



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5733**

January Session, 2013



**AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO DEATH CERTIFICATES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-51a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) Any person eighteen years of age or older may purchase (1)  
4 certified copies of marriage [and death] records, and (2) certified  
5 copies of death records and records of births or fetal deaths [which]  
6 that are at least one hundred years old, in the custody of any registrar  
7 of vital statistics. The department may issue [uncertified copies of  
8 death certificates for deaths occurring less than one hundred years ago,  
9 and] uncertified copies of birth, marriage, death and fetal death  
10 certificates for births, marriages, deaths and fetal deaths that occurred  
11 at least one hundred years [ago] prior to the date of issuance, to  
12 researchers approved by the department pursuant to section 19a-25,  
13 and to state and federal agencies approved by the department. During  
14 all normal business hours, members of genealogical societies  
15 incorporated or authorized by the Secretary of the State to do business  
16 or conduct affairs in this state shall [(1)] (A) have full access to all vital  
17 records in the custody of any registrar of vital statistics, including  
18 certificates, ledgers, record books, card files, indexes and database  
19 printouts, except for those records containing Social Security numbers  
20 protected pursuant to 42 USC 405 (c)(2)(C), and confidential files on

21 adoptions, gender change, gestational agreements and paternity, [(2)]  
22 (B) be permitted to make notes from such records, [(3)] (C) be  
23 permitted to purchase certified copies of such records, and [(4)] (D) be  
24 permitted to incorporate statistics derived from such records in the  
25 publications of such genealogical societies. For all vital records  
26 containing Social Security numbers that are protected from disclosure  
27 pursuant to federal law, the Social Security numbers contained on such  
28 records shall be redacted from any certified copy of such records  
29 issued to a genealogist by a registrar of vital statistics.

30 (b) For marriage and civil union licenses, the Social Security  
31 numbers of the parties to the marriage or civil union shall be recorded  
32 in the "administrative purposes" section of the marriage or civil union  
33 license and the application for such license. All persons specified on  
34 the license, including the parties to the marriage or civil union,  
35 officiator and local registrar shall have access to the Social Security  
36 numbers specified on the marriage or civil union license and the  
37 application for such license for the purpose of processing the license.  
38 Only the parties to a marriage or civil union, or entities authorized by  
39 state or federal law, may receive a certified copy of a marriage or civil  
40 union license with the Social Security numbers included on the license.  
41 Any other individual, researcher or state or federal agency requesting  
42 a certified or uncertified copy of any marriage or civil union license in  
43 accordance with the provisions of this section shall be provided such  
44 copy with such Social Security numbers removed or redacted, or with  
45 the "administrative purposes" section omitted.

46 (c) (1) For deaths occurring after December 31, 2001, the Social  
47 Security number, occupation, business or industry, race, Hispanic  
48 origin if applicable, and educational level of the deceased person, if  
49 known, shall be recorded in the "administrative purposes" section of  
50 the death certificate. All parties specified on the certificate, including  
51 the informant, licensed funeral director, licensed embalmer,  
52 conservator, surviving spouse, physician and town clerk, shall have  
53 access to the Social Security numbers of the decedent as well as other

54 information contained in the "administrative purposes" section  
55 specified on the original death certificate for the purpose of processing  
56 the certificate.

57 (2) For any death occurring after July 1, 1997, only the surviving  
58 spouse, next of kin or state and federal agencies authorized by federal  
59 law may receive a certified copy of a death certificate with the  
60 decedent's Social Security number or the complete "administrative  
61 purposes" section included on the certificate. Any researcher  
62 requesting a death certificate for a death occurring after July 1, 1997,  
63 may obtain the information included in the "administrative purposes"  
64 section of such certificate, except that the decedent's Social Security  
65 number shall be redacted.

66 (3) For any death occurring less than one hundred years prior to the  
67 date of a request for a copy of a death certificate pursuant to this  
68 subsection, the registrar of vital statistics of the town in which the  
69 death occurred, the registrar of vital statistics of the town of residence  
70 of the decedent or the Department of Public Health, upon request of a  
71 person, other than a person listed in subdivision (1) or (2) of this  
72 subsection or any other person who demonstrates that information  
73 contained in the death certificate is needed for the determination or  
74 protection of a personal or property right, shall issue a certificate of  
75 death registration that shall contain the name, gender, date of death of  
76 the decedent, cause of death and the town in which the death occurred  
77 and such person shall not have access to any other information  
78 contained in the death certificate.

79 (d) The registrar of vital statistics of any town or city in this state  
80 that has access to an electronic vital records system, as authorized by  
81 the department, may use such system to issue certified copies of birth,  
82 death, fetal death or marriage certificates, or certificates of death  
83 registration that are electronically filed in such system.

84 Sec. 2. Section 7-74 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
85 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

86 (a) The fee for a certification of birth registration, short form, shall  
87 be fifteen dollars. The fee for a certified copy of a certificate of birth,  
88 long form, shall be twenty dollars, except that the fee for such  
89 certifications and copies when issued by the department shall be thirty  
90 dollars.

91 (b) The fee for a certified copy of a certificate of marriage or death  
92 shall be twenty dollars. The fee for a certificate of death registration  
93 shall be fifteen dollars. Such fees shall not be required of the  
94 department.

95 (c) The fee for one certified copy of a certificate of death for any  
96 deceased person who was a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of  
97 section 27-103, shall be waived when such copy is requested by a  
98 spouse, child or parent of such deceased veteran.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	7-51a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	7-74

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*