DEATH RECORDS & CERTIFICATES

Arkansas Vital Records has death records dating from February 1, 1914 through the present. There are a limited number of death records available for deaths occurring between 1881 and 1914 in Little Rock and Fort Smith.

The Arkansas History Commission keeps an alphabetical listing of deaths in Arkansas dating from 1914 through 1949, but they do not have the actual death records.

TYPES OF DEATH COPIES ISSUED
The Division of Vital Records issues a certified copy of the original death certificate in paper form.

HOW MUCH DO DEATH RECORDS COST?
The cost of a certified death certificate is $10.00 for the first copy and $8.00 for each additional copy of the same record that is ordered at the same time. If no record is found or no copy is made, state law requires that we keep $10.00 for a search fee. You will receive a refund of any amount paid over the required $10.00 search fee.

If you used the "Express Service" with a credit card, both the Express Service fee and the search fee of $10.00 are not refundable. You will receive a credit of any credit card fees paid in excess of the combined search and Express Service fee. They accept cash, checks, or money orders made out to Arkansas Department of Health.

WHO MAY ORDER A BIRTH CERTIFICATE
Arkansas Statute 20-18-305 allows release to specific persons who are related to the registrant, his/her designated representatives, academic research groups, and to persons who can demonstrate that they have a right to obtain the record. Death records that are more than 50 years old can be released to the public.

An online search is available for death records 50 years old or older at: https://www.ark.org/doh_dcs/

WHAT INFORMATION MUST I PROVIDE?
- Government issued photo identification
- The full name of the deceased
- The date of death
- The county or city of the death
- The name of the funeral home (optional)
- Your relationship to the deceased
- Your reason for requesting the certificate
- A check or money order payable to Arkansas Department of Health (See above for Cost)

MAILING ADDRESS
AR Department of Health Division of Vital Records,
4815 W. Markham Street, Slot 44
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-386
Phone: 501-661-2174

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The information and statements of law in this fact sheet should not be considered legal advice. This fact sheet is provided as a broad guide to help you understand how certain legal matters are handled in general. Courts may interpret the law differently. Before you take action, talk to an attorney and follow his or her advice. Always do what the court tells you to do.

More information at http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/