

Vital Statistics' Special Directive Related to Haitian Earthquake
HAITIAN DEATHS – JANUARY 2010

In a humanitarian effort to assist families in affecting final disposition for their loved ones, the Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, acting under the authority of Governor Charlie Crist's Executive Order Number 10-06, and as authorized in Section 406.11(1)(b), Florida Statutes, has developed the following procedures for a decedent whose death occurred in Haiti as result of the earthquake and is brought into Florida to the district medical examiner's office or funeral home.

DEATH RECORD

- Either the medical examiner or the funeral director can initiate the death record
- The medical examiner will complete the medical certification items as determined through their investigation and review of the remains, as directed in s. 406.11(1)(b), F.S. when a dead body is brought into the state without proper medical certification.
- The demographic or personal information will be completed according to the information supplied by the informant, or if there is no informant, with the best information known.
- Exceptions to the normal entry are as follows:
 1. **Date of Death**, item 5, can indicate approximate date if the exact date is not known; e.g. appr January 12, 2010; a numerical entry is acceptable
 2. **County of Death**, item 8, should be entered as **Country of Haiti**
 3. **Place of Death**, item 9, should check Other and add **Haitian Earthquake**
 4. **Facility Name**, item 10, should indicate **Unknown**
 5. **City, Town, or Location of Death**, item 11a, should be the city where the death occurred. If this information is not known, enter Unknown.
- The record should be filed with the county vital statistics office

BURIAL TRANSIT PERMIT

- Can be issued by any subregistrar or by the chief deputy registrar in the county where the death record will be filed.
- The permit will be completed with the best information available at the time of issuance, with the same exceptions outlined above.
- Should be filed with the county vital statistics office

COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE

- Issue/accept burial transit permit as needed per instructions above
- Accept death record for filing, sign and date
- Do **not** assign a local file number, make a local file copy, or issue a certified copy
- Batch separately and mark coversheet in large print "HAITIAN DEATH"
- Send immediately to the state office

STATE OFFICE

- Will place in special file for archival purposes only

Remember, the filing of these documents is of an exceptional nature and variables outside of the norm are allowed for their completion.