

Submitter: Steve Gleason  
On Behalf Of: HB3127  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3127

TO Oregon State Legislature Testimony HB 3127  
From Steve Gleason, Omega Funeral & Cremation Service.

January 24, 2025

In this day and age, time is money. In the funeral business this is true as well. But further, when you are grieving, time is frustration and undo stress for the family. Utilizing the electronic death reporting system is efficient and most times, fast.

The funeral home prepares the death certificate online in the Electronic Death Reporting system and then makes it available for the doctor to sign. If the doctor is not currently signed up to sign electronically, it falls on the funeral home to transmit a single original paper copy to the doctor. This is costly for the funeral home.

Often the doctor's office is not close to the funeral home to easily drive to and drop it off, and as well drive to pick it up from the doctor's office after the doctor has signed it. This is a cost to the funeral home of fuel, and employee time to expedite getting the death certificate completed so it can be registered.

The electronic system information is in there and the doctor can sign at the same time the director can be updating the record with family information, an easy simultaneous task. When a drop to paper copy must be generated and sent to the doctor with all the information entered prior to creating the drop to paper document that goes to the doctor, waiting for family to get back to the director before sending it to the doctor. All that takes time.

Mandating Oregon Physicians to sign electronically will speed up the process for directors and families to get a certified copy of the death certificate, to facilitate family business. Many times, family has to wait on a death certificate to get access to an apartment or residence, or bank account.

When doctors refuse to sign electronically it causes stress for the family and extra work and expense for the funeral home. When the electronic system first started funeral directors were reluctant to use it at first, but then once signed up and into the system realized it was more efficient and actually easier. "Signing up" for a doctor is relatively easy.

I can say that being a funeral home bordering a state that has mandated all doctors

sign electronically, has cut our travel time, fuel and personnel in completing death certificates in that state. It is now an easier process; more streamline and family get their death certificates in some cases at least a week earlier to the family. This is huge to a grieving out of state family member waiting for a death certificate to get into a residence and wrap up legal matters so they can get back home.

I have heard the Oregon physician's oath is a modern version of the Hippocratic oath that emphasizes the importance of patient care. This care should not cease if the patient has passed and should continue out of respect for the family left to deal with the death.

Please, Please, Please mandate all doctors sign electronically in the EDRS System so we can better serve our grieving families.

Sincerely,

Steve Gleason

Executive Assistant, Omega Funeral & Cremation Service.