



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

VITAL STATISTICS REGISTRATION

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www.nj.gov/health

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

HEATHER HOWARD
Commissioner

April 23, 2007

Dear New Jersey Licensed Funeral Directors:

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration, in partnership with the New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association (NJSFDA), has developed a revised strategy for deployment of the New Jersey Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS). This plan includes three phases:

- Phase One – All New Jersey local Registrars of Vital Statistics, New Jersey licensed funeral directors and county Medical Examiners will be trained to use EDRS beginning in June and continuing through the fall of 2008. DHSS will provide training to registrars and ME facilities by December 31, 2008. The NJSFDA will handle funeral director training through the fall of 2008.
- Phase Two - Following the successful completion of the Phase One, DHSS will begin training licensed medical facilities across the state.
- Phase Three – Finally, DHSS will address training of physicians in private medical practices who may not be affiliated with major medical facilities.

During the early stages of this rollout, funeral directors may frequently find themselves dealing with physicians who are not yet trained to use EDRS and will be able to use an Interim Hybrid Fax option. The Interim Fax Hybrid option, which electronically joins a paper death certificate completed by the medical certifier with the electronic record prepared by the funeral director, will be explained in detail in the NJSFDA's training. By electronically filing deaths in this manner, funeral directors will be able to obtain burial permits and order certified copies over the Internet.

Phase One of this plan will proceed regionally, with the first deployment outside of the current Mercer County pilot test area being in Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex Counties. Continuing education/recertification credits will be offered and adequate advance notice of each regional training session will be provided.

Those interested in learning more about this program are encouraged to visit the EDRS website at <https://edrs.nj.gov/edrs> and view on-line tutorials that are provided. Thank you for your cooperation and participation as we move forward together in the implementation of the nation's first mandatory Electronic Death Registration System.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience at (609) 984-3445.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Komosinski
State Registrar
Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration