, hospital and birthing center staff, midwives, funeral home directors and their staff, medical examiners and more.

This year’s conference received many favorable comments with regards to content, curriculum and preparations. The conference was kicked off with Suzie



L-R: Dr. Aliya Hussaini, State Registrar Geraldine Harris, and DSHS Commissioner Dr. David Lakey

Humphries, a renown motivational speaker presenting “I Can Do That”, an uplifting and positive method of dealing with stressful situations. The keynote speaker was Dr. Aliya Hussaini, Grant Officer and Health Portfolio for the Dell Foundation. Her presentation on Childhood Obesity was inspirational and powerful. Dr. David Lakey, the DSHS commissioner, welcomed our attendees at the opening address and gave an overview of the Departments of State Health Services programs and plans. Dr. Yvonne Howze, Director of Health Information and Vital Statistics, provided our awards

luncheon address which entertained and motivated everyone. At the Five Star Award luncheon, numerous special awards were given out by our State Registrar, Geraldine R. Harris, as well as awards from the Office of the Attorney General and ImmTrac. Many attendees received awards for their excellence and performance.

The conference consisted of twenty –nine break-out sessions that included topics such as statutes, TER registration, panels for birth, death, marriage and local registrars and AOP certification. This year the Louisiana State Registrar spoke on Continuity of Operations Planning: Experiences and Lessons Learned. Other session topics focused on issues such as customer feedback, disease prevention – ImmTrac, medical examiner issues – reporting COD, supplemental registration, passport fraud document and identity fraud, remote birth access, delayed records, website information and data quality and systems integration.

We wish to thank Texas Public Health Association, in cooperation with The Department of State Health Services for their assistance with the conference. Also, special thanks to our Platinum sponsors, Neubus and Vitalchek for their generous donations to the conference. And last but not least we would like to thank our many volunteers, staff, speakers, and exhibitors who made this year’s conference a success.

2009 Certified Master Registrars

Renee Clay	Mary Truesdale
Mary Collins	Cindy Walterscheid
Jeannette Compean	Greta Zamora
Dianne Florez	Iris Rodriguez
Stacey Kemp	Connie Seaman
Jenetta Taylor	Linda Ward
Elizabeth Trevino	

2009 Texas Vital Statistics Five-Star Award Winners

Funeral Home/Mortuary Service Registration Award Recipients

Calvillo Funeral Home
- Georgetown
Claybar Funeral Home
- Orange
Gabriel’s Funeral Chapel
- Lubbock
Garza Memorial Funeral Home
- Brownsville
Grimes Funeral Chapels
- Kerrville
Harrell Funeral Home

Joe Jackson Funeral Chapels
- Laredo
Kerrville Funeral Home
- Kerrville
Memorial Funeral Home
- San Juan
Niето Dickey Funeral Home
- Larado
Porter Loring Funeral Home
- San Antonio

Providence Funeral Home
- Taylor
Resthaven Funeral Home
- Lubbock
Restland Funeral Home
- Dallas
Schmidt Funeral Home
- Katy
Trevino Funeral Home
- Brownsville
Winscott Road Funeral Home

Hospital/Birth Center/ Midwife Registration Award Recipients

Exemplary

Abilene/Taylor County Public Health District
Austin County Clerk
Bell County Clerk
Brazoria County Clerk
Brown County Clerk
City of Amarillo
City of Arlington
City of Austin - HHSD
City of Baytown
City of Beaumont
Public Health Department
City of Bedford
City of Brownsville
City of Bryan
City of Carthage
City of College Station
City of Dallas
City of Denison
City of Grapevine
City of Harlingen
City of Laredo Health Department
City of Lewisville
City of Lubbock Health Department Vital Statistics
City of McAllen
City of North Richland Hills
City of Pasadena

City of San Marcos
City of Terrell
City of Temple
City of Texas City
City of Weslaco
City of Yoakum
Collin County Clerk
Comal County Clerk
Cooke County Clerk
Dawson County Clerk
Deaf Smith County Clerk
Denton County Clerk
Ector County Clerk
Fort Bend County Clerk
Frio County Clerk
Galveston County Health District
Grayson County Clerk
Gregg County Clerk
Guadalupe County Clerk
Hamilton County Clerk
Hill County Clerk
Hood County Clerk
Houston County Clerk
Jackson County Clerk
Kaufman County Clerk
Kerr County Clerk
Llano County Clerk
Limestone County Clerk

