

MEMBER UPDATE

FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

August 2, 2021

Dear NJSFDA Member:

Beginning today, the Office of Vital Statistics is requiring all New Jersey physicians, birthing centers, healthcare facilities and registrars to use a new electronic stillbirth (fetal death) recording process developed by the Department of Health Information Technology Team called VERI-NJ (Vital Event Registry Information for New Jersey).

VERI-NJ is required for the Department to ultimately incorporate fetal deaths into an upgraded EDRS system currently under development and estimated for release over the next 18-24 months.

Access to VERI-NJ is limited to medical certifiers, medical facilities, medical examiners and registrars. Funeral directors are not eligible to register for VERI-NJ.

To assist with the transition to the online platform, REG 26 Certificate of Fetal Death forms may continue to be completed by medical certifiers and accepted by local registrars until September 1, 2021.

For what this means for funeral directors click [here](#).

Although funeral directors must still work with the office of the registrar in the municipality where the delivery occurred, this is the first step toward incorporation into EDRS, similar to the original hybrid fax method of certifying non-fetal deaths when EDRS first began.

Additional information about this interim process for completing, certifying and obtaining fetal death certificates and burial permits will be communicated over the next several weeks through FORUM articles.

NJSFDA Managers of the Day are also available for specific questions during this transition.



George R. Kelder Jr., CFSP
CEO/Executive Director