

## Virginia "Dropped to Paper" Death Certificate Timeline for Home Funeral Families

(1) Death occurs in Virginia

(2) Decedent is retained in the home or transported home (no permit required)

(3) Medical certifier completes medical portion of death certificate, including cause of death, **within 24 hours** and returns it to the next-of-kin or non-EDRS user

(4) Next-of-kin or non-EDRS user uses black ink to complete personal data/demographic section of death certificate

(5) Next-of-kin or non-EDRS user files completed and signed death certificate with registrar in local office of the Virginia Department of Health

(6) The local health department fills out the registration number, assigns a certificate number, signs and dates the certificate

(7) The local health department sends a copy of the death certificate to the Division of Vital Records

(8) Vital Records completes the electronic filing in EDRS, making certified copies of the death certificate available for \$12 each at local health departments and vital records offices

(9) An out-of-state transit permit is obtained from the registrar upon completion of the death certificate if needed for the body to leave the state

(11) Person in charge of cemetery or crematory (private property owner in the case of a home burial) signs and files the transit permit with local registrar

2023 Courtesy of *Virginia Funeral Resources & Education*. In Virginia, no one is required to purchase the services of a funeral director or funeral home. Families may conduct any or all tasks commonly performed by a funeral home (except embalming which is not required by Virginia law) and may bury on their own property if certain provisions are met. For families wanting to handle the paperwork associated with a death without reliance on a funeral director, these are the steps to follow. For more see [virginiafuneral.org](https://virginiafuneral.org)> How To> Complete Paperwork.