



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**Committee Bill No. 5421**

LCO No. 5077



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT EXEMPTING DEATH CERTIFICATES OF MINORS FROM  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE FOR A SIX-MONTH PERIOD.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) The Department of  
2 Public Health and registrars of vital statistics shall restrict access to and  
3 issuance of a certified or uncertified copy of the death certificate of a  
4 minor who was under eighteen years of age at the time of death until  
5 six months after the date of such minor's death to the following eligible  
6 parties: (1) Such minor's spouse, parent, guardian and grandparent;  
7 and (2) agents of a state or federal agency as approved by the  
8 department. Any such certified or uncertified copy of the death  
9 certificate shall not be subject to disclosure under the provisions of  
10 chapter 14 of the general statutes during such six-month period. After  
11 such six-month period has elapsed, the provisions of section 7-51a of  
12 the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall apply. The  
13 provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply to fetal death  
14 records.

15 Sec. 2. Section 7-51a of the general statutes is repealed and the

16 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

17 (a) Any person eighteen years of age or older may purchase certified  
18 copies of marriage and death records, and certified copies of records of  
19 births or fetal deaths which are at least one hundred years old, in the  
20 custody of any registrar of vital statistics. [The] Except as provided in  
21 section 1 of this act, the department may issue uncertified copies of  
22 death certificates for deaths occurring less than one hundred years ago,  
23 and uncertified copies of birth, marriage, death and fetal death  
24 certificates for births, marriages, deaths and fetal deaths that occurred  
25 at least one hundred years ago, to researchers approved by the  
26 department pursuant to section 19a-25, and to state and federal  
27 agencies approved by the department. During all normal business  
28 hours, members of genealogical societies incorporated or authorized  
29 by the Secretary of the State to do business or conduct affairs in this  
30 state shall (1) have full access to all vital records in the custody of any  
31 registrar of vital statistics, including certificates, ledgers, record books,  
32 card files, indexes and database printouts, except for those records  
33 containing Social Security numbers protected pursuant to 42 USC 405  
34 (c)(2)(C), [and] confidential files on adoptions, gender change,  
35 gestational agreements and paternity and death certificates of a minor  
36 that are less than six months old, protected pursuant to section 1 of this  
37 act, (2) be permitted to make notes from such records, (3) be permitted  
38 to purchase certified copies of such records, and (4) be permitted to  
39 incorporate statistics derived from such records in the publications of  
40 such genealogical societies. For all vital records containing Social  
41 Security numbers that are protected from disclosure pursuant to  
42 federal law, the Social Security numbers contained on such records  
43 shall be redacted from any certified copy of such records issued to a  
44 genealogist by a registrar of vital statistics.

45 (b) For marriage and civil union licenses, the Social Security  
46 numbers of the parties to the marriage or civil union shall be recorded  
47 in the "administrative purposes" section of the marriage or civil union  
48 license and the application for such license. All persons specified on

49 the license, including the parties to the marriage or civil union,  
50 officiator and local registrar shall have access to the Social Security  
51 numbers specified on the marriage or civil union license and the  
52 application for such license for the purpose of processing the license.  
53 Only the parties to a marriage or civil union, or entities authorized by  
54 state or federal law, may receive a certified copy of a marriage or civil  
55 union license with the Social Security numbers included on the license.  
56 Any other individual, researcher or state or federal agency requesting  
57 a certified or uncertified copy of any marriage or civil union license in  
58 accordance with the provisions of this section shall be provided such  
59 copy with such Social Security numbers removed or redacted, or with  
60 the "administrative purposes" section omitted.

61 (c) For deaths occurring after December 31, 2001, the Social Security  
62 number, occupation, business or industry, race, Hispanic origin if  
63 applicable, and educational level of the deceased person, if known,  
64 shall be recorded in the "administrative purposes" section of the death  
65 certificate. All parties specified on the certificate, including the  
66 informant, licensed funeral director, licensed embalmer, conservator,  
67 surviving spouse, physician and town clerk, shall have access to the  
68 Social Security numbers of the decedent as well as other information  
69 contained in the "administrative purposes" section specified on the  
70 original death certificate for the purpose of processing the certificate.  
71 For any death occurring after July 1, 1997, only the surviving spouse,  
72 next of kin or state and federal agencies authorized by federal law may  
73 receive a certified copy of a death certificate with the decedent's Social  
74 Security number or the complete "administrative purposes" section  
75 included on the certificate. [Any] Except as provided in section 1 of  
76 this act, any researcher requesting a death certificate for a death  
77 occurring after July 1, 1997, may obtain the information included in the  
78 "administrative purposes" section of such certificate, [except that]  
79 provided the decedent's Social Security number shall be redacted.

80 (d) The registrar of vital statistics of any town or city in this state  
81 that has access to an electronic vital records system, as authorized by

82 the department, may use such system to issue certified copies of birth,  
83 death, fetal death or marriage certificates that are electronically filed in  
84 such system.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2013	7-51a

**Statement of Purpose:**

To restrict access to the death certificate of a minor for a period of six months after the death of such minor.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. CARTER, 2nd Dist.; REP. KUPCHICK, 132nd Dist.  
REP. BOLINSKY, 106th Dist.

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