Madison County Clerk
Mitchell County Clerk
Midland County Clerk
Nacogdoches County Clerk
Navarro County Clerk
Nolan County Clerk
Northeast Texas Public Health District
Parker County Clerk
Polk County Clerk
Rockwall County Clerk
Rusk County Clerk
San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
Scurry County Clerk
Tarrant County Clerk
Taylor County Clerk
Tom Green County
Van Zandt County Clerk
Waco-McLennan Public Health District
Waller County Clerk
Ward County Clerk
Washington County Clerk
Wichita Falls - Wichita County Public Health District
Williamson County Clerk
Wise County Clerk

Recognized

Bosque County Clerk

City of Houston BVS
Hunt County Clerk

Reeves County Clerk

Local Registrar Vital Registration Award Recipients

Baptist St. Anthony's Health System Baptist Campus
Baylor Medical Center At Frisco
Baylor Regional Medical Center At Grapevine
Brownsville Doctors Hospital
Central Texas Medical Center
Christus Santa Rosa Hospital - New Braunfels
Christus St. Michael Health Systems
Clear Lake Regional Medical Center
Corpus Christi Medical Center - Bay Area
DOCHS - Brackenridge
DOCHS - Seton Medical Center
DOCHS - Seton Northwest
DOCHS - Seton Southwest

Del Sol Medical Center
Doctors Hospital Parkway/Tidwell
Graham Regional Medical Center
Texas Health Harris Methodist Hurst-Euless-Bedford
Hendrick Medical Center
Hill Country Memorial Hospital
Houston Northwest Medical Center
Huguley Memorial Medical Center
Las Colinas Medical Center
Medical City Dallas Hospital
Medina Regional Hospital
Memorial Hermann - Katy
Memorial Hermann Southeast
Memorial Hermann Sugar Land
Memorial Hermann The Woodlands
Methodist Richardson Medical Center
Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Mission Regional Medical Center
Moore County Hospital District
Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital
North Central Baptist Hospital
Northeast Baptist Hospital
Permian Regional Medical Center
Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Denton
Providence Memorial Hospital
San Jacinto Methodist Hospital
St David's Round Rock Hospital
St Luke's Baptist Hospital
St Luke's Community Medical Center-The Woodlands
Titus Regional Medical Center
Uvalde Memorial Hospital
Valley Baptist Medical Center - Brownsville
Valley Baptist Medical Center - Harlingen

Texas Vital Statistics
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Austin, Texas

Veterans and Free Death Certificates

Question: If a decedent is a veteran of the armed forces, how does a funeral home receive a free death certificate for the family?

Answer: First, let us look at the particular statute in which this question refers to. According to Health and Safety Code §191.0046 (b) *The state registrar shall issue without fee a certified copy of a record not otherwise prohibited by law to a veteran or to the veteran's widow, orphan, or other dependent if the copy is for use in settling a claim against the government.*

When a decedent is a veteran of the armed forces, the surviving dependent or dependents do not automatically get a free certified copy of a death record. The death certificate has a specific purpose and that purpose is to settle a claim against the government

Texas Vital Statistics does issue a free certified copy for the statute listed above; however, all requests for death certificates without charge must be requested by an authorized agent of the Texas Veterans Commission [<http://www.tvc.state.tx.us>] or a Veterans County Service Officer. The TVC will make the determination on whether a certified copy is needed

to settle a claim against the government. If one is needed, the TVC will process the paperwork that then is forwarded to Texas Vital Statistics for a free certified copy of the record that is being requested.

In order for a local registrar's office to issue a certified copy without fee a TVC-14 form completed by a representative or agent from the Texas Veterans Commission or by a Veterans County Service Officer should be presented to the local registrar. The TVC-14 will be completed by the TVC authorized agent and contain information on where this document should be mailed to.

Visit Our Website for More News and Information

[Texas Electronic Death Registration Training](http://www.texasvsu-ed.org)
www.texasvsu-ed.org

[TER Help Desk](http://www.help-ter.texasvsu.org)
www.help-ter.texasvsu.org or you can email them at help-ter@texasvsu.org

[Texas Vital Statistics Handbooks](http://www.handbooks.texasvsu.org)
www.handbooks.texasvsu.org

[Purchase a Birth or Death Certificate](http://www.getBC.texasvsu.org)
Birth Record: www.getBC.texasvsu.org
Death Record: www.getDC.texasvsu.org

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