

INFORMATION GUIDE



THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE YOU SHOULD CONSULT AN ATTORNEY ABOUT LEGAL QUESTIONS

OREGONIAN OBITUARY POLICY

The news department will accept information on its standard obituary form submitted by funeral homes or by the deceased's immediate family via online submission to: <http://biz.oregonian.com/classifiedads/?sec=39&tert=0>. A notice, two column inches or less, is \$50. The Obituary desk can be reached at: Phone - 503-294-5058 or Fax - 503-294-5059. For Gresham Residents—As of August 2011, The Gresham Outlook still prints their obituaries for free. www.theoutlookonline.com

Death Certificates

Family members receive certified copies of the original death certificate that are generated by the county the death occurs in.

Oregon - Certified Copies of the Death Certificate Charges:

A one-time State Filing Fee for filing the original Death Certificate with the State - \$20.00
1st certified copy - \$20.00; additional certified copies within the same order \$15.00 each.

If you want to order more copies yourself in one of these counties, you can call:

Multnomah County - 503-988-3745

Clackamas County - 503-655-8405

Washington County - 503-640-3538

Washington - Certified Copies of Death Certificate—All copies are \$20.00 each

If you wish to order more copies yourself for Clark County, you can call Southwest Health Department Vital Records - 360-397-8092

CERTIFIED COPIES ARE USED FOR:

Life insurance policies: 1 for each policy

Real Estate: 1 for each deeded piece of property

Banks: They want to see a certified copy then they will perform the requested transaction.

Bank Loans & Installment Contracts: Call to see if they were insured for death benefits.

Credit Cards: Call and cancel them, and check to see if there were any death benefits. Most miles are transferrable.

Department of Motor Vehicles: Will want to see a certified copy to do any transactions.

Stocks & Investments: Call your broker or the company you are dealing with and find out what they will require to access funds or change ownership of funds.

Unions: They will want a certified copy, they may return it after they have completed any paperwork relating to any death benefits claims.

Attorneys: They will want one or more if you have a trust, or other legal issues.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS:

Your funeral director **NOTIFIES SOCIAL SECURITY** of the death of your family member as part of their services to you.

WHO CAN GET SURVIVORS BENEFITS?

Here is a list of family members who usually can get benefits:

- Widows and widowers age 60 or older
- Widows and widowers at any age if caring for the deceased's child(ren) who are under age 16 or disabled
- Divorced wives and husbands age 60 or older, if married to the deceased 10 years or more
- Widows, widowers, divorced spouses age 50 or older, if they are disabled
- Children up to age 18
- Children age 18-19 if they attend elementary or high school full time
- Children over age 18, if they became disabled before age 22
- The deceased worker's parents age 62 or older, if they were being supported by the worker

A SPECIAL ONE-TIME PAYMENT

In addition to the monthly benefits for family members, a one-time payment of \$255 can be paid to *a spouse who is living with the worker at the time of death*. If there is none, it can be paid to *a spouse who is eligible for benefits* or *a child or children eligible for benefits*. **This payment cannot be made if there is no eligible spouse or child.** See Form SSA-721 for more details at <http://www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-721.pdf>

HOW TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS

If you aren't getting Social Security benefits, you can apply for benefits by telephone or by going to any Social Security office. You may need some additional documents, but *don't delay your application* because you don't have all the information. If you don't have a document you need, Social Security can help you get it. **Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213**

VA BURIAL ALLOWANCES

If you *qualify* and choose to be buried at Willamette National Cemetery, the VA will provide the following benefits at no cost to the family:

- Burial plot
- Headstone and/or marker
- Burial flag
- Military honors

If you are interred at another cemetery and have a non-service related death, the VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot interment allowance. If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted home care, some or all of the costs for transporting may be reimbursed.

Your funeral director will help with processing VA form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- The veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable AND
- You paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, AND
- You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer.

For more information contact the VA at **1-800-827-1000**

OR

www.cem.va.gov



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