

# DEATH CERTIFICATES

We will assist you in ordering as many certified copies of death certificate as you determine are needed. Please keep in mind that these certified copies carry a fee fixed by each individual county.

Hillsborough County..... \$ 10 ea.

Most of the places which require a death certificate will require a Certified Copy rather than a photocopy. Certified copies are a special safety paper with a raised seal are available only through the Vital Statistics offices. The following is a partial listing of places where a death certificate **MAY** be required:

- Life Insurance Companies (*usually requires copy with cause of death*)
- Banks & other Financial Institutions
- Brokerages
- Pension Funds
- Credit Card Companies
- Social Security Administration (*only if applying for Survivor's Benefits*)
- Veterans Administration (*only if applying for Burial Allowance*)
- Utilities (Electric service, Telephone, Cable, etc.)
- Clerk of Court in each county where the decedent owned real estate (*requires copy without cause of death*)

This is not a complete list. Additional copies could be required and certified copies may not be needed in every listed case. Please consult your financial / legal advisor for further assistance in determining the quantity required for your specific circumstance.

## **SPECIAL NOTE (Long Form vs. Short Form):**

- In Florida, Cause of Death becomes public information 50 years following the death. Prior to that time, Cause of Death is considered confidential by Florida law. Only certain persons are allowed to obtain copies containing the Cause of Death.
- Florida issues two types of certificate: Long form will show the cause of death. Short form will not. Short form will be required for the Clerk of Court and certain other state agencies in Florida.
- Cause of Death is usually only needed for insurance purposes.