Death certificate processing and data sharing

Presentation to State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee Laura Williamson, MPH
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Agenda

- Overview of the process for reporting and maintaining death certificate information.
- Sharing of death certificate data with state and county election officials.



Process for filing and sharing death certificate information

1. Death occurs in Montana

2. Death certified

Within 3 days of notification of death

Certification of date, time, place, and cause of death

Completed by a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or coroner

3. Death certificate filed with local registrar

Within 10 days of notification of death

Certificate filed by the person in charge of the final disposition of the body

Typically completed by a funeral home.

4. Vital Event Registration System (VERS)

Death certificates are filed using VERS

Local registrar and DPHHS Office of Vital Records have *real-time* access to this system

5. DPHHS

Exchange data with
National Center for Health
Statistics

Receive/send data with other states, including MT residents who die in another state

6. Share official death lists

MT Secretary of State (weekly)

Local election officials (quarterly)

Includes all deaths among MT residents aged 18 years or older at time of death; includes deaths that occurred in MT or outside of MT (i.e., out of state or out of country).

List contains: full name, date of birth, date of death, social security number, mother's maiden name, state of birth, state of death

DPHHS PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Montana Code Annotated 50-15-403; 50-15-409 Administrative Rules of Montana 37.8.801