

Registry of Vital Record and Statistics: Interim Legitimate Need for the SSN in a Record of Death and Evidence Guide

In effect from July 1, 2026 until promulgation of 105 CMR 304

Obtaining a Death Certificate with a full Social Security number (SSN)

Persons with a legitimate need for the SSN in a record of death include the individuals listed below who are at least 18 years of age or an adjudicated emancipated minor, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence and with a Valid Identification to verify self.

Persons with a Legitimate Need for the SSN in a record of death

Persons with Legitimate Need	Evidence Needed
Spouse/Domestic Partner	Copy of your marriage certificate or registered domestic partnership listing the decedent
Parent	A copy of your child's birth certificate listing you as the parent of the decedent
Legal Guardian	An original certified copy of your court appointment
Child	A copy of your birth certificate listing the decedent as your parent
Grandchild	A copy of your birth certificate and your parent's birth certificate that lists the decedent as their parent
Grandparent	A copy of your child's birth certificate that lists them as the parent and the deceased grandchild's birth certificate listing their child as the parent of the decedent
Sibling	A copy of your birth certificate that lists at least one common parent with the decedent and parents listed on the death record
Informant	Must be listed on the death record as the informant
Funeral Director	Licensed in accordance with M.G.L c.112 & 83 who is listed on the death record
Legal Conservator	An original certified copy of your court appointment representing the decedent's estate
Legal Representative	An original or notarized copy of your employment representing the decedent's estate by the client and your bar card
Government Official	Agency photo ID; to fulfill an official government function
Person Identified through a Court Order	An original certified copy of your court document stating access to the record with full SSN
Any other person with a direct tangible interest in the estate of the decedent	At the discretion of the Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics or the local clerk where the death occurred

Evidence needed to verify self

Valid Identification List A- One Document Required (Cannot be Expired)	Valid Identification List B- Two documents Required (If document from List A cannot be obtained)
Driver's License	2 Consecutive Utility Bills
Government Issued Photo Identification Card	Social Security Card
Passport	Pay Stub
Military Identification Card	W-2 Form
	Insurance Card
	School Identification Card
	Bank Statement
	Expired Government Issued Photo ID up to 2 years
	Inmate ID (Inmate Paperwork)
	State-Issued Benefits Card (SNAP/welfare)

Note: Death records may be requested and accessed by any individual, but the SSN must be redacted unless there is a verified legitimate need.