



How many Death Certificates are needed?

You will need to show an original death certificate, they will make a photocopy, and they should return the original to you.

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

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

- q **401K (Held by a stockbroker-the stockbroker should be able to handle multiple sales with one death certificate)**
- q **Any stock certificates held in note form, not held in trust.**
- q **Retirement Pension - State**
- q **Retirement Company Pension Plan**
- q **Military benefits (Free VA copy is issued specifically for VA Benefits)**
- q **Life Insurance policies (Life insurance policies will require an original and death certificate won't be returned)**
- q **Some mortgages are life insured.**
- q **Some vehicle are insured for their payments**
- q **Out of state property transfer, vehicles, RVs, Houses etc.**
- q **Closing out of state bank accounts**
- q **When someone has a rental storage space it is often required to give them an original for their records.**
- q **Closing a corporation, LLC etc**
- q **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.**
- q **When forwarding human remains to another country, many consulates require an original for their records.**
- q **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.