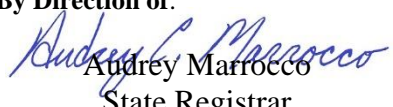


STATE REGISTRAR NOTICE

Subject: Reporting of Presumed Deaths	Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Transitory	Number: <p style="text-align: center;">2022-02</p>
Date Issued: <p style="text-align: center;">June 2, 2022</p>	Audience: All Death Reporters PA County Government: Register of Wills & Prothonotary Offices	By Direction of:  Audrey Marrocco State Registrar

This State Registrar Notice is being issued to established guidance and requirements surrounding the creation of a death record for a presumed decedent.

[Decree of Death for a Presumed Decedent](#)

The State Registrar may create a death record for a presumed decedent upon receipt of a decree of presumptive death in accordance with 20 Pa.C.S. § 5701 (relating to proof of death).

The State Registrar will record the following information directly from the decree of presumptive death to the presumed decedent's death record:

- Decedent's Legal Name (first, middle, last, suffix)
- Decedent's Alias(es), if applicable
- Date of death (as determined by the court)
- Sex (male or female)
- Social Security Number
- Age as of last birthday
- Date of Birth (Month, Day and Year)
- Residence Address
- Veteran's Status - Was the presumed decedent ever in the U.S. Armed Forces? (Yes, No, or Unknown)
- Marital Status (Married, Widowed, Divorced, Never Married, or Unknown)
- Surviving Spouse's Name Prior to First Marriage

If any of the above information is not included in the decree of presumptive death, then the State Registrar will register the missing information as "Not Reported" if applicable.

Any changes to demographic data recorded from a decree of presumptive death may only be made upon the receipt of an amended decree of presumptive death from the court that issued the original decree.

[Additional Demographic Data on the Presumed Decedent](#)

A surviving spouse or next of kin may act as the informant by providing the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries (BHSR) with additional demographic data for the presumed decedent. The informant shall complete a [“Report of Demographic Information for a Presumed Decedent”](#) form to request additional demographic data be included in the presumed decedent’s death record.

The informant should submit the [“Report of Demographic Information for a Presumed Decedent”](#) along with a certified copy of the decree of presumed death directly to the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries (BHSR).

[Registering the Death of a Presumed Decedent](#)

The State Registrar will mark or flag the record of a presumed decedent as “Presumptive”. The cause of death field will include the following:

- The statement: “PRESUMPTIVE – FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 20 PA.C.S. § 5701”
- The identity of the court that issued the decree of presumptive death
- The date of the decree

The State Registrar will not register the death of a presumed decedent which is submitted under a “Report of Death” (H105.143) or a death submitted through Pennsylvania’s Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).

[Voiding of Death Records for a Presumed Decedent](#)

The State Registrar may void the death record of a presumed decedent under the following circumstances:

- A court has revoked the decree of presumed death.
- BHSR has determined through research of its official death records that the presumed decedent’s actual death has been reported under a “Report of Death” or through EDRS.
- The presumed decedent’s remains were reported to BHSR under a “Report of Death” or through EDRS as an unidentified decedent (i.e., a Jane/John Doe). Then through scientific test results (such as DNA or dental results), the identity of the unidentified decedent has been matched to the presumed decedent. See [SRN 2022-01, Reporting a Death of an Unidentified Decedent](#) for more information on amending a death record of an unidentified decedent.

[Death Certificates](#)

Individuals requesting death certificates for a presumed decedent must apply by submitting an [“Application for a Death Certificate”](#) or may order online at <https://mycertificates.health.pa.gov/>.

Contact Information:

Vital Events Consumer Hotline
Phone: 724-656-3100

State Registrar Notice
2022-02