

STATE REGISTRAR NOTICE

<p>Subject:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Act 17 of 2017 Medical Certification by Physician Assistants</p>	<p>Number:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2017-02</p>
<p>Date Issued: September 5, 2017</p> <p>Date Effective: September 5, 2017</p>	<p>By Direction of:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Audrey C. Marrocco</i> Audrey Marrocco State Registrar</p>

On July 7, 2017, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 17 of 2017 which amends the Vital Statistics Law of 1953. This amendment authorizes physician assistants to medically certify a report of death or fetal death to the PA Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries (BHSR). Act 17 also places the same restrictions on physician assistants as placed on other medical certifiers on when they may not certify a report of a death or fetal death. To view Act 17 of 2017, please visit the [Pennsylvania General Assembly's website](#).

Death Event Reporting

On September 5, 2017, BHSR will update the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) to allow physician assistants to medically certify electronically reported death events. If your organization is using EDRS, this change will occur seamlessly for you.

If your organization is in the process of transitioning to EDRS and you would like to learn more about the benefits of using EDRS, please visit our [EDRS webpage](#). When visiting this page, view the educational resources and training opportunities that BHSR is providing to assist you in transitioning to electronic reporting. BHSR and the Department of Health are excited about the increased data quality and timeliness of public health reporting obtainable through the adoption of EDRS.

To register a physician assistant or other staff member for an EDRS account, please visit the “How to Register for an EDRS Account” section on our [EDRS webpage](#). This section is easily accessed by clicking on the title under Quick Links at the top of the webpage.

BHSR has notified several third-party software providers of this amendment to the Vital Statistics Law. If you are using a third-party software that generates a PA Certificate of Death (H105.143) reporting form, please call or email our EDRS Hotline to verify that we have informed your third-party software provider of this upcoming change.

For organizations that have not yet transitioned to EDRS, please use the attached PDF version of the Certificate of Death (H105.143, Rev. 09/2017) reporting form beginning on September 5, 2017. When using the PDF reporting form, you will find that the form allows you to type directly into form fields. After completing the PDF reporting form, the form must be printed and

then signed in permanent ink. Signing with a gel pen is highly discouraged due to the non-archival properties of the ink.

If you are unable to use the PDF file to complete the Certificate of Death reporting form, you may continue to complete the entire form in pen. Due to the minor modification on this revision to the reporting form, we will continue to accept the Certificate of Death (H105.143) reporting form revised on 10/2015.

Once you have exhausted your current supply of H105.143, you may print your own copies using the attached PDF or you may order a supply from us.

If you have any questions about death event reporting, please contact our EDRS Hotline.

Fetal Death Event Reporting

To report a fetal death event, please use the attached PDF version of the Certificate of Fetal Death (H105.024, Rev. 09/2017) reporting form beginning on September 5, 2017. When using the PDF reporting form, you will find that the form allows you to type directly into form fields. After completing the PDF reporting form, the form must be printed and then signed in permanent ink. Signing with a gel pen is highly discouraged due to the non-archival properties of the ink.

If you are unable to use the PDF file to complete the Certificate of Fetal Death reporting form, you may continue to complete the entire form in pen. Once you have exhausted your current supply of H105.024, you may print your own copies using the attached PDF or you may order copies from us.

The final acceptance date of the Certificate of Fetal Death reporting form (H105.024 Rev. 12/06) is December 31, 2017.

In addition to updating the form to include physician assistants as authorized medical certifiers, we have made other changes to the form including the elimination of the “Mother’s Single Race Self-Designation” field (previously question #25). All reporting entities are required to begin using the new version of the reporting form (H105.024 Rev. 09/2017) by January 1, 2018.

If you have any questions about fetal death event reporting, please contact our Birth Registry Unit.

Thank you for continued diligence in reporting vital events to the PA Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries.

Ordering Printed Copies of the Reporting Forms

To order printed copies of the Certificate of Death (H105.143, Rev. 9/2017) reporting form or Certificate of Fetal Death (H105.024, Rev. 9/2017) reporting form, please send an email to the Vital Records Supply Unit at ra-dh-DVRSupplies@pa.gov. Please include the following details in your email message:

- Contact name
- Phone number
- Shipping address
- Form name and number
- Quantity requested

Please note that we will continue to ship the pre-9/2017 versions of these forms until our Supply Unit has received updated forms. Please allow two to three weeks for processing and shipping.

Contact Information:

Death Reporting Assistance

EDRS Hotline

Phone: 800-323-9613

(Select “Deaths” from the main menu option)

Email: ra-dhDeathSupport@pa.gov

Fetal Death Reporting Assistance

Birth Registry Unit

Phone: 800-323-9613

(Select “Birth and Fetal Deaths” from the main menu option)

Email: ra-dhBirthReg@pa.gov

Reference:

Act 17 of 2017

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2017&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=B&billNbr=0424&pn=0440>

EDRS Webpage

www.doh.pa.gov/EDRS

Attachments:

Certificate of Death (H105.143, Rev. 09/2017) reporting form

Certificate of Fetal Death (H105.024, Rev. 09/2017) reporting form