



How Many Copies of a Death Certificate Do You Need?

Some accounts, like social security, credit cards (via fax or scan), cell phone providers, DMV and some bank accounts will not require an actual certified copy on hand. Bring them the certified copy, and a photocopy they make themselves will suffice.

Establishments that will most likely retain a certified copy of a death certificate for their records:

- Life insurance and health insurance companies
- Stock certificates, bonds, treasury bills, certificates of deposit and money market accounts
- 401ks, retirement plans, IRAs and pensions
- Military benefits
- Out of state bank accounts
- Rental storage
- Transfer of human remains (also the scattering of ashes in some states)
- Title transfer of ownership of real estate and all motor vehicles
- Burial and Funeral insurance
- Federal and state tax returns