


STATE REGISTRAR NOTICE

Subject: Funeral Home Applications for Death Certificates with Fees Waived for a Member of the U.S. Armed Forces	Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Transitory	Number: <p style="text-align: center;">2023-05</p>
Date Issued: <p style="text-align: center;">September 15, 2023</p> Date Effective: <p style="text-align: center;">October 1, 2023 <i>for documentation requirement</i></p>	Audience: <p style="text-align: center;">Funeral Directors</p>	By Direction of:  <p style="text-align: center;">Lisa Hasselbrook State Registrar</p>

The “Funeral Home Application for a Death Certificate” (HD02085F Rev 07/20) allows funeral directors to request death certificates with fees waived for a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Fees are waived in accordance with the [Vital Statistics Law of 1953](#), which states in part:

Section 807. Records: Fees for Copies.

(c) No fee shall be charged for certified copies of records or parts thereof furnished members of the armed forces of the United States and their dependents during their term of active service and after their death in service or honorable discharge therefrom.

Funeral directors may request a fee waiver under Section 807 for the following cases:

1. The decedent was a member of, or was honorably discharged from, the armed forces of the United States; or
2. The surviving spouse of the decedent is a current member of, or was honorably discharged from, the armed forces of the United States.

In each case, the funeral director shall complete the appropriate information in Part 4 of the application form, and shall also provide copies of documentation of the appropriate status for the decedent or surviving spouse. Documentation must be provided for all fee-waived applications beginning October 1, 2023.

- For current members of the armed forces, including National Guard and Reserves, provide a copy of the member’s military ID card.
- For honorable discharge statuses, provide DD Form 214, “Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.” Ensure the Character of Service indicates “Honorable.”

Contact Information:

Vital Events Stakeholder Hotline

Phone: 800-323-9613

Email: RA-DHVITALSTATISTICS@pa.gov

Reference

Before January 1, 1950, several similar forms were used by the military services, including the WD AGO 53, WD AGO 55, WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD and the NAVCG 553. Instruction for obtaining Military Personnel Records can be found here: [Request Military Personnel Records Using Standard Form 180 | National Archives](#). Specific requests concerning Pennsylvania National Guardsmen is found here: [Records Requests \(pa.gov\)](#).