

## **Certified Copies of the Death Certificate How Many Do I need?**

1. **Social Security** is one of the agencies that may ask to see a Certified copy when filing for benefits, but in most cases will make a copy for their records and then may return the original to you, if you go to their office.
2. **Home and real property** in the name of the deceased. If there are no immediate plans to sell the property you may wish to record the death at the county assessor's office. They will ask for a copy, but in most cases will return the original if you go to their office.
3. When **changing or closing bank accounts**, banks may ask to see a certified copy but in most cases will make a copy and return the original. If you have to mail the copy to the bank you will not get it returned. Out of town banks may create this issue of needing to provide a Certified copy.
4. **Safety deposit boxes** are the same as the bank. Change of ownership on the box is a reason for having a certified copy.
5. **Dept. of Motor Vehicles** may ask to see just a copy. They normally do not want an original to keep.
6. **Stocks and Bonds** may require a Certified copy to transfer a hold on documents. You may find that you need one for each different bond or stock. If they are held electronically at a brokerage firm they normally need one Certified for the entire portfolio but most often do not give it back.
7. **Veterans Administration** will need a copy if benefits are being applied for. Some states provide a free copy for this purpose to

the family of the Veteran. There are Veterans service offices in most communities.

8. 95% of **insurance companies** require a Certified copy if you are filing for insurance benefits.
9. **Unions** most often require a Certified if you are claiming any type of union benefits.
10. **Internal Revenue Service** will need only a copy, not a Certified copy, when you file the last tax return.

**Calculate Number Needed:**

	Social Security (if mailing for benefits)
	Real Estate (if mailing to assessor)
	Bank Accounts (if mailing to a bank)
	Safety Deposit Box (if changing ownership)
	Dept. of Motor Vehicles (if mailing)
	Stocks and Bonds (transfer ownership of each held or each portfolio)
	Veterans Administration
	Insurance Companies
	Unions (if mailing for benefits)
	Personal Use (to copy for IRS or other legal purposes)
	Total