

How Many Death Certificates Are Needed?

You will need to show an original death certificate. The following may take a photocopy:

- Social Security (Funeral Home informs Social Security)
- Bank accounts (Local)
- Motor Vehicle Licensing
- Credit Cards (fax them and keep the fax confirmation sheet for your records)
- Puget Sound Energy (fax them and keep the fax confirmation sheet for your records)
- Cellular Phone Accounts (fax them and keep the fax confirmation sheet for your records)
- Filing a will with the local courthouse.

You will probably have to give these agencies an original copy of death certificate.

- 401K (Held by a stockbroker-the stockbroker should be able to handle multiple sales with one death certificate)
- Any stock certificates held in note form, not held in trust.
- Retirement Pension - State
- Retirement Company Pension Plan
- Military benefits (Free VA copy is issued specifically for VA Benefits)
- Life Insurance policies (Life insurance policies will require an original and death certificate won't be returned)
- Some mortgages are life insured.
- Some vehicle are insured for their payments
- Out of state property transfer, vehicles, RVs, Houses etc.
- Closing out of state bank accounts
- When someone has a rental storage space it is often required to give them an original for their records.
- Closing a corporation, LLC etc
- For each child under the age of 18, we recommend having a death certificate for that child, there are many reasons why they will require a death certificate in the future, as an example, universities offer assistance to orphaned children.
- When forwarding human remains to another country, many consulates require an original for their records.
- When burying or scattering ashes in some states, an original death certificate is required by the cemetery or scattering service (Washington state does not) As a rule of thumb, anytime you will be getting funds back, you will in most cases require an original death certificate.