

COVID-19: Requesting Death Certificates and Reporting Deaths

My loved one died in New York City. How do I get their death certificate?

- The NYC Health Department issues death certificates for deaths that occur in NYC.
- Death Certificates are available once the death has been reported and the case has been registered.
- If there is a funeral home involved, the funeral director can order death certificates for you up to one year after the date of death.
- If there isn't a funeral home involved — and even if the disposition is not final — an entitled person (for example, a spouse, domestic partner, informant, or person in control of the disposition) can order the death certificate. During the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the safest way to order is online. To order online or to learn more, visit www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/death-certificates.page. If you have an urgent need, you can make an emergency request in person at 125 Worth Street.
- A death certificate can be issued if the final disposition has not been determined. As long as the certificate details are reported it can be registered with an interim or temporary disposition.

How does death reporting work in NYC?

- Any death that occurs in New York City must be reported to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene within 24 hours of the time of death by a medical professional.
- Most deaths in NYC occur in hospitals or other medical facilities, but about 25% occur at home each year.
- Whether at home or in a hospital, these are the key parties involved:
 - **The decedent's medical provider**, including licensed medical doctors (MD), doctors of osteopathy (DO), or physician assistants (PA), report the decedent's **fact of death** and **cause of death** (COD) to the NYC Health Department.
 - **The funeral director** — or in absence of the funeral director, the medical facility — reports the decedent's **personal information** (for example, date of birth, usual residence address, occupation) and **disposition** (burial/cremation/interim) to the NYC Health Department.
 - The **NYC Health Department** registers the death.
 - The **NYC Health Department** issues a death certificate **upon the request** of either the reporting **funeral director** or an **entitled party** (for example, a spouse, domestic partner, informant, or person in control of the disposition).

Questions about ordering an NYC death certificate?

- Visit www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/death-certificates.page, call **347-396-7962**, or email nycdohvr@health.nyc.gov.
- Chat with a live operator at dohchat.dirad.com/chat, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Funeral directors should continue to contact the Burial Desk: **212-788-4545**