

Electronic Death Registration

Changes for Out-of-State Transports

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) has received a State's Attorney General opinion which will require some changes to the process associated with the investigations and permits for the transportation of bodies out of state. (AG Opinion 2011-21)

OCME is required to investigate the "death of person whose bodies are to be cremated, buried at sea, transported out of the state, or otherwise made ultimately unavailable for pathological study." (63 OS 938B). The Chief Medical Examiner is authorized to receive compensation for such services and the fee for the investigation of out-of-state transports is \$100. [OAC 445:10-11(2)(D)(iii)]

If the body is to be transported by common carrier within Oklahoma or to any point outside of the state, the burial-transit permit should be obtained from the State Registrar. "No railroad or other common carrier shall

receive for shipment to any point within the state or to any point outside the state the body of a deceased person unless there is attached to the shipping case, in a strong envelope, a burial-transit permit duly issued and signed by the local registrar of the district in which the death occurred or the body was found." (63 OS 101)

The resulting new process took effect January 1, 2012:

- On Tab 10 in ROVER, funeral home selects "Refer to ME for Transport Permit" from the drop down.
- Funeral home faxes the worksheet to OCME.
- OCME grants the permit and faxes the "Release of Jurisdiction for Out of State Transport" to funeral home.
- Funeral home faxes the "Release of Jurisdiction for Out of State Transport" with the Medical Examiner's signature to OSDH at 405.271.2899.
- OSDH faxes the "Transportation by Common Carrier

Application" to the funeral home.

- Funeral home completes the "Transportation by Common Carrier Application" and faxes it back to OSDH at 405.271.2899.
- OSDH Vital Records reviews the Application and then faxes to the funeral home the "Release of Jurisdiction for Out of State Transport" with the State Registrar's signature added to the bottom.
- Attach the completed permit to the shipping case.

Copies of the "Transportation by Common Carrier Application" will be also available at <http://vrforms.health.ok.gov>.



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E-mails are preferred

A New Information Tool Using Barcodes

You may have seen these funny looking squares in your local newspaper, home and garden store or other places. If you have a smart phone with a camera, these Quick Response (QR) barcodes can open websites for information on a given subject.

Using App Store, or however you access new apps, you can

search for "QR" and you should find a free app. Once you have downloaded that to your smart phone, just open it whenever you see one of these squares and point your camera at it. It's just that easy. We have provided one here for you to play with. Let us know what you think.



ROVER System Requirements

For the system to run at optimal performance, your computer should have the following features:

- Internet Explorer 6.0 or later
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Laser Printer
- Broadband Internet Connection



Center for Health Statistics



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We Collect, Analyze, and Disseminate
Health Statistics to Help Create a State of
Health.

Oklahoma Hospital Association Annual Convention and Trade Show

The Oklahoma Hospital Association (OHA) Annual Convention and Trade Show was held at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City on November 30th thru December 2nd. The Trade Show was on Thursday, December 1st. More than 160 exhibit booths featured products and services for the health care industry. The Vital Record Division manned one of these booths to promote the benefits of ROVER for completing vital records. We also promoted ourselves as a resource to help vital records participants accurately complete their records and submit them for registration in a timely manner. Sherrie Thrower was our representative. She reported receiving a lot of attention from the health care community and an eagerness to use ROVER when we can make it available to them.

ROVER Rollout “Roles On”

ROVER implementation is proceeding well. We continue to push forward with our efforts to install funeral homes onto the ROVER system. At the time of this newsletter, we have installed the Oklahoma City Metro, the southwest quadrant of the state, have almost finished the southeast, and will soon be headed to the Tulsa Metro. We’ve travelled so much in the past nine months, we’ve begun to “see things.” Check out the picture below taken by Jan in the far southwest corner of the state.

We have 201 funeral homes and 340 users on the system, almost one-half of the industry. This was accomplished over a period of six months by two people; Jan Bohannon and Sherrie Thrower. They have done such an outstanding job that words can’t begin to express. If they haven’t come to see you yet, just wait! They will be there as soon as they can. We thank you all for your patience, professionalism, and hospitality.

Please Send Us Your E-mail Address

To be as efficient and inclusive as possible with our mass communications, we are collecting as many e-mail addresses as we can. Please send your e-mail address to AskROVER@health.ok.gov. Also, please let us know if the e-mail address we may have for you needs changing or updating. Thank you.

Possible Scam Alert for Social Security Numbers

A funeral home recently told us that they received a suspicious phone call from an unidentified person claiming to be with the local Social Security Office. The caller asked if the funeral home was using ROVER to register death certificates. The funeral home employee said “yes.” The caller then said that the Social Security verification had failed for a particular decedent and that she needed to verify the number.

The funeral home employee felt uncomfortable with this request. She said she would have to retrieve that information and asked for a phone number for a return call. The caller then

said “oh, that’s okay” and hung up. It should be noted that the caller did not offer a Social Security Number to be verified.

We called the Social Security Administration in Oklahoma City to discuss this incident. They confirmed that this appeared to be a phishing incident. If they contact a funeral home about a death report, they would have specific information to be confirmed. They would give a name and number for a return call or confirmation. Any information they need could be faxed to them. There is NEVER a reason to give Social Security Numbers over the phone to someone you cannot identify.

OSDH is on the
web at
www.health.ok.gov



UFO? Or a “worthless little thing” on the windshield? Hmmm . . .