



**Service Nova Scotia  
and Municipal Relations**

**Vital Statistics**  
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Deputy Registrar General  
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Secretary: (902) 450-3993  
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Dear Colleague:

This package is coming to you because you participate in the registration of deaths that occur in Nova Scotia. Please find enclosed the new Medical Certificate of Death (MCD) form. These forms are a result of the implementation of the new Electronic Death Registration system. The forms are to be used by physicians, nurse practitioners and medical examiners to certify the death and determine the cause of death. Funeral Directors will still be required to obtain a signed copy of this form prior to removing the remains to begin preparations.

Here are some **Q & A's** you might find helpful:

***What is the Electronic Death Registration system and what are the benefits?***

The Electronic Death Registration system will allow Funeral Directors to electronically submit the demographic information currently collected and submitted to Vital Statistics on paper. The Medical Certificate of Death (MCD) completed by physicians and nurse practitioners will *remain in paper format* for now. Electronically registering death information will help improve the accuracy of data and timeliness of service and should reduce the amount of follow-up required by Vital Statistic's staff. For Funeral Directors it should lessen time spent filling out paper work.

***Why the new Medical Certificate of Death (MCD) form?***

It was necessary to separate the Registration of Death form from the Medical Certificate of Death form. The electronic death registration system only includes demographic data collected by funeral homes from families of the deceased. The MCD portion that is filled in by physicians, nurse practitioners and medical examiners remain in paper form but is now a separate standalone form. New copies are attached.

***What has changed on the MCD?***

The information pertaining to the certification and cause of death remain almost exactly the same. Since the form is separate from the demographic information collected by the Funeral Director, some demographic information was added to the MCD to ensure clear identification and any information required for approval for cremation from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. This information is found in the top tab of the form and may be added to by the Funeral Director.

***When should I start using the new forms?***

Please recycle your old forms and start using these forms immediately.

Please forward this information along to appropriate staff. **If you have any questions contact Shyla Johnson at 902 450 3978 or [johnsosa@gov.ns.ca](mailto:johnsosa@gov.ns.ca).**

**If you need to order additional forms, please feel free to contact the Secretary at Vital Statistics, Lisa Finney, by emailing [NSVSREG@gov.ns.ca](mailto:NSVSREG@gov.ns.ca)**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle MacFarlane".

Michelle MacFarlane

Deputy Registrar General / Director  
Vital Statistics, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations